

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

For Release to Newspapers of
Thursday, December 5, 1940

WPA STRESSES RETURN OF ITS WORKERS TO PRIVATE PAYROLLS

To emphasize the responsibility of all WPA employees to take private or public jobs, either temporary or permanent, whenever they are available under fair conditions, Howard O. Hunter, Acting Work Projects Commissioner, today ordered notices of this policy posted on all WPA project sites.

In transmitting the notice to State WPA Administrators, Mr. Hunter emphasized that this applies to all persons certified to WPA as in need and employable. He said, in part:

"The expansion of private and public employment is providing increased employment opportunities, and it is essential to the interests of certified persons and of the Nation that every effort be made, consistent with established Federal policy, to facilitate the obtaining by certified persons of private and public jobs for which they qualify. The assignment and continued employment of such persons on projects financed with WPA funds is secondary to the responsibility of facilitating the obtaining by such persons of private or public jobs.

"This responsibility of the Work Projects Administration shall be scrupulously observed and shall not be mitigated by the labor requirements of either defense or nondefense projects. Certified persons have a responsibility as well as a right to take advantage of private and public employment opportunities, and this responsibility shall be protected even though their services are needed on projects. Both defense and nondefense projects shall release certified employees when appropriate private or public employment is available."

(A copy of the notice is attached.)

N O T I C E

TO: All Project Wage Employees

It is your responsibility to take advantage of all opportunities for private and public employment. You are required to accept bona fide offers of private or public employment, whether of a permanent or temporary nature, in accordance with section 16 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1941, provided:


1. You are capable of performing such work.
2. The wage for such employment is not less than the prevailing wage for such work in the community where you reside.
3. Such employment is not in conflict with established union relationships.
4. Such employment provides reasonable working conditions.

It is, therefore, important that you make every effort to obtain such employment. Seek employment with employers in your community. Advise the local employment office of the State Employment Service about your work experience with the Work Projects Administration and on other jobs. Ask the local employment office to refer you to available jobs for which you qualify.

If you leave WPA employment for private or public employment, and lose such employment, you are entitled to reassignment on a WPA project, provided: (1) you lose the job through no fault of your own, (2) you are still in need, and (3) you have drawn all unemployment compensation benefits available to you.

If you do not accept such offers of private or public employment, you will lose your present assignment and you will be ineligible for reassignment during the period for which such private or public employment is available.

Therefore, take advantage of all offers of jobs for which you qualify.



Howard O. Hunter
Acting Commissioner of
Work Projects