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DEFENSE TRAINING PROJECT TO CONTINUE UNDER NEW WPA ALLOTMENT OF  
\$17,821,680

Continuation of the National Defense Vocational Training Project for at least two additional terms of three months each and an increase in the number of workers enrolled are provided for in a new WPA allotment of \$17,821,680 announced today by Fred R. Rauch, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Work Projects.

The project was initiated last July with an original allotment of \$9,781,340. With the sum recently approved the total of WPA funds which have been made available for the training of unemployed men and women in skills and trades demanded by the defense program now stands at \$27,503,020. This has been further supplemented by sponsor's contributions of \$10,590,000 furnished by the Office of Education which, with the National Defense Advisory Commission, sponsors the project.

Purpose of the project is to afford vocational training for unemployed workers in fields where shortages already exist or are anticipated. Facilities of regular trade and vocational schools are used. Trainees are drawn both from WPA rolls and registers of the United States Employment Service. Those selected from WPA continue to receive their regular security wages throughout the period of training and are assisted in finding private employment upon its completion.

- 2 -

Mr. Rauch pointed out that up to November 27 a total of 49,974 WPA workers had been enrolled on the training project. Of this number, approximately 8,300 have left the project of their own accord. More than two-thirds of these are known definitely to have left because of employment in private industry, and it is reasonable to assume, Mr. Rauch said, that most of the remainder, although they did not report their reasons for leaving, also left because of jobs.

In many instances, he added, workers succeeded in finding employment before completing the full course for which they had enrolled.

"It is apparent from our first six months experience with this program," Mr. Rauch said, "that training is the key to re-employment for a great many of the people who are now unemployed. As work opportunities are created by the defense program, men and women who have been away from their usual occupations for three or four years frequently are too 'rusty' to step directly back into their old jobs.

"For many of these, only a few weeks of 'refresher' training are necessary to reestablish their skills. For others, a longer period of training at some job closely related to their former occupations will equip them for a new type of work."

The new funds for the continuation of the project will provide an average monthly employment of approximately 37,500 trainees from now through June.

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