

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

For Immediate Release  
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WPA ESTABLISHES DIVISION OF TRAINING AND RE-EMPLOYMENT, INCREASING EMPHASIS ON PREPARATION OF WORKERS FOR DEFENSE INDUSTRY.

Establishment of the Division of Training and Re-employment, with plans for a substantial increase in the program of training workers for defense industries, was announced today by Howard O. Hunter, Commissioner of the Work Projects Administration.

Special emphasis will be placed on efforts to move WPA workers into jobs in private industry, whether in defense lines or not. The program will cover all fields of training. Additional thousands are to be re-trained to modernize their skills or to adapt them to new techniques in industries, where mechanization has changed or eliminated their old jobs.

The Training and Re-Employment Division will have parity with other divisions of the WPA organization such as Engineering, Community Service and Employment, Mr. Hunter explained, and will be under the supervision of an Assistant Commissioner.

Fred R. Rauch, Assistant Commissioner formerly in charge of the Employment Division will head the new Division. Mr. Rauch has taken a leading part in developing the training and re-employment program of WPA.

At present the vocational training classes of WPA have an enrollment of approximately 34,000 workers who are being fitted for jobs in defense industry. It is expected that the number of workers

receiving training will be steadily increased throughout the summer. Total enrollment since the classes started in mid-summer of 1940 has been more than 100,000. Of the 66,000 no longer in training, approximately 40,000 have found private jobs in defense lines. Those who cannot be placed in private industry immediately are returned to work on WPA projects until private employment is available.

Mr. Rauch is now in Puerto Rico to inspect WPA projects of importance to national defense there and in the Virgin Islands. The WPA program in these insular territories is devoted largely to defense work, with more than 22,000 employed on such projects in Puerto Rico alone.

Returning to Washington by plane June 17, Mr. Rauch will begin at once to complete the organization of the Training and Re-employment Division, with representation on each State and Regional WPA staff.

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