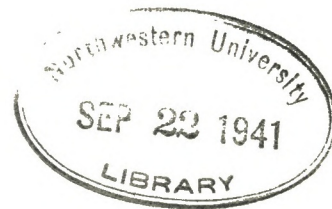


DOCUMENTS
ROOMFEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

For Immediate Release
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WPA ANNOUNCES RAIL REMOVAL PROGRAM TO SALVAGE STEEL

Howard O. Hunter, Commissioner of Work Projects, today announced a program for removal of abandoned, publicly-owned streetcar rails by WPA to salvage the steel for defense production.

He directed all State WPA Administrators to expedite requests of local governments for assistance and to give the work first priority in the WPA program. The plan was prepared at the request of Ralph Budd, Transportation Commissioner of the Office for Emergency Management, who has estimated that more than 200,000 tons of publicly-owned rails alone lie abandoned in city streets.

WPA rail-removal operations under this program are conditional on the local government's submitting a statement that it will dispose of the steel as directed by the Office of Production Management and a certificate that the rails are public and not traction company property.

To assure maximum returns in steel for defense, Mr. Hunter also urged cities where rail removal operations are currently being carried out under WPA projects to dispose of the scrap metal as desired by the Office of Production Management. Salvaged car rails are considered an important type of scrap steel because they can be formed into other articles with a minimum of processing.

Under the plan as outlined by Mr. Hunter, a local government which already has a WPA street project may set up a unit of the project for rail removal and restoration of the street to a serviceable condition. Where

there is no current street project, prompt consideration will be given an application for a WPA rail-removal project.

Under arrangements with OPM, the scrap will be shipped by the local government, charges collect to a steel mill or other assembly point designated by the Office of Production Management. The steel company will send the city a check at the maximum mill price established by the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, after deducting the transportation cost. The city will apply the receipts as a sponsor's contribution toward the cost of the WPA project.

"In order to assist in meeting the present emergency," Mr. Hunter advised the State Administrators, "it is important that the contemplated rail removal and track area restoration work be prosecuted as expeditiously as possible."

He stated that for the present the program need not be extended to the removal of rails which are completely embedded in permanent pavements where the condition of the pavement does not warrant restoration in the near future.

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