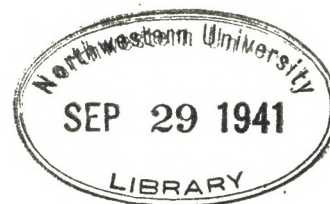


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



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WPA TRAINING PROGRAMS SEND THOUSANDS TO DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

Special training and placement programs of the Work Projects Administration have cut a channel for a continuous flow of thousands of workers from the WPA rolls to defense industries, WPA Commissioner Howard O. Hunter said today.

By three principal means the recently-created Division of Training and Recmployment, under the direction of Assistant Commissioner Fred R. Rauch, is promoting the transfer of qualified workers to private or other government jobs:

A new program of "in-plant" training, which sends WPA workers into plants that requisition them for training periods of not more than four week, before the end of which they are generally hired as regular plant employees.

Vocational training preemployment "refresher" courses, now a year old, with a current enrollment of 37,000 WPA employees. Approximately two-thirds of the 107,000 WPA workers previously enrolled have obtained private employment. A separate but comparable program is training young WPA men as aviation ground servicemen.

Facilitating the return of WPA workers to private employment through State employment services and direct contact with employers, including farmers in need of hired labor.

The in-plant defense training program is already operating in 72 cities in 24 States, Mr. Hunter said. WPA pays the men selected at the prevailing learners' rate. Because the period of training, before, they are hired as regular company employees, averages only two and one-half weeks, thousands of men are expected to be placed in defense production jobs during the coming months.

This program, in its early weeks, has been particularly promising in Cleveland, Chicago, Buffalo, New York City, St. Louis, Kansas City, Mo., Northern Indiana, the Los Angeles area and the Philadelphia area. The WPA employees are being trained and placed in jobs ranging from airplane and parachute production to lens grinding, in which there is an acute shortage.

Plants where the program is already under way are located also in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The transfer of women from WPA jobs to defense employment is expected to become an increasingly important phase of the in-plant program, 12 plants already having been authorized to train women.

In the classroom vocational training project of the WPA defense re-employment program, a total of 145,000 have gone to school or are now attending in order to qualify themselves for private employment in specialized jobs. Approximately two-thirds of those who have left these courses are in private employment.

Conducted as a nation-wide WPA project co-sponsored by the Office of Production Management and the U. S. Office of Education, the vocational program operates in close cooperation with local school officials who provide classroom and shop facilities. WPA workers assigned to classes on the basis of past experience or aptitude are paid their regular WPA wages during an eight to 12-week course. The Office of Education provides instruction for WPA employees and others who are enrolled.

WPA employees are undergoing vocational defense training in 791 communities in all of the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Of the 37,000 at present enrolled, 12,700 are taking machine shop courses, 5,600 welding, 3,500 sheet metal, 3,200 auto services and 2,500 aviation service

courses. Electrical services, wood working and ship building and repair are other large categories.

The Division of Training and Reemployment, in addition, is sending thousands of WPA workers not under the training programs into private or other government jobs, Mr. Hunter emphasized.

Representatives of the division are checking employment office files for unfilled requests for workers, calling WPA workers in from projects and referring them directly to employment offices and employers and arranging interviews for WPA workers and potential employers.

To meet seasonal needs for farm laborers, WPA projects have been suspended in some areas. WPA workers elsewhere are referred to farmers who apply for help through the same methods employed by the division in requests for industrial employees. In an emergency, to prevent spoilage of crops, qualified workers are released immediately to farmers by project supervisors.

A special vocational training program has prepared nearly 500 men from the WPA rolls for aviation ground crew work, and 500 others are now being trained. Twelve-week courses are being conducted currently through the Division of Training and Reemployment at 49 airports in 29 States, with about 10 young men assigned to each field. Mr. Hunter anticipated that additional courses and extension of the program to other fields would provide 2,000 more trained men by next summer for the expanding aviation industry.

Ground servicemen training courses have been held, in all, at 77 airports in 37 States. Two-thirds of those who have completed the courses are known to have found employment immediately, many on the fields where they were trained.

The program is conducted under a nation-wide project co-sponsored by the Civil Aeronautics Administration, which approves the airports to be used

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for training and supervises technical aspects of the courses, and the Office of Education, which is responsible for the selection and training of instructors and supervision of the teaching. WPA pays wages to men selected from its rolls for training and the salaries of instructors.

Trainees are taught through actual experience and classroom work to guide pilots and aid in handling planes on the ground, to service planes, to inspect and maintain equipment and to assist in directing traffic and field operations.

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