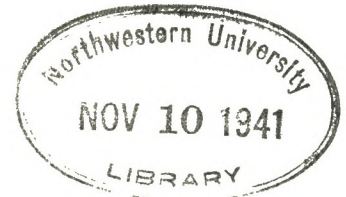


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

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DRYDEN CITES WPA CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH IN DEDICATING NORTH CAROLINA HOSPITAL

The construction from native materials by native WPA workmen of a publicly owned, 25-bed hospital in a small community in western North Carolina was seen today by Francis H. Dryden, Deputy Commissioner of the Work Projects Administration, as symbolizing one of the most vital contributions WPA has made to the Nation's welfare.

Speaking on the same program with Representative R. L. Doughton, of North Carolina, at the dedication of the Ashe County Memorial Hospital, at Jefferson, Mr. Dryden declared that the new hospital "is a part of a vast health program for the people of the United States."

"Today we are realizing, more than ever, how much the health of its citizens means to a nation," he continued. "We have always sensed the importance of guns, planes, and battleships to defense. We are only beginning fully to realize how important is the health of the civilian population that makes these armaments, and how important is the health of the people we call up for service in our armed forces.

"Our workers would be producing more today if the health of our people were at a higher level. The high percentage of rejections among draftees would not be necessary if we had done a better job years ago in promoting health activities.

"We of the WPA don't believe in crying over spilt milk, however. We are doing now what we can to improve health conditions, both for the present and future generations. For example, public health projects are now in operation in 40 States. State-wide projects in 30 States are now employing about 12,000 persons to enlarge the services of public clinics, hospitals, and other institutions. Free school lunches to needy children, 70,000,000 of which were served during a typical 3-month period, will do much to build the health of generations to come.

"This hospital furnishes just one more example of what can be done when intelligent local officials join with the WPA in giving useful work to the needy unemployed. To all who have had a part in this undertaking, congratulations!

"When I see a project of this sort it gives me a renewed confidence in the future of our splendid country. A nation that can think of necessary community improvements at the same time that it is putting every effort in arming for defense is a great nation. The same spirit, planning, and cooperation that made this hospital possible will carry us forward to new triumphs in the days of crisis to come."