



FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

Work Projects Administration

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USE OF IDLE SHOPS TO TRAIN WAR PRODUCTION WORKERS AUTHORIZED BY WPA

A plan by which idle machine, welding and sheet metal shops can be used to train war production workers was announced today by Howard O. Hunter, Commissioner of Work Projects.

Under this procedure WPA State Administrators may cooperate with local school authorities by leasing for them idle shops needed for expansion of their defense training programs if school funds are not available for this purpose.

The auxiliary shop training program has been worked out by the WPA Division of Training and Reemployment in cooperation with the United States Office of Education and the War Production Board.

Trainees may be assigned from both WPA and United States Employment Service rolls. Local school boards will furnish instructors and be responsible for operation of the courses under the vocational training program of the United States Office of Education.

Purpose of the plan is to meet the growing need for trained workers in war industries by expanding the scope and facilities of the existing Defense Training Program in vocation schools, under which 200,000 WPA workers already have been trained for jobs in war production plants. Length of the training period will be determined by local school officials but normally will not exceed 10 weeks of 40 hours instruction per week.

A clause in each lease will provide for immediate return of the shop to the lessor upon receipt of a war production contract. In such case trainees may be retained in the shop under the "in plant" training program.