

July 9, 1935

[Remarks to State Directors of the Federal
Emergency P.W.A.

FDR speech file

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INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE
STATE DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION, PRESENTED BY
SECRETARY ICKES AND COLONEL HORATIO B.
HACKETT, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF PUBLIC
WORKS.

July 9, 1935

I have seen a number of the other State representatives, but not P.W.A. Directors up to this time and I am awfully glad you came here for this conference. You know, of course, that we have spent a great deal of money during the past two years, but we find now not only that there are additional funds at our disposal but also that the need of permanent work all over the United States is not yet ended. We find that the deeper we go into it, the more opportunities we have to do constructive work in almost every community in the country.

I told Secretary Ickes by all means to bring you here so that I might have the personal pleasure of extending my greetings to you and, at the same time, to extend to you my thanks and compliments for the very splendid work you have been doing.

You have been pioneers in what is really a new field. It is not merely construction, it is also the co-ordination of construction to the needs of various parts of the country. I know the obstacles you have had to face, the trying situations you have had to contend with.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

As we view that public works program, I think we can take a pardonable pride in what we have done. We have given to the country useful projects of an enduring value. There is no question about that. You know the type of these projects better than anybody else and I hope personally you will make every effort within your own States to show the people the usefulness and the enduring qualities of the work done.

We are faced by a kind of false information in regard to the expenditure of money. The actual listing of the projects we have worked on and completed or are at work on today -- the mere telling to the people what we have accomplished -- will dispel the false information that has been given out in many cases. We are going to repay the money we have spent many times over. We have increased the capital assets of the Nation.

The way in which you good people carried on this work is a source of great gratification. One thing we know. It is that we have kept the public works projects free from partisan politics. We have lived up to that obligation, undertaken two years ago, and we believe the money has been wisely, efficiently and honestly expended. In other words, the P.W.A. has set up a standard and an example for integrity in administration and disinterested public service.

You are now an important part of an even greater effort -- one to be made during the next year which will provide quick employment so that we can attain, if possible, the goal we have set within this year 1935. Before the year is ended, we will end the dole we have been paying to employable persons during the last two years. In other words, we must give useful work to three and one-half million people and I believe we are going to do it.

In order to do it, of course, we are faced by a problem of arithmetic which is comparatively simple. We have four billion dollars and three and one-half million people to put to work with it. That means we have to average things up. It means that we have on the average about \$1140 per man year. That has to include the cost of the material, so that the four billion dollars includes not only the amount we pay the men but also the cost of the material. It is a perfectly simple arithmetical problem -- we have to work out an average that will come within the sum of money divided by the number of people we have to put to work.

As you know, the P.W.A. grant has been changed, having been increased from 30% of the cost of labor and material involved in the project to 45% of the total cost. This means that the way is open for cities and towns and

other municipal organizations to join with the Federal Government in getting these workers off the relief rolls. There is quite an incentive -- being able to make a grant of 45% of the project.

Local public bodies willing to put up their share of 55% of the total cost of the project must, of course, be given first consideration. Some are going to try to prove to you that they cannot finance their share of the costs and it is up to you to find whether that proof is adequate. It is only human to try to get more than 45%.

Last week I approved and issued a statement that defines very clearly, I think, what shall be regarded as Public Works Administration projects and what shall be regarded as projects coming within the jurisdiction of the Works Progress Administration. The one point in that connection which I would like to mention is that if an applicant is entitled to a grant, or a loan and grant, and falls within the P.W.A. category as defined in that statement, the application is to be filed with the Public Works Administration here in Washington.

With the Federal grant of 45% of the total cost and money to be had from the P.W.A. revolving fund at 4% and, in the bond markets, at even lower rates for good security, there is no reason why there should not be a large volume

of useful construction under this program.

The importance of cooperative effort on the part of all these agencies of the Government is something we have to keep before us all the time. Besides yourselves, there are representatives of the National Emergency Council and the Works Progress Administration in each of the States. And, so I am asking you to remember that all three of you, the P.W.A. Directors, the National Emergency Council and Works Progress Administration men, are representatives of the Federal Government and the responsibility for the success of the program in each State, at least in the first instance, is on these three representatives in each State.

While it is a Federal program and the Federal Government is ultimately responsible, the whole effort, of course, will depend in a very large measure upon close co-operation with the local authorities everywhere -- Governors, Mayors, County officials and other municipal agents.

Remember that speed is of the essence. We want the work done but we want it done now. We don't want it to run over into 1937 and 1938. This money was given to us by the Congress to spend during the fiscal year.

I am glad to have had this opportunity of seeing you and I know that you have important discussions ahead that you are eager to conclude so you can get back to your States. I am very sure that the fine spirit the P.W.A. has

shown in the past and the very great success it has had in carrying out what it had undertaken -- with efficiency and very definitely with honesty -- is going to continue throughout the coming year.

July 9, 1935

FOR THE PRESS

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Informal remarks of the President to the State Directors of the Federal Emergency Public Works Administration, presented by Secretary Ickes and Colonel Horatio B. Hackett, Assistant Administrator of Public Works.

I have seen a number of the other State representatives, but not F. W. A. Directors up to this time and I am awfully glad you come here for this conference. You know, of course, that we have spent a great deal of money during the past two years, but we find now not only that there are additional funds at our disposal but also that the need of permanent work all over the United States is not yet ended. We find that the deeper we go into it, the more opportunities we have to do constructive work in almost every community in the country.

I told Secretary Ickes by all means to bring you here so that I might have the personal pleasure of extending my greetings to you and, at the same time, to extend to you my thanks and compliments for the very splendid work you have been doing.

You have been pioneers in what is really a new field. It is not merely construction, it is also the coordination of construction to the needs of various parts of the country. I know the obstacles you have had to face, the trying situations you have had to contend with.

As we view that public works program, I think we can take a pardonable pride in what we have done. We have given to the country useful projects of an enduring value. There is no question about that. You know the type of these projects better than anybody else and I hope personally you will make every effort within your own States to show the people the usefulness and the enduring qualities of the work done.

We are faced by a kind of false information in regard to the expenditure of money. The actual listing of the projects we have worked on and completed or are at work on today -- the mere telling to the people what we have accomplished -- will dispel the false information that has been given out in many cases. We are going to repay the money we have spent many times over. We have increased the capital assets of the Nation.

The way in which you good people carried on this work is a source of great gratification. One thing we know. It is that we have kept the public works projects free from partisan politics. We have lived up to that obligation, undertaken two years ago, and we believe the money has been wisely, efficiently and honestly expended. In other words, the P. W. A. has set up a standard and an example for integrity in administration and disinterested public service.

You are now an important part of an even greater effort -- one to be made during the next year which will provide quick employment so that we can attain, if possible, the goal we have set within this year 1935. Before the year is ended, we will end the dole we have been paying to employable persons during the last two years. In other words, we must give useful work to three and one-half million people and I believe we are going to do it.

In order to do it, of course, we are faced by a problem of arithmetic which is comparatively simple. We have four billion dollars and three and one-half million people to put to work with it. That means we have to average things up. It means that we have on the average about \$1160 per man year. That has to include the cost of the material, so that the four billion dollars includes not only the amount we pay the men but also the cost of the material. It is a perfectly simple arithmetical problem -- we have to work out an average that will come within the sum of money divided by the number of people we have to put to work,

As you know, the P. W. A. grant has been changed, having been increased from 30% of the cost of labor and material involved in the project to 45% of the total cost. This means that the way is open for cities and towns and other municipal organizations to join with the Federal Government in getting these workers off the relief rolls. There is quite an incentive -- being able to make a grant of 45% of the project.

Local public bodies willing to put up their share of 55% of the total cost of the project must, of course, be given first consideration. Some are going to try to prove to you that they cannot finance their share of the costs and it is up to you to find whether that proof is adequate. It is only human to try to get more than 45%.

Last week I approved and issued a statement that defines very clearly, I think, what shall be regarded as Public Works Administration projects and what shall be regarded as projects coming within the jurisdiction of the Works Progress Administration. The one point in that connection which I would like to mention is that if an applicant is entitled to a grant, or a loan and grant, and falls within the P. W. A. category as defined in that statement, the application is to be filed with the Public Works Administration here in Washington.

With the Federal grant of 45% of the total cost and money to be had from the P. W. A. revolving fund at 4%, and, in the bond markets, at even lower rates for good security, there is no reason why there should not be a large volume of useful construction under this program.

The importance of cooperative effort on the part of all these agencies of the Government is something we have to keep before us all the time. Besides yourselves, there are representatives of the National Emergency Council and the Works Progress Administration in each of the States. And, so I am asking you to remember that all three of you, the P. W. A. Directors, the National Emergency Council and Works Progress Administration men, are representatives of the Federal Government and the responsibility for the success of the program in each State, at least in the first instance, is on these three representatives in each State.

While it is a Federal program and the Federal Government is ultimately responsible, the whole effort, of course, will depend in a very large measure upon close cooperation with the local authorities everywhere -- Governors, Mayors, County officials and other municipal agents.

Remember that speed is of the essence. We want the work done but we want it done now. We don't want it to run over into 1937 and 1938. This money was given to us by the Congress to spend during the fiscal year.

I am glad to have had this opportunity of seeing you and I know that you have important discussions ahead that you are eager to conclude so you can get back to your States. I am very sure that the fine spirit the P. W. A. has shown in the past and the very great success it has had in carrying out what it had undertaken -- with efficiency and very definitely with honesty -- is going to continue throughout the coming year.

STATEMENTS FILE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORS AT THE WHITE HOUSE JULY 9, 1935.

It's good to see you all here. By actual count I have discovered that there are 76 States in the Union. If we have continued the team work we have had in the past, we don't care how many of you there are.

I have jotted down one or two observations I wanted to make to you. I have seen a number of the other State representatives, but not P. W. A. Directors up to this time and I am awfully glad you came here for this conference. You know, of course, that we have spent a great deal of money during the past two years, but we find now not only that there are additional funds at our disposal but also that the need of permanent work all over the United States is not yet ended. We find that the deeper we go into it, the more opportunities we have to do constructive work in al-

most every community in the country.

So I told Secretary Ickes by all means to bring you here to the White House so that I might have the personal pleasure of extending my greetings to you, and, at the same time, I want to extend to you my thanks and compliments for the very splendid work you have been doing. / You have been pioneers in what is really a new field. It is not merely construction, it is also the coordination of construction to the needs of various parts of the country. I know the obstacles you have had to face, trying ~~situations~~ you have had to get around. As we view that public works program, I think we can take a pardonable pride in what we have done. We have given to the country useful projects of an enduring value, there is no question about that. You know the type of these projects better than anybody else and I hope personally that you will make every effort within your own States to show to the people of those States the usefulness and the enduring qualities of the work we have done.

We are faced by the kind of false information all over the country in regard to the expenditure of money. The actual listing of the

projects that we have worked on and completed or are at work on today -- the more telling to the people what we have accomplished -- is going to dispell the false information that has been given out in many cases. We are going to repay the money we have spent many times over for the simple reason that we have increased the capital assets of the Nation.

The way in which you good people carried on this work is also a source of great gratification. One reason is One thing we are glad to know is that we have kept the public works projects free from partisan politics — we have lived up to that obligation undertaken two years ago — and we believe that the money has been wisely, efficiently and honestly expended. In other words, the P. W. A. has set up a standard and an example for public construction for integrity in administration and disinterested public service.

You are now an important part of an even greater effort, to be made during the next year to provide employment quickly so that we can attain, if possible, the goal we have ~~set~~ sought that within this year 1935 — before the year is out — we will end the dole which we have been paying to employable persons during the last two years. In other words, we have got to give useful work to three and one-half million people and I believe we are going to

do it.

In order to do it, of course, we are faced by a problem of arithmetic which is comparatively simple. We have four billion dollars and three and one-half million people to put to work with it. That means we have to average things up, it means that we have on the average about \$1140 per man year. Now, of course, that ~~is~~ has to include the cost of the material as well, so that the four billion dollars includes not only the amount we pay the men but also the cost of the material. It is a perfectly simple arithmetical problem — we have to work out an average that will come within the sum of money ~~provided~~ divided by the number of people we have to put to work.

As you know, the P. W. A. grant has been changed, having been increased from 30% of the cost of labor and material involved in the project to 45% of the total cost. This means that the way is open for cities and towns and other municipal organizations to join with the Federal Government in getting these workers off the relief rolls. There is quite an incentive in being able to make a grant of 45% of the project.

Local public bodies that are willing to put up their share ~~are~~ of 55% of the total cost of the project must of course be given first consideration, and you people in the States are in a position to know whether or not the municipalities ~~are~~ ^{is} in a position to finance its share of the cost of the project. Some are going to try to prove to you that they cannot; it is up to you to find whether that proof is adequate or not. It is only human to try to get more than 45%.

Last week I approved and issued a statement that ~~now~~ defines very clearly, I think, what shall be regarded as Public Works Administration projects and what shall be regarded as projects coming within the jurisdiction of the Works Progress Administration. The one point in connection with that which I would like to mention is that if an applicant is entitled to a grant, or a loan and grant, and follows within the P. W. A. category as defined in that statement, the application is to be filed with the Public Works Administration here in Washington and then will come up with their recommendation to the Allotment Board for final approval.

With the Federal grant of 45% of the total cost and money to be had from the P. W. A. revolving fund at 4% and in the bond markets at even lower rates for good security — in other words if they can finance it privately, so much to the good — there is no reason why there should not be a large volume of useful construction under this program.

The importance of cooperative effort on the part of all these agencies of the Government is something we have to keep before us all the time. Besides yourselves, there are in each of the States representatives of the National Emergency Council and the Works Progress Administration, so I am asking you to remember that all three of you, the P. W. A. Directors, National Emergency Council and Works Progress Administration men, are representatives of the Federal Government and the responsibility for the success of the program in each State, at least in the first instance, is on these three representatives in each State.

While it is a Federal program and the Federal Government is ultimately responsible, the whole effort, of course, will depend in a very

large measure upon close cooperation with the local authorities everywhere — Governors, Mayors, County officials and other municipal agents, and I want you to remember that speed is of the essence. We want the work done but we want it done now. We don't want it to run over into 1937 and 1938. This money was given to us by the Congress to spend — all we possibly can — during the coming fiscal year, that is to say, this being July and the beginning of a fiscal year, to spend all we possibly can within the coming eleven and one-half months.

I won't detain you any longer. I am glad to have had this opportunity of seeing you and I know that you have important discussions ahead that you are eager to get through with so that you can get back to the States and I am very sure that the fine spirit the P. W.A. has shown in the past and the very great success had in carrying out what has been undertaken with efficiency and very definitely with honesty, is going to continue throughout the coming year. It is fine to see you all.

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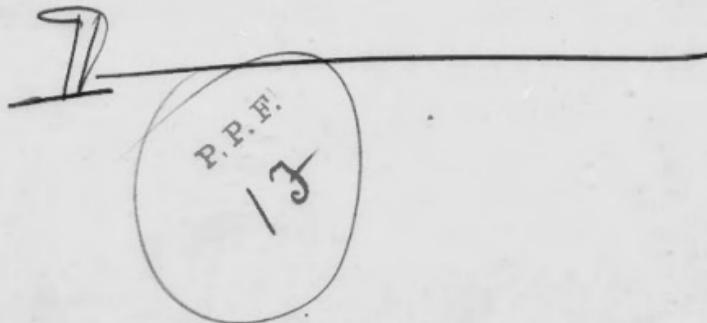
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 1935

Informal remarks of the President to the State Directors of
the Federal Emergency Public Works Administration, presented by Secretary
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