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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:” FDR  
and the New Deal**

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**File No. 1144**

**1938 July 8**

**Covington, KY - Address**

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT COVINGTON, KENTUCKY  
JULY 8, 1938

I am glad to be back in Kentucky.

Every time I have come into the State in the past few years, I have not been able to forget a certain trip which I made across a large part of Kentucky in the early autumn of 1932 -- six years ago. On that occasion, though I had been traveling in many states, what I saw in Kentucky stirred me more deeply than I had ever been stirred in my life--except in the days during the World War when I saw the misery and the suffering on the fields of France.

On my Kentucky visit in 1932 my train moved slowly from Covington to Louisville and then in a southeasterly direction, through villages and farming sections and mining districts. As we stopped at small stations the crowds congregated. Hunger stared out at me from the faces of men and women and little children. There was scarcely a new dress or a new suit of clothes in the crowd. It was a chill day and for the actual want of clothes people stood there shivering.

They were looking up at two men. One was a candidate

for the Presidency who was going about the country telling people that the national situation was grave--so grave that the time for promises had come to an end and the time for action was at hand.

The other man on that train platform was a Senator from Kentucky--a man of experience in the affairs of his State and of the Nation--a man who had fought valiantly as a member of the then Democratic minority, against doing nothing and in favor of action to meet growing needs.

On that day's trip, I know that Senator Barkley and I were thinking little in terms of partisan politics. We were thinking in terms of American needs--not just Kentucky's needs but the deep-seated wants that had come into the lives of millions of people scattered throughout every state in the Nation. Tears were in our eyes. We were affected not alone by misery but by fortitude--because we realized that these people still had faith--faith in the institutions of the United States--faith in the Government of the United States--faith that their Government

would, before it was too late, come through.

On that trip, too, between stops, your Senator and I talked of many things. We talked of economic conditions and social conditions--of the thousands of things that had to be done in the East, in the Middle West, in the South and in the Far West if America as a Nation was to carry on.

I shall never forget that day because I saw things with my own eyes that made me think more deeply about the fundamentals of life than I had ever thought before, and because I had an opportunity that day to talk of those things with a great American who had been on the "firing line" for years and had striven to avert the disaster and was willing and able to give practical advice for the cure of it.

I will not recount the progress of the intervening years. You know the story of them as well as I do. I wish that I could follow that same railroad route today. I wish that I could look into the faces of the same men and women and children I saw then. And if I could do it, I know very well that the

facts of today would give the lie to those who seek the overthrow of this Administration by telling you, as they have been telling you for six months or more, that conditions in the United States can be compared with the conditions of 1932. You and I have the intelligence and first hand knowledge to laugh at that kind of political bally-hoo.

I will not go into the story of these six years. You know that your bank deposits are safe; that the problem of unemployment is far less serious; that more wheels of industry are turning; that the farmers are better off in a hundred ways; and most important of all, that ~~that~~ our people are not half-clothed or half-starving.

But I do want to speak to you briefly of one part of the broad policy of your Government during these six years--only a part, mind you, but an essential part of a very big whole.

In the winter of 1932 - 1933, because of inaction on the part of the Federal Government, thousands of communities and many of the states of the Nation were facing bankruptcy. And as

Governor of New York for four years, because I could get no assistance from Washington, I had been compelled with the approval of my State Legislature to care for the human needs of tens of thousands of the citizens of that State. Because I could get no assistance from Washington, I was compelled to create state deficits -- to put the State Treasury into the "red" -- in order to feed the destitute and give work to the unemployed; in order to care for the thousands of people who had become dependent on the State for food and shelter. And, when I left Albany, the deficit of the State of New York was nearly a hundred million dollars.

That was the experience of most States. They could get no help from the national government to meet national problems. They were in debt and their borrowing capacity was close to an end. That was also the experience of hundreds of cities and counties. Taxes were not being paid to them, and if they had had to liquidate they would have been insolvent.

Your Federal Government -- the one that started on

March 4, 1933 -- recognized this and promptly sought to restore the credit and the finances of the states, the cities and the counties. We put a national shoulder under national problems. We undertook a great program of work -- work relief paid for by the Federal Government, thus helping every community to do a thousand necessary jobs which individual communities could not afford to do by themselves -- public works on a matching basis thus enabling states and cities and school districts and counties to build buildings and bridges and roads and flood control works which they could not afford to do alone; work which took the support of men, women and children off the backs of local communities.

In the six years that have intervened, many of our states, because of that help from the national government have got back into the "black" again -- my own state of New York -- and your own state of Kentucky among them. And I am heartily glad of it. Your Governor, my Governor, and a good many other Governors are able to go before their people and announce proudly

that they have balanced budgets. More power to their arms!

I am happy and proud of how much the Federal Government has been able to help Kentucky and the other states. It would surprise many people to know how much that help has been. Take Kentucky for instance:

1 - In these six years, the Federal Government has allotted to Kentucky in new kinds of Federal expenditures for relief, work relief, public works, the education of youth, farm rehabilitation and crop benefits -- approximately \$280,000,000.

2 - In these six years, the Federal Government has spent in more traditional forms of Federal expenditure, such as matching funds for state highways on a fifty-fifty basis, aid to the state for the building of state institutions, flood control and river work, Federal public buildings and the maintenance of the regular agricultural services - at least another fifty million dollars.

3 - In these six years Federal loans, through R. F. C., H. O. L. C., Farm Credit Administration and other lending agencies --

extending the due date of obligations, scaling the interest on obligations, giving financial institutions and borrowers alike a chance to reorganize and turn around - have averted from the taxable wealth and the taxable citizens of Kentucky the cost of bearing the liquidation of the 1929 depression. That, I conservatively estimate, has saved the financial resources of the State of Kentucky several hundred millions of dollars.

4 - And finally, in these six years the prompt willingness of the Federal Government to take care of flood damage, to begin the prevention of soil erosion, to invest in the protection of Kentucky's natural capital and property while Kentucky had to save on those items, is worth more incalculable millions of dollars.

Add all that up when next you wonder why the national government hasn't balanced its budget over the last six years.

If the Federal Government had not done at least some of these things, the state governments would probably not have done them at all out of their own resources. By assistance like

this, not only in Kentucky, but in other states, state treasuries have been enabled to get out of the "red" and into the "black" -- and that holds true for the credit of almost every municipality and county throughout the country.

It has taken courage for the Federal Government to go into the "red" to help State and local governments get out of the "red" or stay out of the "red". But it has been worth it.

Your Governor deserves due credit for getting this state on a sound financial basis. He never came to Washington and went away empty-handed. And I say to him and I say to you that I have considered him and do consider him a friend of mine and that I think he has done a good job as the Chief Executive of his State.

At the same time, I have no hesitation in saying certain things in the presence of Alben Barkley.

You are having a primary campaign for the choice of the Democratic candidate for the United States Senate. Both candidates are men of ability. Both are representative Kentuckians.

I want to make it definite and clear to you that I am

not interfering in any shape, manner or form in the primary campaign in Kentucky. I do not reside in this State -- you do. You have the absolute right to vote for any candidate in accordance with the dictates of your conscience. No outside source ought to dragoon you.

Nevertheless, I have a clear right to tell you certain facts relating to the National Government and national problems which I believe to be true. The people of Kentucky have a vital part and stake in these facts and problems. As one of the great states of the Union, Kentucky is interested in national affairs and is therefore entitled to know every angle of national affairs.

At this stage of world and domestic issues, leadership is important to the people of the whole country as well as to the people of each state.

We in this country operate principally through what we call the party system because we believe that party responsibility eliminates a large part of the confusion which would result from a complete lack of party leadership. That leadership is necessary not only in the Executive branch of the Federal Government but in

the two Houses of the Congress of the Federal Government.

In the upper house, the Senate, the leadership of the majority party has been entrusted to Senator Barkley, the senior Senator from Kentucky. I do not need to tell you of his long experience in all of our national problems. By virtue of that experience and of ability and seniority, he serves on major committees which deal with major legislation, and in addition to this, speaks with the voice of the majority leader.

His outlook on affairs of government is a liberal outlook. He has taken a major part in shaping not only the legislation but the actual policies of these past six years.

I have no doubt that Governor Chandler would make a good Senator from Kentucky -- but I think he would be the first to acknowledge that as a very junior member of the Senate, it would take him many, many years to match the national knowledge, the experience and the acknowledged leadership in the affairs of our Nation of that son of Kentucky, of whom the whole Nation is

proud, Alben Barkley.

One word more. You have heard charges and counter charges of the use of political influence exerted on primary voters. Charges have been bandied back and forth that employees of the Federal Government and workers on relief are being directed how to vote. You have heard charges that state employees--people on the State payroll and their friends are being directed how to vote.

Let me assure you that it is contrary to direct and forceful orders from Washington for any Federal Government employee to tell those under them how to vote and I trust that the same rule applies to those who work for or under the State of Kentucky.

Personally, I am not greatly disturbed by these stories because I have an oldfashioned idea that the voters of Kentucky, no matter whom they employ or by whom they are employed, are going to vote their own personal convictions on Primary Day. That is as it should be.

You live on a great river, the Ohio. And, by the way,

the first steamboat which navigated this river was built and run by old Nicholas Roosevelt, my great grandfather's cousin. Slowly but surely we are getting the old river under control, and I am equally certain that the people of America are slowly but surely getting their social and economic problems under control. Let us keep up the good work.

*Nicholas Roosevelt*

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*Orig. reading copy*

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
Covington, Kentucky  
July 8, 1938, 8:30 P.M.

(Former Congressman John Young Brown introduced Senator Barkley who, in turn, presented the President.)

SENATOR BARKLEY, COVINGTON CHANDLER, MY FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY:

I am glad to be back in Kentucky. (Applause)

Some Republicans have suggested that I have come to Kentucky on a political mission. (Laughter, applause) But I assure you the only reason is that I cannot get to Oklahoma without crossing Kentucky.

Every time that I have come into (the) this State in the past few years, I have not been able to forget a certain trip which I made across a large part of Kentucky in the early autumn of 1938 -- six years ago, though it seems a whole lot longer. And on that occasion, though I had been traveling in many states, what I saw in that day in Kentucky stirred me more deeply than I had ever been stirred in my life -- except perhaps in the days during the World War when I saw the misery and the suffering on the fields of France.

On my (Kentucky) visit to Kentucky in 1938 my train moved slowly from Covington to Louisville and thence in a southeasterly direction, through villages and farming sections and mining districts. And as we stopped at small stations the crowds congregated. Hungry, stark hungry, stared out at me from the faces of men and women and little children. There was scarcely a new dress or a new suit of clothes in the crowd. It was a chill day, very different from this day, and for the actual want of clothes people stood there shivering.

They were looking up at two men. One of them was a candi-

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.

date for the presidency, (who was) going about the country telling people that the national situation was grave -- so (grave) deeply serious that the time for promises had come to an end and the time for action was at hand.

The other man on that train platform was a Senator from Kentucky -- a man of experience in the affairs of his State and of (the) big Nation -- a man who had fought valiantly as a member of the then Democratic minority in Washington, voting against doing nothing, (and) voting in favor of action to meet growing needs of the Nation.

On that day's trip, I know that Senator Barkley and I were thinking little in terms of partisan politics. We were thinking in terms of American needs -- not just Kentucky's needs but the deepest wants that had come into the lives of the people of every state, and come into the lives of millions of people scattered throughout (every state in) the Nation. Yes, tears were in our eyes that day. We were affected not alone by misery but by the fortitude we saw, because we realized that these people still had faith -- faith in the institutions of the United States -- faith in the Government of the United States -- faith that (their Government would, before it was too late, come through) in that Government, eventually, before it was too late, Government would come through to help.

On that trip, too, between stops, your Senator and I talked of many things. We talked of economic conditions and social conditions -- of the thousands of things that had to be done, had to be done in the East, and in the Middle West, and in the border states, and in the South and in the Far West if America as a Nation was to

carry on.

I shall never forget that day because I saw things with my own eyes that made me think more deeply about the fundamentals of life than I had ever thought before, and because I had an opportunity that day to talk of those things with a great American who had been on the "firing line" for years and had striven to avert the disaster and was willing and able to give practical advice for the cure of it.

I will not recount the progress of the intervening years. You know the story of them as well as I do. But I wish that I could follow that same railroad route today. I wish that I could look into the faces of the same men and women and children that I saw then. And if I could, (do it) I know very well that the facts of today would give (the) lie to those who seek (the) to overthrow (of) this Administration by telling you, as they have been telling you for six months or more, that conditions in the United States today can be compared with the conditions of 1932. (Applause) You and I (applause) yes, you and I have the intelligence and the firsthand knowledge to laugh at that kind of political ballyhoo. (Applause)

I will not go into the story of (these) those six years. You know today that your bank deposits are safe; that the problem of unemployment is far less serious; that more wheels of industry are turning; that the farmers are better off in a hundred ways; and most important of all, that (all of) our people are not half-clothed or half-starving.

But I do want to speak to you briefly of one part of the

broad policy of your Government during these six years -- only a part, mind you, but an essential part of a very big whole.

In (the) that winter of 1932 - (1933), because of inaction on the part of the Federal Government, thousands of communities everywhere and many of the states (of the Nation) were facing bankruptcy. And as Governor of New York for four years, because I could get no assistance from Washington, I had been compelled, with the approval of my State Legislature, a legislature which, by the way, was Republican in both its branches, I was compelled to care for the human needs of tens of thousands of the citizens of that State. Because I could get no assistance from Washington, I was compelled to create state deficits -- to put the State Treasury into the "red". (-- Why? In order to feed the destitute, (and) to give work to the unemployed; (in order) to care for the thousands of people who had become dependent on the State for food and shelter. And, when I left Albany, the deficit of the State of New York was nearly a hundred million dollars.

And, if I were to go back there under similar circumstances, I would do the same thing I did then for the sake of human lives. (Applause)

That was the experience of most states. They could get no help from the National Government to meet national problems. They were in debt and their borrowing capacity was close to an end. That was also the experience of hundreds of cities and counties. Taxes were not being paid to them, and if they had had to liquidate they would have been insolvent.

Your Federal Government -- the one that started on March 4,

1933 (applause) -- I might say this Federal Government of yours -- (applause) they recognized this situation and promptly sought to restore the credit and the finances of the states, the cities and the counties. We put a national shoulder under a national problem(s). We undertook a great program of work -- work relief paid for by the Federal Government, thus helping every community to do a thousand necessary jobs which individual communities could not afford to do by themselves -- public works on a matching basis thus enabling states and cities and school districts and counties to build (buildings and) bridges and buildings and roads and flood control works which they could not afford to do alone; work which took the support of men, women and children off the backs of local communities.

And so, in the six years that have intervened, many of our states, because of that help from the National Government have got back into the "black" again -- my own State of New York -- and your own State of Kentucky among them. (Applause) And I am heartily glad of it. Your Governor, my Governor, and a good many other Governors of other states are able to go before their people and announce proudly that they have balanced their budgets. More power to their arms! (Applause)

And, I am happy and proud of how much the Federal Government has been able to help Kentucky and the other states. (Applause) It would surprise many people to know how much that help has been. Take Kentucky for (instance) example:

1 - In these states in these six years, the Federal Government has allotted to Kentucky in new kinds of Federal expenditures for relief, work relief, public works, the education of youth, farm

rehabilitation and crop benefits -- approximately \$280,000,000.

(Applause)

2 - In these six years the Federal Government has spent in the mere traditional forms of Federal expenditure, such as matching funds for state highways on a fifty-fifty basis, aid to the state for the building of state institutions, flood control and river work, Federal public buildings and the maintenance of (the regular) agricultural services -- at least another fifty million dollars.

3 - In these six years Federal loans, through the R. F. C., the H. C. L. C., the Farm Credit Administration and other lending agencies -- by extending the due date of obligations, by scaling the interest on obligations, giving financial institutions and borrowers alike a chance to reorganize and turn around -- have averted from the taxable wealth and the taxable citizens of Kentucky the cost of bearing the liquidation of the 1929-33 depression. That, I conservatively estimate, has saved the financial resources of (the State of) Kentucky several hundred millions of dollars. (Applause)

4 - And finally, in these six years the prompt willingness of the Federal Government to take care of flood damage, to begin the prevention of soil erosion, to invest in the protection of Kentucky's natural capital and property while Kentucky had to save on those items, all that is worth (more) incalculable millions of dollars.

Add it all (that) up when next you wonder why the National Government hasn't balanced its budget over the last six years.

If the Federal Government, your Government, had not done at least some of these things, the state governments would probably not have done them at all out of their own resources, because they could not. (Applause) By assistance like this, not only in Kentucky, but in other states, state treasurers have been enabled to get out of the "red" and into the "black" --and that holds true for the credit of almost every municipality and town and school district and county throughout the (country) Union.

It has taken courage for the Federal Government to go into the "red" to help state and local governments, to help them get out of the "red" or stay out of the "red." But, my friends, nationally it has been worth it.

Your Governor deserves due credit for getting this State on a sound financial basis. He never came to Washington and went away empty-handed. (Applause) And I say to him, and I am glad he is here today, and I say to you that I have considered him and do consider him a friend of mine and that I think he has done a good job as the Chief Executive of his State. (Applause)

At the same time, I am glad that Senator Barkley is here too. (Applause) I have no hesitation in saying certain things in the presence of Alben Barkley.

I read something in the papers. I read in the papers that you are having a primary campaign in Kentucky, (laughter) a primary campaign for the choice of the Democratic candidate for the United States Senate. Both candidates I know. Both (candidates) are men of ability. Both are representative Kentuckians.

I want to make it definite and clear to you that I am not

interfering in any shape, manner or form in the primary campaign in Kentucky. I do not (reside in this State) live here -- you do. (You have the absolute right to vote for any candidate in accordance with the dictates of your conscience. No outside source ought to dragoon you.)

Nevertheless, nevertheless I have a clear right to tell you certain facts relating to the National Government, (and) to national problems, facts which I believe to be true. The people of Kentucky have a vital part, (and) a vital stake in these national facts and problems. As one of the great states of the Union, Kentucky is interested in national affairs and is therefore entitled to know every angle of national affairs.

At this stage of world and domestic issues, a serious time for the people of America, a serious time for the people of the whole world, leadership is important to the people of the (whole country) United States as well as to the people of (each state) the individual states.

We in this country operate principally through what we call the party system. We operate thus because we believe that party responsibility eliminates a large part of the confusion which would result (from a) if we had a complete lack of party leadership. That leadership, as you will readily realize, is necessary not only in the Executive branch of the (Federal) National Government but equally necessary in the two Houses of the Congress of the Federal Government.

In the upper House, (the Senate,) the leadership of the majority party in the Senate has been entrusted by the votes of his

colleagues to Senator Barkley, the senior Senator from Kentucky.  
(Applause) I do not need to tell you of his long experience in all  
of our national problems. By virtue of that experience (and of) by  
virtue of his ability, (and) by virtue of his seniority, he serves  
on major committees, (which) committees that deal with major legisla-  
tion, and in addition to this, speaks with the voice of the majority  
leader of the Democratic Party in the Senate of the United States.

His outlook on affairs of Government is a liberal outlook.  
He has taken a major part in shaping not only the legislation but  
the actual policies of (these) the past six years.

I have no doubt whatsoever that Governor Chandler would  
make a good Senator from Kentucky (applause, boos) -- but I think  
(he) that my friend, the Governor, would be the first to acknowl-  
edge that as a very junior member of the United States Senate, it  
would take him many, many years to match the national knowledge,  
the experience and the acknowledged leadership in the affairs of  
(our) the Nation of that son of Kentucky, of whom the whole Nation  
is proud, Alben Barkley. (Applause)

One word more. You have heard charges and the country  
has heard charges, charges and counter charges of the use of  
political influence exerted on primary voters. Charges have been  
bandied back and forth that employees of the Federal Government  
and workers on relief are being directed how to vote. And we have  
all heard charges that state employees, people on the state payroll  
and their friends are being directed how to vote. Let me assure  
you that it is contrary, contrary to direct and forceful orders from  
Washington for any Federal Government employee to tell those under

them how to vote and I trust that the same rule applies to those who work for or under the State of Kentucky. (Applause)

Personally, I am not greatly disturbed by these stories because I have an old-fashioned idea, an old-fashioned faith, that the voters of Kentucky, no matter whom they employ or by whom they are employed, are going to vote their own personal convictions on Primary Day. And that is as it should be. (Applause)

I am glad to come to this beautiful spot today. I know about Latonia by reading the sporting pages of the papers. You live on a great river, the Ohio. And, by the way, the first steamboat (which) that ever navigated this river was built and run by old Nicholas Roosevelt, my great grandfather's cousin. (Applause) Slowly but surely we, the new generation, are getting the old river under control, and I am equally certain that the people of America are slowly but surely getting their social and economic problems under control too. Let us keep up the good work. (Prolonged applause)

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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July 6, 1938

#1144

This address of the President, to be delivered  
at Covington, Kentucky, July eighth, 1938, MUST BE  
HELD IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED.

Release upon delivery, expected about 2:30 P. M.,  
CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

- - - - -  
I am glad to be back in Kentucky.

Every time I have come into the State in the past few years, I have not been able to forget a certain trip which I made across a large part of Kentucky in the early autumn of 1932 -- six years ago. On that occasion, though I had been traveling in many states, what I saw in Kentucky stirred me more deeply than I had ever been stirred in my life -- except in the days during the World War when I saw the misery and the suffering on the fields of France.

On my Kentucky visit in 1932 my train moved slowly from Covington to Louisville and then in a southeasterly direction, through villages and farming sections and mining districts. As we stopped at small stations the crowds congregated. Hunger stared out at me from the faces of men and women and little children. There was scarcely a new dress or a new suit of clothes in the crowd. It was a chill day and for the actual want of clothes people stood there shivering.

They were looking up at two men. One was a candidate for the Presidency who was going about the country telling people that the national situation was grave -- so grave that the time for promises had come to an end and the time for action was at hand.

The other man on that train platform was a Senator from Kentucky -- a man of experience in the affairs of his State and of the Nation -- a man who had fought valiantly as a member of the then Democratic minority, against doing nothing and in favor of action to meet growing needs.

On that day's trip, I knew that Senator Barkley and I were thinking little in terms of partisan politics. We were thinking in terms of American needs -- not just Kentucky's needs but the deepest wants that had come into the lives of millions of people scattered throughout every state in the Nation. Tears were in our eyes. We were affected not alone by misery but by fortitude -- because we realized that these people still had faith -- faith in the institutions of the United States -- faith in the Government of the United States -- faith that their Government would, before it was too late, come through.

On that trip, too, between stops, your Senator and I talked of many things. We talked of economic conditions and social conditions -- of the thousands of things that had to be done in the East, in the Middle West, in the South and in the Far West if America as a Nation was to carry on.

I shall never forget that day because I saw things with my own eyes that made me think more deeply about the fundamentals of life than I had ever thought before, and because I had an opportunity that day to talk of those things with a great American who had been on the "firing line" for years and had striven to avert the disaster and was willing and able to give practical advice for the cure of it.

I will not recount the progress of the intervening years. You know the story of them as well as I do. I wish that I could follow that same railroad route today. I wish that I could look into the faces of the same men and women and children I saw then. And if I could do it, I know very well that the facts of today would give the lie to those who seek the overthrow of this Administration by telling you, as they have been telling you for six months or more, that conditions in the United States can be compared with the conditions of 1932. You and I have the intelligence and first hand knowledge to laugh at that kind of political bally-hoo.

I will not go into the story of these six years. You know that your bank deposits are safe; that the problem of unemployment is far less serious; that more wheels of industry are turning; that the farmers are better off in a hundred ways, and most important of all, that our people are not half-clothed or half-starving.

But I do want to speak to you briefly of one part of the broad policy of your Government during these six years -- only a part, mind you, but an essential part of a very big whole.

In the winter of 1932 - 1933, because of inaction on the part of the Federal Government, thousands of communities and many of the states of the Nation were facing bankruptcy. And as Governor of New York for four years, because I could get no assistance from Washington, I had been compelled with the approval of my State Legislature to care for the human needs of tens of thousands of the citizens of that State. Because I could get no assistance from Washington, I was compelled to create state deficits -- to put the State Treasury into the "red" -- in order to feed the destitute and give work to the unemployed; in order to care for the thousands of people who had become dependent on the State for food and shelter. And, when I left Albany, the deficit of the State of New York was nearly a hundred million dollars.

That was the experience of most States. They could get no help from the national government to meet national problems. They were in debt and their borrowing capacity was close to an end. That was also the experience of hundreds of cities and counties. Taxes were not being paid to them, and if they had had to liquidate they would have been insolvent.

Your Federal Government -- the one that started on March 4, 1933 -- recognized this and promptly sought to restore the credit and the finances of the states, the cities and the counties. We put a national shoulder under national problems. We undertook a great program of work -- work relief paid for by the Federal Government, thus helping every community to do a thousand necessary jobs which individual communities could not afford to do by themselves -- public works on a matching basis thus enabling states and cities and school districts and counties to build buildings and bridges and roads and flood control works which they could not afford to do alone; work which took the support of men, women and children off the backs of local communities.

In the six years that have intervened, many of our states, because of that help from the national government have got back into the "black" again -- my own state of New York -- and your own state of Kentucky among them. And I am heartily glad of it. Your Governor, my Governor, and a good many other Governors are able to go before their people and announce proudly that they have balanced budgets. More power to their arms!

I am happy and proud of how much the Federal Government has been able to help Kentucky and the other states. It would surprise many people to know how much that help has been. Take Kentucky for instance:

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT COVINGTON, KENTUCKY  
JULY 8, 1938

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July 8, 1938

This address of the President, to be delivered at Covington, Kentucky, July eighth, 1938, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED.

Release upon delivery, expected about 2:30 P. M., CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

## STATEMENTS FILE

Shorthand By Kappenee

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Secretary to the President

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COVINGTON SPEECH

The figures in this speech are arrived at in this way:

PARAGRAPH ONE

P. W. A.	53,169,612	{ Total of figures underlined { in report of Public Works { Administration - Document { attached marked - A.
RELIEF }	56,621,000 (WPA)	{ Total of figures underlined
WORK RELIEF }	10,087,000 (CWA)	{ in pencil in report of Works
}	39,135,000 (FERA)	{ Progress Administration { Document attached marked - B.
FARM REHABILITATION (Farm Security and Resettlement Adm.)	9,083,652	{ Total of figures underlined { in report of Farm Security { Administration - Document { attached marked - C.
CROP BENEFITS (AAA)	57,937,120	{ Total of figures marked in { red in report of Budget - { Document marked - D.
EDUCATION OF YOUTH (NYA)	21,546,000	{ NYA - figures in red on { Document B.
(CCC)	33,819,859	{ CCC - figures in ink on { Document - D.
<hr/> <hr/>		
	281,399,243	

PARAGRAPH TWO

Remainder of figures in Document - D.

(The rehabilitation of the prison system (\$1,450,000 last page Document A) mentioned in paragraph two was PWA, and therefore overlaps a little on paragraph one. There is surplus enough however, in the \$281,000,000 of paragraph one to cover this).

A

The PWA Program in Kentucky

The Public Works Administration has made allotments for PWA projects in Kentucky with a total construction cost of \$63,281,556.

Of these projects, 211 were for non-Federal public improvements with a total construction value of \$39,826,272. PWA allotted for these projects the sum of \$21,209,790, the difference between total cost and PWA allotments being furnished by the applicants. The PWA allotments for the non-Federal projects included loans of \$6,295,285 and grants of \$14,914,505.

PWA allotted \$23,455,284 for Federal projects in the State which were erected by various Federal agencies. Included in this work was construction of Army housing at Fort Knox; various improvements to harbors and channels on the Cumberland, Ohio and Mississippi rivers; three slum clearance and low-rent housing projects, and work by the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Fisheries, the Geological Survey and other agencies.

The non-Federal projects consisted of street and highway improvements; educational buildings; sewer and water systems; municipal improvements and similar undertakings.

Under the 1938 PWA program recently authorized by Congress, PWA approved a group of projects with a total construction value of \$12,548,646. These included 34 non-Federal projects with total allotments of \$3,441,338, comprising loans of \$170,500 and grants of \$3,370,838. Seven Federal projects were approved with allotments of \$5,063,200.

- 2 -

A list of non-Federal and Federal projects in the  
1938 PWA program follows.

## KENTUCKY

## 1938 PWA PROGRAM

LOCATION	TYPE	DOCKET NO.	LOAN	GRANT	ESTIMATED COST
Richmond	Dormitory	1011		\$67,500	\$150,000
Maysville	School Imp.	1224		13,909	30,909
Beattysville	High School	1245	\$37,000	30,273	67,273
Lebanon	School	1251		28,308	62,907
Raceland	School Add.	1290		13,035	28,967
Dixon	Waterworks	1004	23,000	18,818	41,818
Flatwoods	Waterworks	1009	22,000	18,000	40,000
Alexandria	Auditorium - gym.	1268		12,870	28,600
Versailles	High School add.	1277		17,380	38,622
Marion	Auditorium - gym.	1191		22,090	49,090
West Point	Waterworks	1050		27,000	60,000
Midway	Sanitary Sewer	1237		27,000	60,000
Lexington	Waterworks	1256		1,613,455	3,585,455
Whitesville	Waterworks	1098		15,545	34,545
Millersburg	Waterworks	1145		1,800	3,691
Kenton	Water tank	1158		22,909	50,909
Covington	Infirmary	1276		18,315	40,700
Ravenna	School	1109	\$4,000	27,818	61,818
Cynthiana	Waterworks	1160		22,909	50,909
Lexington	Sanitarium	1227		64,800	144,000

## KENTUCKY

- 2 -

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DOCKET NO.</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
Lexington	Swimming pool	1260	\$	\$33,750	\$75,000
Covington	Jail	1053		106,650	237,000
Burkesville	Sanitary Sewer	1162		22,500	45,000
Jefferson Co.	Highway	1230		100,945	224,322
Owensboro	Toll bridge	6542	25,000	20,454	45,454
Ghent	School	1198	23,000	18,818	41,818
Milburn	School Add.	1200		8,590	19,090
Owensboro	Hospital	1242		11,948	26,551
Iuka	Bridge	1260		337,802	750,670
Livermore	Bridge	1281		206,535	458,967
Irvine	School	1285		36,696	81,546
Bradfordsville	Waterworks	1249	6,500	10,772	23,939
Louisville	School	1262		159,503	354,452
<hr/>					
TOTAL	34 Projects		\$170,500	\$5,370,838	\$7,485,446

## 1938 PWA PROGRAM

FEDERAL PROJECTS IN KENTUCKY

<u>DEPT. AND LOCATION</u>	<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>	<u>ALLOTMENT</u>	<u>PROJECT NO.</u>
Geological Survey, State of Kentucky	Construction, repair and improvement of river-measurement stations		O.P. 752-05-11f
Geological Survey, State of Kentucky	Topographic map surveys and surveys of floods and droughts	50,000	O.P. 752-05-66
Bureau of Fisheries Louisville	Repairs, improvements and further development of fish cultural stations	3,500	O.P. 752-02-96
Coast and Geodetic Survey, State of Kentucky	Field geodetic survey	5,000	O.P. 752--2-20
Justice - Prisons Kentucky or elsewhere	Construction of a new detention farm (200) preferably in eastern Kentucky, including not to exceed \$40,000 for acquisition of a site.	1,450,000	O.P. 752-06-8
War Department Fort Knox	Construction of quarters for officers (55), non-commissioned officers (50), additional barracks (1200), motor shops, nurses' quarters (10), children's school, and ordnance shop (10)	3,195,700	O.P. 752-13-15
War Department Fort Thomas	Construction of additional barracks (575)	557,000	O.P. 752-13-16

B

MEMORANDUM

July 7, 1938

TO: MR. WILLIAM HASSETT

FROM: DAVID K. NILES *DKN*

Allocations in Federal funds to the State of Kentucky from March 4, 1933 through the calendar year of 1937, with a separate table in the second column for the same allocations through May of the calendar year of 1938 are listed for six agencies as follows:

<u>Agencies</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
WPA	47,409,000	9,212,000
NYA	<del>31,871,000</del>	<del>575,000</del>
CWA	10,087,000	
FERA	39,135,000	
Social Security (Public Assistance)	2,092,000	840,000
Farm Security (Loans and grants)	3,830,000	500,000
	166,424,000	11,227,000

Mr. Lawton of the Treasury has been informed that we would supply the data on the above agencies, and has agreed to supply from his office or obtain from the agencies themselves the data on other agencies included in the Works Program.

I am also sending you (1) an inventory of physical accomplishments (completed work) by the WPA alone in Kentucky up to last October 1st; (2) copy of the report of an Appraisal Committee of twelve prominent Kentuckians which examined the program in that State and evaluated it; (3) excerpts from official reports on the program made by about a dozen local officials in various Kentucky communities.

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PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ON WPA PROJECTS

Through October 1, 1937

Kentucky

Works Progress Administration operations have been responsible for a substantial expansion and improvement of public facilities in Kentucky. Among the major accomplishments were the construction of 355 public buildings and the modernization and improvement of 959 others, including 631 school buildings. The extension and improvement of highways, roads, and streets in the State was aided by the construction of 1,804 miles of new road and the repair of 2,539 miles, as well as the construction of over 18,000 culverts and the construction or repair of over 1,400 bridges. Municipal water supply systems were benefited by the addition of 36 miles of water mains, aqueducts and distribution lines, the repair of an additional 2 miles, and the installation of nearly 2,400 consumer connections. One hundred and thirty-two miles of new pipe and over 4,000 service connections were added to storm and sanitary sewer systems. The expansion of recreational facilities was accomplished by the construction of 40 new athletic fields, playgrounds, etc., and the improvement of more than 30 others.

Outstanding among accomplishments on non-construction projects in Kentucky was the production in WPA sewing rooms of over 2,140,000 garments and other articles for distribution to needy families. In addition, 7,000 pounds of foodstuffs were distributed to persons in need and 75,000 lunches were served to school children. Other work included the renovation of 310,000 public school and library books, the cataloging of 237,000 volumes, and the participation of large numbers of persons in various courses of educational and artistic instruction.

Many other activities are listed in the attached table which summarizes physical accomplishment on WPA projects in Kentucky from the beginning of the program through October 1, 1937. The data were derived directly from individual work project reports covering the major types of activity represented among WPA projects.

It is important to note that physical accomplishment has been summarized by type of accomplishment rather than by type of project. Therefore, the summary does not lend itself to a comparison with the type of project reports regularly released.

The report is limited to work actually completed as of October 1, 1937. The tabulation tends to underestimate the total accomplishment actually attained because some specialised types of activity could not be readily measured and because reports on some projects, though relatively few in number, were inadequately prepared and, therefore, excluded from the summary.

This report does not cover the accomplishments of projects operated by other Federal agencies under the Works Program, nor does it include any of the work completed under the earlier programs of CWA and FERA.

## PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ON WPA PROJECTS

Through October 1, 1937

## Kentucky

(Preliminary - Subject to Revision)

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Construction	Repairs and Improvements	Additions
<u>Public Buildings - Total</u>	Number	290	269	45
<u>Educational buildings - Total</u>	Number	125	853	32
Schools	Number	124	831	32
Libraries	Number	1	2	-
<u>Recreational buildings - Total</u>	Number	63	92	11
Auditoriums	Number	3	4	1
Stadiums, grandstands, etc.	Number	20	4	-
Gymnasiums	Number	11	11	6
Other (pavilion, bath houses, etc.)	Number	29	63	4
<u>Institutional buildings - Total</u>	Number	7	47	-
Hospitals	Number	3	8	-
Penal institutions	Number	4	1	-
Other	Number	1	42	-
Courthouses, offices, and other administrative buildings	Number	20	44	2
Dormitories	Number	14	58	-
Fire houses	Number	-	24	-
Garages	Number	7	19	-
Warehouses	Number	16	2	-
Other buildings and small structures (such as bus and street car shelters)	Number	38	60	-
<u>Demolition of Buildings</u>	Number	XXX	59	XXX

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount		
		New Construction	Repairs and Improvements	Demolition
<u>Roads, Roads, Streets, and Related Facilities</u>				
<u>Highways, roads, and streets - Total</u>	Miles	1,804.0	2,338.4	
<u>Rural primary roads - Total</u>	Miles	213.5	283.9	
Paved	Miles	68.6	49.2	
Unpaved	Miles	125.0	234.7	
<u>Rural secondary roads - Total</u>	Miles	1,408.8	1,824.6	
Paved	Miles	175.5	247.5	
Unpaved	Miles	1,233.3	1,577.1	
<u>Urban - Total</u>	Miles	158.4	226.8	
Paved	Miles	108.1	165.6	
Unpaved	Miles	40.3	61.0	
<u>Other (parks, cemeteries, etc.)</u>				
Total	Miles	25.3	4.1	
Paved	Miles	0.5	-	
Unpaved	Miles	22.8	4.1	
<u>Road shoulders (not incl. above)</u>	Miles	20.1	102.0	

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount New Construction Repairs and Improvements	
<u>Highways, Roads, Streets, and Related Facilities</u>			
Bridges - Total	Number	919	485
	Length in feet	15,375	19,547
Wood	Number	349	133
	Length in feet	5,535	6,285
Steel	Number	94	117
	Length in feet	4,348	10,873
Masonry	Number	476	45
	Length in feet	5,600	1,588
Culverts	Number	15,252	416
	Length in feet	445,753	8,981
Sidewalks and paths - Total	Miles	102.8	15.8
Paved	Miles	87.4	13.8
Unpaved	Miles	5.4	0.8
Curbs	Length in miles	96.3	15.0
Gutters	Length in miles	26.0	2.5
Guardrails and guardwalls	Length in miles	0.9	2.2
Lights for roads and streets	Number	41	175
	Miles of road equipped	4	2
Roadside drainage	Linear ft. of ditch	34,300	257,812
	Linear ft. of pipe	2,732	10,560
Roadside landscaping	Miles	XXX	4
Street signs	No. signs made	25	XXX
	No. signs erected	873	XXX
Removal of car and railroad track	Miles of single line track	XXX	0.8
<u>Airports and Airway Equipment (Excl. Bldgs.)</u>			
Landings fields	Number	1	-
	Acres	42	-
Runnways	Length in feet	5,760	-
Air markers	Number	99	4
<u>Recreational Facilities (Excl. Buildings)</u>			
Athletic fields	Number	21	7
	Acres	55	21
Parks	Number	6	6
	Acres	96	642
Playgrounds - Total	Number	19	27
School	Number	19	26
Other	Number	-	1
Swimming pools	Number	8	-
	Surfaces area in sq. ft.	90,808	-

Type	Unit of Measurement	New Construction	Repairs and Improvements
<u>Recreational Facilities (Excl. Buildings)</u>			
(Cont'd.)			
Wading pools	Number	3	-
	Surface area in sq. ft.	7,880	-
Golf courses	Number	1	5
	Number of holes	9	36
	Acres	45	350
Tennis courts	Number	27	51
Handball courts	Number	4	-
Horseshoe courts	Number	4	-
Outdoor theaters	Number	1	-
Band shells	Number	1	-
<u>Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage Systems</u>			
Water mains, aqueducts, or distribution lines	Miles	36.6	2.0
	No. of consumer connections	2,397	-
Storage tanks, reservoirs, and cisterns	Number	32	12
	Gals. capacity	1,315,601	79,000,000
Storage dams	Number	13	6
Walls	Number	20	1
<u>Treatment plants (excl. cesspools and septic tanks)</u>			
Sewage	Number	8	-
Water	Number	2	1
Pumping stations	Number	5	1
Storm and sanitary sewers	Miles	132.7	2.6
	No. of service connections	4,063	-
Manholes and catch basins	Number	2,348	952
Sanitary toilets	Number	30,319	21
Cesspools	Number	1,374	-
Septic tanks	Number	264	1
Mine sealing	No. of mines	465	XXX
	No. of openings	2,353	XXX
Mosquito control	Linear ft. of ditch	91,571	-
	Acres drained	17,023	-
Drainage (other than roadside and mosquito eradication)	Linear ft. of ditch	2,270	35,540
	Linear ft. of pipe	2,215	-
	Acres drained	1,161	40,060

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount	New Construction	Repairs and Improvements
<u>Flood and Erosion Control - Navigation Aids - Irrigation</u>				
Docks, wharves, and piers - - - - -				
Docks, wharves, and piers - - - - -	Number	1	1	
	Cu. yds. of useable waterfront	1,260	1,260	
	Area in sq. ft.	44,100	44,100	
Stream bed improvements - - - - -	Miles	XXX		1.0
Dredging (other than channels) - - - - -	Cu. yds. of material dredged	57,742	XXX	
Dams (other than storage or power) - -	Number	4	1	
Riprap (other than river bank) - - - - -	Sq. yds. surfaced	16,580	1,590	
Retaining walls and revetments - - - - -	Number	484	6	
	Linear feet	84,560	350	
Levees and embankments - - - - -	Linear feet	-	5,250	
	Cu. yds. placed	-	5,200	
<u>Electric and Communication Utilities</u>				
Power houses - - - - -	Number	1	-	
	Kilowatt capacity	8	-	
Power distribution lines - - - - -	Miles	-	0.3	
Police and fire alarm signals - - - - -	No. of boxes and signals	434	XXX	
	Linear ft. of line strung	182,420	XXX	
<u>Groonds Improvements</u>				
Landscaping around public buildings - -	No. of buildings	XXX	151	
	Acres	XXX	216	
Lighting airports, parking lots, athletic fields, etc. - - - - -	No. of places lighted	-	4	
	Acres lighted	-	89	
Fountains and ornamental pools - - - - -	Number	7	-	
Fencing - - - - -	Miles	97.9	21.7	
<u>Miscellaneous</u>				
Paving (other than roads, walks, or sunways) - - - - -	Sq. yds. hard surface	12,638	-	
	Sq. yds. other surface	11,450	-	
Tunnels (other than vehicular and pedestrian)	Number	-	1	
	Length in feet	-	750	
Fish hatcheries - - - - -	Number	2	1	
	Annual fingerling capacity	110,000	400,000	
Gas lines (distribution and transmission) - - - - -	Linear feet	24,584	-	
	No. of consumer connections	251	-	
Oil and other pipe lines - - - - -	Linear feet	-	800	

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
<u>Conservation Activities (Not Elsewhere Classified)</u>		
Fire and forest trails	Miles	1
Tree surgery	No. of trees trimmed	5,500
Spray treatments, disease, and insect pest eradication (except mosquito control)	Acres sprayed Gallons of spray used	8 250
Food Distributed	No. of pounds	7,065
<u>Work in Libraries</u>		
New branch libraries	No. established	5
New traveling libraries	No. established	15
Cataloging for existing libraries	No. of volumes cataloged	237,017
Renovation of books - Total	Number	310,712
Public school volumes	Number	224,307
Public library volumes	Number	70,817
Other volumes	Number	15,588
<u>Sewing Rooms</u>		
Articles made - Total	Number	2,140,063
Garments - Total	Number	1,938,011
Men's	Number	158,135
Women's	Number	436,782
Boys'	Number	350,516
Girls'	Number	528,357
Infants'	Number	456,221
Other articles	Number	201,042
School Lunches Served	Number	78,187
<u>Medical, Dental and Nursing Assistance</u>		
Medical and dental clinics assisted	No. of clinics	4
Medical examinations other than at clinics	No. of adults examined	12,665
Nursing aid to clinics	No. of WPA nurses assisting	8
Nursing aid at immunizations	No. of immunizations	1,048
Drawings, Easel Paintings, Murals and Sculptured Works	Number	225
Planning Surveys Conducted	Number	5
Research and Statistical Studies Conducted	Number	15
Engineering Surveys	Square miles of mapping survey Miles of line survey No. of permanent markers set	2 108 106
Maps	No. of maps drawn	18

Type	Unit of Measurement	Number or Amount
Indexing and Cataloging	No. of items indexed or cataloged	1,206,781
Housekeeping Aides	No. of visits made	3,541
	No. of families aided	482
Education (Month of October 1937) - Total	No. of classes	1,862
	No. of enrollees	19,079
Literacy	No. of classes	490
	No. of enrollees	9,870
Vocational	No. of classes	272
	No. of enrollees	2,782
A vocational and leisure time	No. of classes	38
	No. of enrollees	701
Parent and homemaking	No. of classes	182
	No. of enrollees	988
General adult	No. of classes	679
	No. of enrollees	6,293
Nursery schools	No. of classes	53
	No. of enrollees	1,795
<u>Recreation</u>		
Community centers operated	Number	211
Community centers assisted	Number	70
<u>Public participation in recreational activities (week ending August 26, 1937)</u>		
Physical recreation	No. of participant hours	104,585
Social recreation	No. of participant hours	16,239
Cultural recreation	No. of participant hours	20,526
Therapeutic recreation	No. of participant hours	7,721
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Shoe repair	No. of pairs	6,625
Furniture repair	No. of articles	7,010

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Division of  
Research, Statistics and Records  
April 27, 1938

Report of Appraisal Committee of twelve  
12903 prominent Kentuckians.

REPORT ON THE UNITED STATES COMMUNITY APPRAISAL OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Accompanying the letter sent to the local officials requesting appraisals of the relief work done in Kentucky, the statement was made that "two broad general considerations should be kept in mind in the appraisal of the work of the committee:

"1. The relative worthwhileness of the programs to the community in the light of both present and future needs;

"2. The relative worthwhileness of the programs to the needy unemployed people who were given work relief by them."

Work relief in Kentucky began with the Civil Works Administration late in 1931. Under this administration there were spent in Kentucky the following sums:

1.	Federal government	\$8,767,094
2.	By the sponsors	1,215,981

Under the Kentucky Emergency Relief Administration the following sums were spent:

1.	By the Federal government	\$9,254,318
2.	By the sponsors	2,388,232

Under the Works Progress Administration there had been spent up to July 1, 1938, the following sums:

1.	By the Federal government	\$48,306,607
2.	By sponsors	12,076,396

The above figures do not include \$30,000,000 spent by the Public Works Administration.

Further information concerning the projects under the Works Progress Administration is revealed in the list of the "State-Wide Accomplishments from July 1, 1935 to January 1, 1938, as shown in Table I.

(See table attached No. 1)

12903

-2-

The "Status of Projects" under WPA in Kentucky as of January 1, 1938, is shown in Table 2:

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
IN KENTUCKY  
STATE-WIDE  
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
July 1, 1935 to Jan. 1, 1938.

Table I.

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>New Construction</u>	<u>Reconstruction and Major Repairs</u>
1. Athletic Fields & Playgrounds	Each	90	40
2. Bridges (Avg. length 30')	Each	320	410
3. Buildings - Court Houses, City Halls, etc.	"	38	46
4. " - Schools	"	310	610
5. " - Hospitals	"	3	7
6. " - Gymnasiums	"	42	13
7. " - Libraries	"	6	10
8. " - Warehouses, Garages, etc.	"	173	344
9. City Traffic Survey	Man Hours of Study	46,248	
10. Cross-indexing County Records	# of Counties	30	
11. Culverts (Avg. length 24')	Each	8,000	600
12. Curb and Gutter	Miles	90	50
13. Dams - Water storage	Each	55	15
14. Mending State owned text books	Each	38,805	
15. Nursery School Classes	Avg. Monthly Attendance	3,690	
16. Highway Guard Rail	Miles	25	
17. Malaria Control	Acres drained	198,000	
18. Mine Sealing	Openings Sealed	2,589	
19. Parks	Each	44	39
20. Recreation Centers	Daily Attendance	20,000	
21. Repairing & indexing library books	Each	113,118	
22. Roads - Grade & Drain (unsurfaced)	Miles	263	180
23. " - Grade, Drain and High Type Surface	"	183	284
24. " - Grade, Drain and Low Type Surface	"	4,930	2,130
25. Sanitary Toilets	Each	54,000	
26. Sewers - Trunk Lines	Miles	153	23
27. " - Lateral	"	106	
28. Sewing Rooms	Garments Produced	3,200,000	
29. Sidewalks	Miles	116	28
30. Streets - High Type Surface	"	147	233
31. " - Low Type Surface	"	215	118
32. Swimming Pools	Each	20	
33. Water Treatment Plants	"	8	
34. Water Mains	Miles	53	

21233-4

## WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION IN KENTUCKY

## STATUS OF PROJECTS

as of

January 1, 1938

Types of Projects*	Completed		Operating		Total Federal Funds Involved
	Number	Federal Funds Expended	Number	Federal Funds Allocated	
Roads	416	\$ 4,057,114.	157	\$22,907,365.	\$26,964,479.
Streets & Sidewalks	226	2,353,835.	143	3,644,357.	6,175,192.
School Buildings	331	2,190,222.	199	2,573,411.	4,763,533.
Other Public Buildings	65	627,072.	66	807,699.	1,434,771.
Recreation	80	774,008.	45	877,226.	1,651,034.
Sewers	85	1,177,027.	63	1,368,334.	3,145,421.
Other Public Utilities	38	295,642.	26	626,236.	823,877.
Professional, Technical and Clerical	89	793,873.	149	910,662.	1,704,335.
Sewing Rooms	115	2,762,407.	166	2,623,344.	5,385,351.
Other Women's Work	28	69,708.	127	526,296.	596,064.
Sanitation & Health	82	414,970.	79	694,004.	1,108,974.
Work Not Elsewhere Classified	63	2,184,156.	21	773,922.	2,958,078.
TOTAL	1636	\$17,879,834.	1241	\$38,837,315.	\$56,717,149.

\* Note: Projects include both new construction and reconstruction.

In Addition to projects included in above tabulation, the Administration has approved, but not yet started, 1184 projects of all types, permitting the expenditure of Federal Funds in the amount of \$13,807,414.

Requests for appraisals were sent to approximately 450 sponsors. There were 74 replies. The chief points made in these replies may be summarized as follows:

1. Work relief is favored over direct relief for employable jobless by all the sponsors. Many of the reports did not reveal opinions of the sponsors with reference to the worthwhileness of the programs to the persons employed. On the basis of reports including such comment, the most quoted benefits were (a) protecting the self-respect of the jobless, (b) developing skills among unskilled workers, and (c) preserving through practice, skills already possessed by workers.

2. As far as these reveal, there has been a relatively small amount of "chiseling." Several sponsors stated that in their opinions criticism for "boondoggling" and "leaf-raking" projects should be considered as chargeable more to sponsors than to the Federal or State administrative agencies. This would seem to be true since the agencies must leave organization of all projects to local authorities. Most of the criticisms of the kind just referred to apply to the CWA period of several years ago. The lists of the projects in Tables I and II, reveal the permanent character of the type of project that is now under construction and that has been done since July 1, 1936.

3. The White Collar Projects came in for a considerable share of the type of criticism just referred to. On the other hand, this kind of project is highly praised by a number of persons representing larger communities. These different reactions are easy to explain since this type of relief is chiefly rendered and best provided for in the large centers. In passing it may be noted that some of the work done in Music and Art Relief Projects in Kentucky has received highest commendation in Washington when compared with corresponding work in other states.

4. The efficiency of the workers, the quality of workmanship, as well as the quality of workers themselves, are rising steadily under WPA. These facts are due to better organization and administration of relief and to the unfortunate feature of the increasing number of persons having better skills who are being compelled to accept public relief.

5. The need for direct relief has not declined, and is strongly endorsed by the sponsors for unemployable indigents. There is indication in these reports that direct relief is handled in a manner more generally satisfactory under Federal administration than it is now under local control.

6. The sponsors in general feel that need for WPA, or a similar program in their community, is a permanent condition both from the standpoint of the jobless and of the communities themselves. The facts in the case would seem to substantiate this point of view. The lowest number of cases on relief was 36,000 on October 1, 1937. The peak was under KERA with 112,000 cases. At the present time there are 48,600 certified workers on relief rolls in the State with 3,000 more to be added on April 1, on account of the acute unemployment situation in the coal mining districts.

7. The physical effects of the work relief program in communities have been good on the whole, will be of lasting benefit, and in many communities constitute the only improvements of this kind that have been made in a number of years past. One of the benefits accruing has been the material rise in the value of much public property, and indirectly of much private property.

8. It is the poorest communities that seem to speak most strongly in endorsing the work relief program. These have evidently received material improvements far beyond their own resources, but it is to be

Community pride has been expressed and has grown in certain centers where before it was largely dormant. Sewing projects and road work are indicated as the types of relief work which have been of most value in these poorer sections. It is significant to note here that there are twenty-seven counties in Kentucky which have defaulted on either the interest or the principal of their debts. Any wonder then that in such centers they endorse the program of Federal Public Works?

9. In this connection it is also worthy of note to state that approximately 70 per cent of all the projects administered in Kentucky under WPA have been road construction. Highways so built have conformed to the standards of the State Highway Department, and therefore represent as good work as that done regularly under state administration.

10. The primary problem in the whole situation seems to be the inability of sponsors to raise funds properly to finance the communities' shares of projects sufficient to keep their certified workers employed. This situation, it is hoped, will be improved by recently enacted State legislation under which assessment levies may be made to raise such funds.

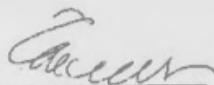
11. The National Youth Administration division of WPA has been greatly appreciated. The sponsors credit it with keeping many young people in school as well as out of the job market. While no available data exist from which one can quote figures that show the exact situation in those two directions, nevertheless there is unanimous agreement that the two conditions noted above have resulted in appreciable extent from the administration of NYA funds. Furthermore, it should be stated that there has been less complaint and more satisfaction with respect to the administration of these funds than can be said to be true of any other relief funds dispensed by the Federal government.

12. It is also highly appropriate to note, as shown in the list in Tables I and II, that a significant number of school buildings have been erected or reconstructed. This phase of relief work has resulted in distinct improvement of educational facilities especially for areas of the State heretofore backward in this public service. Buildings which were a public disgrace have been replaced. The State has been provided with a physical educational plant which it badly needed and could not otherwise get. There has been consolidation among districts. The teaching staff has been enlarged, and the number of children attending public schools has been increased.

13. General good cooperation of Federal agencies with the sponsors is indicated.

14. A special feature, but of very great importance, is the assistance which the WPA gave to communities in the Ohio Valley flood area both during and after the flood of 1937. The WPA was the main-spring of every public agency furnishing relief during this emergency.

15. Finally, it would seem that unemployment relief must be recognized as a permanent problem and that hand-to-mouth policies should be abolished. There should be a planned program of relief financed by budgets under the several units of government, which can be supported on a current revenue basis. It is recognized openly that there are certain communities that have relief burdens utterly beyond their revenue raising abilities to maintain. The burdens of such communities must be distributed and aid secured from larger geographical areas.



Robert Blair, Business Manager  
The Daily Tribune  
Corbin, Kentucky

William J. Hutchins, President  
Berea College  
Berea, Kentucky

Ben Kilgore, Secretary  
Kentucky Farm Bureau  
Louisville, Kentucky

Frank L. McVoy, President  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky

Thomas J. Nolan, President  
Ky. Chapter American Institute  
of Architects  
Louisville, Kentucky

Thomas R. Underwood, Editor  
The Lexington Herald  
Lexington, Kentucky

R. A. Kent, President  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, Kentucky

(Mrs.) Paul Wickliffe, President  
Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs  
Greenville, Kentucky

Rabbi Joseph Rauch  
Adath Israel Temple  
Louisville, Kentucky

E. J. Paxton, Jr.  
Sun-Democrat  
Paducah, Kentucky

D.V. Terrell, President  
Ky. Society of Professional Engineers  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky

Carl B. Wachs, Executive Secretary  
Kentucky Municipal League  
Lexington, Kentucky

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