MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF JULY 31, 1939
RELATING TO
DEFORESTED AREAS IN GREAT LAKES REGION
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Exploitation of our resources has created many problems, but none more pressing than in those areas of the United States where a basic resource has been mismanaged and the principal industry has moved or waned, leaving the working population stranded.

The cut-over region in the northern part of the States of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin was once the scene of a flourishing lumber industry. Today a large section of the population in that area depends for its very existence on public aids, work relief, and security payments. The large expenditures for these purposes in the area have enabled these people to survive, but could not provide a satisfactory permanent solution to their problem.

Members of Congress representing the region appealed some time ago for aid in developing a program to assist the people in the area to find a way of life that would provide opportunity and reasonable security. The problem is now to make the best use of the natural and human resources of the area.

Over a year ago the National Resources Committee began a study of the region, establishing large local committees in order to insure accurate representation and true understanding of the local point of view. Individual reports were prepared by groups representing the cut-over areas in the three States. From these individual reports a summarised version of
what is thought to be a feasible program has been developed.
This summary constitutes the most recent in the series of
regional reports by the National Resources Committee and is
titled "Regional Planning, Part VIII-the Report of the
Northern Lakes States Regional Committee".

I am asking that the National Resources Planning
Board keep in touch with the regional committee, which spon-
sored this report, to assist the regional committee in pro-
moting correlation of activities of Federal, State and local
agencies concerned with bringing about the accomplishments
desired. I commend the report to your careful study for what-
ever action may be appropriate.

[Signature]

THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 31, 1939.