

C.F. Public Works Administration

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Public Works folder

Confidential

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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12/28/33

Memorandum for Mr. McIntire:

I was disgracefully defeated today at the Public Works Board Meeting. I have been protesting the enormous allocations to California all year, with the support of a small majority of the Board. Los Angeles is only 230 miles from Boulder Dam, and in addition to that, they have received a large amount in excess of their quota of Public Works funds.

Also which should be taken into consideration, is \$105,000,000 out of a total of \$148,000,000 of unexpended R. F. C. funds, as the unexpended amounts when drawn down, will afford employment with Federal funds, and should be considered in the picture, making the total allocations four or five times their quota, taking into consideration 25 per cent unemployment and 75 per cent population.

I do not wish Mr. Iokes to know that I am giving you this information, and am leaving it to you as to whether you think this matter should be brought to the attention of the President, but all of these projects which have been held up and turned down by the Board, were railroaded through today in the absence of Judge Biggs, Chip Robert, Rex Tugwell, who had left the meeting, Secretary Roper, and the representative of the Director of the Budget. I asked to be recorded as voting "no", and inasmuch as today marked the completion of the allocation of the entire \$3,300,000,000, while many worthy projects in areas where there is excessive unemployment as compared to California, I know that there is going to be bitter criticism of the enormous amount allocated to California.

Miss Perkins, on her Mid-western speaking tour last month, stated that the most violent protests were being made of the Administration's large allocations to California and the far west.

It was the clear understanding from Secretary Ickes' office, while he was in the hospital, that there would be no more meetings until the Tuesday meeting, until after the first of the year, and therefore several members of the Board who would have been there did not attend. Also, the usual procedure of sending around the agenda with a list of the projects which were to be taken up, was not done today, and also no one was telephoned, notifying them of the meeting.

TURNER BATTLE.