Projects Had Been Authorized by "Expanding Agency"

By Albert L. Warner

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9.—The Public Works Administration of Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of Commerce, has authorized additional projects, totaling $750,000,000 for national defense and economic development, in the form of construction of public works.

Ickes has approved 1,908 projects previously submitted by the Public Works Administration, increasing the total of projects approved by the P.W.A. to more than $4,600,000,000

In a statement to the press, Secretary Ickes said that the projects approved were for various types of public works, including roads, bridges, airports, and other facilities necessary for national defense and economic development.

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Mayor LaGuardia was expected to express the view, by the time of the final meeting of the public hearing, on the subject of the new bridge, the blacklisting performed by the Work Projects Administration, and the possibility of the award of the $4,000,000 fund, which was to be considered by the P. W. A. before it would be released.

Mayor LaGuardia might at least force a more liberal policy on the remaining two-thirds of the $4,000,000 fund, if he would in the next few days, before the P. W. A. adjourns.

An investigation of a report was Mayor LaGuardia’s disapproval last Friday of forty-four out of forty-eight local projects convinced of a building large in the program of little work, such as Mr. Hopkins has. The P. W. A. finds that its local construction work on outstanding projects, which have been sidetracked for the small projects, is entirely a Hopkins who is demanding primarily that 3,500,000 men are given at least $1,500,000 of the $6,000,000,000 fund.

The Hopkins emphasis, and the few materials.

The following is a list of the New York City applications for P. W. A. projects which were rejected by Works Progress Administrators as of the date:

- School building...
- City buildings...
- Courthouse...
- Fire boat...

Total: $41,249,106

Mr. Hopkins was with the President a few days earlier.

He did not set a deadline for submission of local applications, and the WPA closed its books and announced it was “swamped” by the final rush. It had to be committed, involving $1,500,000,000 of the $6,000,000,000 fund which the local communities would otherwise have called 55 per cent themselves, the P. W. A. did not have the time or the ability to lend this portion on security if needed.

The notification to state directors telling them what P. W. A. projects were approved on the advice of the President was completed on the initiative of the P. W. A., although its officials saw strategic value in giving the President a chance to do it himself.

Mr. Hopkins was at a recent meeting of the President’s work allotment board, on which he served, and urged the resolution requiring that cities be told they should apply for their applications rejected.

The purpose is to permit remapping of the applications to be approved by the President, to meet the requirements of Mr. Hopkins, now that the allocators in the previous President’s deadlines virtually prohibit the altering of the original applications in the near future.

Only 809 Projects Approved

While turning down 1,909 P. W. A. projects, Mr. Hopkins approved only 809 last week. Three weeks ago, Mr. Hopkins has turned down $58,100,000. Of the $6,000,000,000 fund.

The P. W. A. housing division is troubled by the difficulty of getting local communities to make housing plans which are non-tribal. It is also troubled by the presence of the Treasury Department’s real estate authority, which is acting at the same time as the housing credit matters to Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury. Some officials believe that the Treasury is not encouraging their plans.

The New York Times estimates that 500 local projects are in the process of construction. They are two at Atlantic, one in New York City and one in Montgomery, Ala. Two more projects of $100,000 each will be started in the next few days. In addition, the P. W. A. now owns about fifteen hundred homes, which was started this fall.