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The Task of Liquidating the CWA

Congress Votes \$450,000,000 Will Probably Be Used to Wind Up Civil Works Program

By May 1

UP to his ears in the enormous task of unraveling the Civil Works Administration, which involves the separation of 4,000,000 workers from their \$15-a-week jobs by May 1, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins has been outdoing himself as an indefatigable worker.

When he went to Washington from New York, giving up his \$15,000-a-year job as State Relief Administrator to work as Federal Emergency Relief Commissioner at \$8,500, this tall, slight, youthful-looking man declared that, above all, the hungry must be fed. With deep satisfaction, he saw 4,000,000 men put to work in less than two months. Now it is his job to fire them all.

For the Administration has decreed, and Mr. Hopkins concurs, that the CWA must be ended by May 1; otherwise Uncle Sam might be eaten out of house and home. Last week Congress fell in line with President Roosevelt's request by voting \$950,000,000 to continue civil works operation until May 1, and for other relief purposes, rejecting all efforts to have larger amounts appropriated. Mr. Hopkins expects to use \$500,000,000 for direct relief and \$450,000,000 to wind up the CWA. When the bill passed he promptly moved to terminate work on nineteen Federal projects in the South, the first step in the Administration's tapering-off program. By May 1, he said, the CWA workers can be absorbed by the Public Works Administration, business and other activities.

As preparations were speeded for liquidating the CWA, editors were turning their attention to the charges of graft made by Republicans, and to the question of whether this huge project can actually be shelved in the face of a strong political de-

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mand for its continuance. If recovery is sufficiently advanced by May 1, said the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, expressing the misgivings of one section of the press, the President will be able to liquidate the CWA. "If not, he will have a perplexing problem on his hands."

As the difficulties faced by the President in this connection are explained by the Washington correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*:

"Mr. Roosevelt suffers the handicap of having no highly paid, impartial civil service to carry through the radical moves of the New Deal, which are little short of a revolution with all the new work they entail. Thus, the huge CWA edifice was reared almost over night, only to be shown recently to have been attacked at its base by political plunderers who were making a good thing personally out of efforts to aid the country's idle.

"No one was more disturbed over the discovery than Harry L. Hopkins, the administrator, who had the good sense to denounce the situation immediately, thereby taking some of the wind out of the sails of Republicans. But the CWA is an immediate example of the difficulty of carrying through idealistic social and economic experiments with political material."

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