

IERC Violating Pact, Pogue

**District WPA Adminis-
trator Declares Men
Cut Off Relief Must
Shift for Selves.**

When several hundred Champaign county WPA workers are cut off relief rolls Monday because the Champaign county relief office does not have sufficient money to "carry them" until they receive their first pay checks it will be in violation of "an understanding" between state WPA and relief administrations. And that, according to such relief and WPA officials as could be reached by The Courier, will leave the whole problem of providing for their families up to the WPA workers themselves. Meanwhile they will be expected to continue working on the WPA projects to which they have been assigned.

Won't Speed Pay Checks

And WPA, under terms of its rules, regulations and methods of operation, will be, officials indicated, unable to do anything to speed delivery of pay checks.

Under the "understanding" between WPA and relief officials the relief organizations in each county were to continue furnishing relief to relief clients who were working on WPA projects until the workers received their first pay checks. But the December relief allocation to Champaign county was so small, according to Miss Frances Gugenheim, county relief administrator, that it will be necessary to cut many WPA workers of relief rolls seven days before they are due to get their first pay checks.

WPA Not Notified

The "understanding" between the two administrations was based on

the theory that men who were working but had no cash with which to meet the needs of their families must be cared for until they were able to begin caring for themselves with the pay due them as WPA workers.

Miss Gugenheim, who in cutting off the WPA workers is acting under direct orders from the IERC, has not notified Fred C. Lohmann, Champaign county WPA project director, of her intention to cut the men working under his direction off from relief. Nor has the district WPA office in Decatur been informed of the contemplated action of the relief office here.

Can't Slash Red Tape

Relief officials take the position that lack of money ties their hands. Without straw they cannot make bricks; without cash they cannot give relief even to men who are working. Harold Pogue, district WPA director in Decatur, in a statement made Thursday night takes the position that the problem of "getting by" for seven days which faces the WPA workers is "up to" the state relief organization or to the workers themselves or to the merchants with whom they deal for solution. WPA cannot, his statement inferred, be expected to slash its organizational red tape to speed pay checks to needy workers. That, Mr. Pogue's statement indicated, simply couldn't be done.

In making his statement Mr. Pogue declared he was not "cognizant of the specific complaint" involved in the cutting off of re-workers. Lack of cognizance of relief to Champaign county WPA what it was all about thus enabled Mr. Pogue to touch on many matters not involved in the simple question: what are WPA workers, many of them with large families going to do when relief is denied them and they are waiting for WPA to deliver their pay checks for work they have performed? The statement of Mr. Pogue follows:

"If the men in question have been on WPA assignment for some time and previously have received at least one full WPA check," Mr. Pogue said, "it is up to them to budget their wages so that they will be provided for until their next check arrives. Our responsib-

(Continued on Page 3)

