

On receipt of your letter of May 22nd, enclosing copy of a letter written by C. C. Spaulding, President, to yourself, relative to a complaint concerning Negro women digging ditches on the streets in Georgetown, South Carolina, investigation was instituted.

We find that Mr. Spaulding's statement was true in part; Negro women were using picks and shovels on a Beautification Project in Georgetown, but were not digging ditches on the streets.

We further found that some of the women who were using shovels and picks had requested such work.

However, to avoid such criticism, or any semblance of unfairness to anybody, we have today had the Division of Employment issue a memorandum to the four District Offices, a copy of which is attached hereto.

As to the last paragraph of Mr. Spaulding's letter relative to white collar jobs for Negroes, we wish to submit that there are few Negroes on our relief rolls qualified for work of this type. We might call your attention to the fact that the Federally sponsored project, Survey of White Collar and Skilled Negro Workers, in this State, was not able to fill its quota from the relief rolls. At the request of the Supervisor, who is a Negro, we asked Washington to grant an exemption for five non-relief workers, because of the fact that qualified workers were not obtainable from the relief rolls.

Furthermore, the Supervisor of the Project known as Urban Consumption of Goods, etc., requisitioned some fifty or sixty Negroes, and only eight of these could do work such as was required.

Finally, we might say that if there is any discrimination by the Works Progress Administration in South Carolina, we cannot find it. Certainly, in the selection of workers for white collar projects, qualification, education and training must be, and are, the governing factors.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence M. Pinckney,
State Administrator
Works Progress Administration.