

NATIONAL REEMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
Jefferson City, Mo.,  
November 15, 1933.

TO ALL RELIEF AND REEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

There has been considerable requests as to the preference given ex-service men with dependents. We have today received the following ruling, which was made by Mr. B. V. Cohen, Associate Counsel for the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, under date of October 30, 1933.

"The National Industrial Recovery Act was not intended to encourage the migration of labor from one district into another. One of the guiding principles of the Public Works Administration has been to provide work in districts where unemployment is acute. If the migration of labor was permitted and encouraged this policy would be defeated. The veterans were given a preferential, not an exclusive right. The preference accorded, fairly construed, is not absolute and unqualified, but is a preference when other conditions are similar. Ex-service men are entitled to a preference ahead of others in any given group, but non-resident veterans are not entitled to preference ahead of residents. An attempt to give preference to distant non-residents, even though they be veterans, might lead to social disturbances.

The order of preference to be observed on P. W. A. projects is as follows:

1. Ex-service men with dependents who are residents of the political subdivision and/or county in which the work is to be performed.
2. Other citizens and aliens who have declared their intention of becoming citizens who are bona fide residents of such political subdivision and/or county.
3. Ex-service men with dependents who are bona fide residents of the State, territory, or district in which the work is to be performed.
4. Other citizens, and aliens who have declared their intention of becoming citizens, who are bona fide residents of the State, territory or district in which the work is to be performed."

We trust the above ruling will clear up any difference of opinion as to the preference given ex-service men.

Yours very truly,



Harry S. Truman, State Director,  
National Reemployment Service.

