

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

OBTAINING PRIORITY ON MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND  
EQUIPMENT TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, REPAIR, AND  
OPERATE FARM LABOR CAMPS OR SUPPLY CENTERS

The fact that field offices of the War Production Board have been given the authority to approve construction applications (WPB-617) which do not exceed \$25,000 in value and to approve priority applications (WPB-541, formerly PD-1A) involving not more than \$2,500 in value, makes it possible to simplify and greatly accelerate the procedure in obtaining priority assistance in the construction and maintenance of farm labor supply centers.

Hereafter all such construction and priority applications should be taken up directly with the nearest field office of the War Production Board.

To assist the State extension services in maintaining close liaison with local WPB offices, the War Food Administration has recently issued processing instructions to the WPB field offices outlining the difficulties involved, owing to the time element, in procuring materials, supplies, and equipment needed in connection with the housing of farm labor. The last two paragraphs of these instructions read as follows:

"This is an authorized program of the War Food Administration which is administered at the State level. It is suggested that, in order to handle all such cases on the spot, the local WPB office contact the Department of Agriculture Extension Service representative in order to obtain his recommendation. When conditions warrant it, the War Production Board field offices should use the out-of-line rating provisions set forth under Amendment 16 to Program Determination No. 500 to secure the necessary materials, equipment, and supplies to erect and maintain farm labor camps.

"These labor camps may obtain MRO items under the provisions of CMP-5A with an AA-2 rating except for items listed on PR 3. They should use PD-1A applications for items listed under PR 3 and for other equipment where construction is not involved. Construction under Order L-41 requires WPB-617 applications."

It is highly desirable that the State farm labor supervisor or his representative handling construction and MRO work make contact with the district WPB office in advance of the need for priorities assistance. Enclosed are copies of CMP-5A and PR 3 referred to above. Item 4, column 3, page 1, and item 3, column 3, page 2 of CMP-5A should be read carefully. Please read carefully lists A and B, pages 3 and 4, of PR 3.

In connection with MRO maintenance, repair, and operating supplies needed for the farm labor camps operated by State extension services, it was necessary to obtain advance authority from the War Production Board before orders are

placed. This has been done for all the State extension services taken together. Such combined orders shall not exceed the sum of \$25,000 for the first quarter of 1944 and \$125,000 for the second quarter. Application will have to be made for third and fourth quarter MRO allocations after July 1.

On April 1, it will be necessary for each State to report in terms of dollar cost on the MRO supplies ordered during the period January 1 to March 31, and the estimated dollar cost of MRO supplies estimated to be ordered during the period April 1 to June 30. Similarly, on July 1, it will be necessary for States to report on orders placed during the second quarter. Estimates for third and fourth quarter MRO supplies should be submitted by June 1.

If the sum of State estimates for the various quarters does not exceed WPB allocation, it will not become necessary for States to obtain advance approval on individual orders for MRO supplies which do not exceed the estimate submitted and approved in advance by the Deputy Director of Extension, In Charge, Farm Labor Program.

District offices, War Production Board, located in your State, are listed below.