

# 1,562 ARE OUSTED FOR WPA ABSENCE

Sharp Rise in Month's Total  
Laid to New Rule Aimed at  
Double Jobholders.

## ELDRED CASE TAKEN UP

Capital Gets Charges Against  
Man Accused of Using Office  
Time to Organize Veterans.

The local Works Progress Administration dropped 1,562 relief workers from its rolls in September because of "continued absence." Those dropped included many skilled workers.

"Since the number is greatly in excess of the monthly average of persons separated for continued absence," said the announcement from the office of Lieut. Col. Brehon B. Somervell, local WPA Administrator, "it may be assumed that the increase is largely due to the order of Colonel Somervell that employes absent two days in two successive weeks should be dropped."

### A Move Against Two-Timing

The announcement from WPA headquarters further explained:

"This rule was instituted for the specific purpose of eliminating 'two-timing' on the part of WPA employes. 'Two-timing' is the term used to describe the practice of having outside employment while on WPA rolls.

"The following line classifications showed the greatest number of employes dropped for continued ab-

sence: Laborers, 879; timbermen, 24; painters, 34; carpenters, 131; dockbuilders, 25; metallic lathers, 39; sheet metal workers, 34; structural ironworkers, 37; steamfitters, 16; plumbers, 16; electricians, 26; bricklayers, 37, and watchmen, 21."

Thomas J. Forde, State procurement officer of the United States Treasury Department, disclosed that he had sent to Washington his recommendations in the case of Hubert W. Eldred, a member of his staff, now under suspension because of his activities in connection with the organization of the National Veterans Reserve Corps, of which Mr. Eldred is national commander.

### Stiff on Suspension List

Mr. Eldred was suspended on Thursday on a charge of engaging in organizational activities for the veterans on office time. He will remain on the suspension list, according to Mr. Forde, pending a final decision by authorities in Washington.

Word came from Washington that a "thorough investigation" of Mr. Eldred's plan to organize the National Veterans Reserve Corps was being made. His record shows that he served as a captain in the World War and in recent months had held various relief jobs.

Mr. Eldred, who was employed at the Treasury procurement office at 40 Varick Street, denied that he had done any organizational work for the veterans on government time. He admitted that he was active in the organization of the corps, which contemplates an enrollment of 830,000. Mr. Eldred denied that the organization was anti-Semitic. He declared that the corps would be available to regular governmental agencies in times when needed.

After questioning two WPA employes in connection with the activities of the Veterans Reserve Corps, Colonel Somervell absolved Arthur B. Kratz, director of the WPA Park Department, who convinced the administration that he had done no organizational work on WPA time.

Colonel Somervell suspended for four days William L. Mattor, a WPA personnel supervisor, after finding papers in the latter's desk indicating that he had worked for the Veterans Reserve Corps during office hours. At the end of his term of suspension Mr. Mattor will return to work at the WPA.