

WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION
Washington 25, D. C.*copy and return to
C. F. Freeman
Room 516*In reply
refer to WMPI

May 16, 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Regional Manpower Directors

FROM: Leo R. Werts
Assistant Executive Director
Field Service

SUBJECT: Allocation of Prisoners of War to Agricultural and
Non-Agricultural Employment

This is to confirm our teletype of May 14 on the foregoing subject.

Despite publicity and assurances to the effect that 100,000 prisoners of war or more would be brought to the United States during the months of March, April, and May, the total actually brought in was 35,000 workers. As a result it has been necessary to change the contemplated allocations of prisoners of war to the several service Commands. There are available for agricultural and non-agricultural employment 140,000 prisoners of war. Through Judge Vinson's office commitments had been made for the allocation of 85,000 prisoners of war to agriculture for the period ending July 31. The remaining 55,000 prisoners were allocated to non-agricultural employment. These allocations, on the basis of Service Commands, was indicated in our teletype.

We trust that you will realize that Washington headquarters has made its best effort to equitably allocate the available supply of prisoners of war. The allocation of this labor to the states is the responsibility of the regions involved and should be worked out in cooperation with the Army Service Commands concerned.

Under the present arrangement certain numbers of prisoners of war are virtually earmarked for agriculture in each Service Command. To this extent priorities on the use of prisoners of war as established by WMC regions will not be operative with respect to agriculture. On the other hand, however, there will be a definite limitation on the number of prisoners that agriculture can expect to employ. Priorities established by the WMC will continue to cover the use of prisoners of war in non-agricultural employment.