

Editor State Journal:

Will you permit a man who is a veteran and has a wife and two small children to support to tell what he thinks about the CWA?

I have been out of employment since Spetember 1, 1932, At that time, considering that other work was impossible to get, I developed a little business of my own to make a living, or as much of it as I could, for my family.

My little business has made me from \$3. to \$5 per week. During this period I have had such expenses as rent, food, clothing, fuel, doctor bills, insurance and others. In these "others" might be included such things as shows, dances, beer and other liquor, the total amount of which is zero.

During this time, I have used in addition to what I have made \$100 which I had to start with, \$125 which I borrowed from insurance and \$200 which I borrowed from good relatives.

The total expense to tax payers or other organizations to date has been nothing. In December I was "lucky" enough to get on the CWA. Please notice this word "lucky" as I mean it 100 percent. Why? Because I had understood that veterans and men with families were to be given preference, Fine. I registered then stood by patiently waiting a call. Finally after hearing of hundreds being put to work, I made a few calls at the employment office and was eventually put on. Fine again. I had been on the job only a few days when I realized that I was so "lucky." I found that I was in a gang composed of men of varying circumstances. Some were in a condition similar to mine. But there were others. There were several unmarried fellows with apparently no one to support as they would frequently make mention of going to shows, dances, playing pool, drinking booze and the like.

One single man told of getting on without being registered. Another man who had a wife told to going to a town 250 miles from here every few weeks to see a girl. It so happens that most of my relatives live at this same place and I haven't seen them since 1931. When I learned these things I realized how lucky I was, but since I was lucky I said little but thought much. Yesterday I was informed that I was one of 21 to be laid off from our job. In receiving this notice my boss mentioned about me having this business.

During these few weeks I have made a nice start at paying back this borrowed money. I also bought two new suits of winter underwear at a sale so I could discontinue wearing two suits of 1930 model at one time. Now I am out of employment with six days pay coming and my \$3 to \$5 per week income to keep the wolf from the door, and a determination to let the taxpayers help me rather than my relatives.

2

I have learned one thing from this depression and that is when the next one comes along and I am out of employment, I will go to the welfare for help and then stand on the street corners and howl about the times.

I woke up at 2:30 a.m. this morning and couldn't get back to sleep so got up to tell your readers what I think and know about CWA.

VETERAN

Lansing, Michigan
Jan. 24, 1934