

# W.P.A. and Japs Should Help Avert Nation's Farm Crisis

**T**HE President asks Congress for a supplementary appropriation of \$100,000,000 for the W. P. A. This, he believes, is needed to provide work and training for persons displaced from private employment as a result of the war program.

On the same day the President asked this appropriation, the Snohomish County Chamber of Commerce unanimously voted in favor of suspending all work on W. P. A. projects and diverting W. P. A. manpower to farm work. The chamber also urges that draft boards give careful consideration to the deferment of experienced farmers and farm hands, in order to maintain farm production in the necessary volume.

From all parts of the country come reports of shortage in farm help. Spring is here, and farm land must be cultivated and planted at once if to be productive this year. In our own neighborhood the situation is made more emergent by the pending evacuation of alien farmers and truck gardeners.

There are no more diligent tillers of the soil than the Japanese. If moved from where they are, they should be placed where they can be usefully employed at familiar tasks; and, of course, they should be adequately paid for their work.

By such means, as well as by diversion of W. P. A. labor from postponable projects to the farms, also to be fairly-paid by those for whom they work, spring planting may be set under way and indispensable crops assured. Decisions must be quickly reached and acted upon without delay.

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## Blessings in Disguise

**S**EATTLE'S traffic lights have gone on masquerade. No longer wide-eyed, the downtown lights have been reduced to mere green and red slits for blackout purposes, and look a little as though they were disguised in black dominoes.

This hallowe'en effect may make the lights more difficult to distinguish, especially a block or so away, but that should not be a disadvantage. If it tends to prevent motorists from racing to get through the green lights at the next several intersections, encouraging slower driving on busy streets, the effect will be distinctly salutary.

If the lights thus dimmed help to con-