

Ft. WAYNE, INDIANA

October 22, 1918.

Memorandum

From: Mary Anderson, Assistant Director.

To: Miss Van Kleeck, Director of Woman in Industry Service.

Subject: Visit to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, October 7th and 8th.

Reasons: Urgent call from Mrs. Cox, member of the Industrial Commission of Indiana and Mr. Bell, Organizer for the Central Labor Union, Ft. Wayne, saying that there was great unrest among the women workers and that there was danger of a strike.

Talked with Mr. Bell about the general situation and agreed to attend the meeting of the telephone girls that evening. They had a very well attended meeting and I spoke to them of the Government standards as affecting the telephone service. Told them about Mr. Burleson's appointment of a wage commission of which Miss Julia O'Connor is a member. She is the President of the Boston Telephone Operators' Union.

Telephone girls in Ft. Wayne receive wages ranging from thirty five to forty dollars (\$35-\$40) a month. They work eight hours.

Visited Miss Madden of the U. S. Employment Service. She informed me that some of the firms started the girls as low as \$.13 an hour.

Visited General Electric Company, employees between 400 and 500, <sup>girls</sup> working hours from seven in the morning to five-thirty in the evening, with one hour for lunch. Work over time three nights a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. They work straight from one o'clock to eight o'clock without time for lunch. The work is mostly piece work, is said to make from ten a week up. Hour work nineteen (\$.19) cents per hour. Testers, lifting 22 pounds continuously. <sup>Five</sup> ~~Four~~ women taking men's places. The women sweeping get \$.27 an hour. Men formerly got \$.36 an hour. Building motors, women starting at \$.19 an hour, men getting \$.45 an hour.

Attended the Union meeting of the girls in the evening and spoke to them. Ft. Wayne Journal and Gazette has this to say: "In her talk Miss Anderson explained the important roll that the women are playing in the world war, and urged all those present to do their utmost toward the support of the Government during these strenuous times of war, and also explained to those present just what the Government requires of the women of the country. The women present were much aroused by the talk and all were enthused in their desire to be of service to the country."

Edison Lamp Company: Branch of the General Electric Company. This plant does mostly piece work, women starting at \$.15 an hour. Did not visit this plant, was told the working conditions were very poor, one of the worst in the city and the foreman very abusive.

Boss Glove Company: 200 girls employed, working hours nine. Piece work system. Can make from \$8.00 a week up to \$15.00. Hour work, \$.16 an hour.

Perfection Biscuit Company: From 100 to 150 girls. Hours 55 a week. Paid for 60 hours if working full week. Paid \$.13 an hour but while I was there the firm raised the hour work to \$.15. Miss Madden of the Employees Service told me the plant conditions were good.

The Wayne Knitting Mills employing about 300 girls. Working conditions said to be very good. Is the show place of the city. Could not visit the factory because the Italian soldiers were being entertained there that afternoon.