

Roddis LUMBER CO.

September 3.

Expect report on request for exemption from Wisconsin State labor laws on night work for women made by the Roddis Lumber Company, Marshfield, Wisconsin. Matter referred to Industrial Relations Department of the Bureau of Aircraft Production. To be reported to Mr. Frayne of War Industries Board as soon as received. Referred August 6th, 1918



*Height Work for women*

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

IN ANSWERING REFER TO  
No.

August 12th, 1918

Miss Mary Van Kleck, Director  
Women in Industry  
Department of Labor  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosed please find copy of a letter  
from the Roddis Lumber & Veneer Co., Marshfield, Wis. which  
was sent to this office by Mr. Hugh Frayne, Chairman of the  
Labor Division of the War Industries Board. As I consider  
this a matter of policy I am referring it to you.

*Margaretta Keale*,  
Chief, Women's Division.

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RODDIS LUMBER & VENEER COMPANY

Marshfield, Wis.

July 13, 1918

Council of National Defense,  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We have applied to the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin for permission to employ 4 women at night work in our plant for the months of August and September only, and are advised to apply to you.

This company is engaged in the manufacture of water-proof plywoods for Allied Governments, also as a subcontractor for the U. S. Government for this material.

There is an extreme shortage of men, but we find we can employ a great many women. Many of these women who are applying for work are engaged in educational work, such as teaching and only seek employment during the balance of the summer and early part of September. We should like permission to employ for such women for this very short period on work that is very light, very sanitary and very desirable. The work consists of passing in and taking away of very thin veneers from a Philadelphia textile dryer. Benches are provided so that they sit down a very considerable portion of the time.

Yours truly,

Roddis Lumber & Veneer Co.



WOMEN IN INDUSTRY SERVICE .

August 6, 1918.

My dear Major Gitchell:

The enclosed copy of a letter from the Roddis Lumber Company and the accompanying letter from Mr. Hugh Frayne are referred to you for such action as you may think advisable. May I suggest the possibility of asking Miss Tracy Copp to make this investigation in Wisconsin acting for the Bureau of Aircraft Production and not for the Industrial Commission, or if this does not seem advisable it might be possible for Miss Amy Hewes representing the Women's Branch in the Chicago District Ordnance Office to make the inquiry.

I should be glad to be informed of the result.

Sincerely yours,

Director, Women in Industry Service.

Major B. H. Gitchell,  
Office of the Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY SERVICE

August 6, 1918.

My dear Mr. Frayne:

Your letter of July 26th enclosing request from the Roddis Lumber Company for exemption from the night work provision of the State of Wisconsin is received, and the matter has been referred to the Industrial Relations Department of the Bureau of Aircraft Production with a request for a prompt report. As soon as their report is received, we shall write you regarding the possibility of such action as you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

Director, Women in Industry Service.

Mr. Hugh Frayne,  
War Industries Board,  
Washington, D. C.



WAR INDUSTRIES BOARD

WASHINGTON

E. M. BARUCH  
CHAIRMAN

IN YOUR REPLY  
REFER TO.....

July 26, 1918.

Miss Mary Van Kleeck, Director,  
Women in Industry Service,  
Department of Labor,  
Washington, D. C.

I am herewith enclosing copy of letter addressed to  
Mr. Gifford, Director Council of National Defense,  
which you will find self-explanatory.

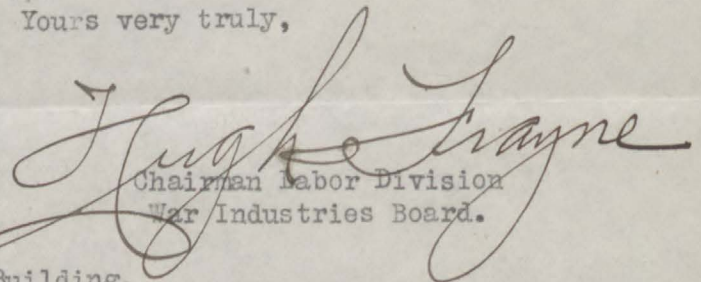
I have previously written this Company advising that  
I have turned the matter over to Mr. Densmore whom I  
have advised against granting this concession.

This is sent you with the suggestion that you have a  
careful investigation made to determine whether some  
other plan might not be adopted to avoid setting aside  
the labor laws in Wisconsin.

Please let me have a report on this matter as soon as  
possible.

Thanking you for an early consideration of this matter,  
I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

  
Chairman Labor Division  
War Industries Board.

Council of National Defense Building,  
18th and D Streets, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

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RODDIS LUMBER COMPANY

Marshfield, Wisconsin  
July 19, 1918

Hon. Walter S. Gifford, Director,  
Council of National Defense,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The State of Wisconsin has made provision whereby the privilege of employing women for night work may be granted upon the recommendation of the Council of National Defense, Washington, D.C. to the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin.

This Company wishes to make formal application for such a recommendation for the privilege of employing four women only for night work during the months of August and September.

This Company is engaged in the manufacture of waterproof plywood for use on aeroplanes, hydroplanes, for the French Government, for the Italian Government and for the U. S. Government.

The work we wish to employ the woman on is passing thin veneers in and out of a Philadelphia Textile Dryer. The work is very light and conditions are exceedingly sanitary and healthy. The demands for harvesting make us extremely short of men. This work is done exclusively during the day by girls, and we have a large number of women applying for work, among these are young women teachers, who wish war work during the summer months.

We would agree not to employ women under twenty years old, if necessary.

We assure you that this slight assistance is very much needed at the present time.

Yours truly,

RODDIS LUMBER & VENEER CO.



COPY

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
Washington

July 22, 1918

Mr. Hugh Frayne,  
War Industries Board,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Frayne:

Before bringing the attached to the attention  
of the Council of National Defense, I would appreciate having  
your views on the matter.

Very truly yours

(Signed) G.B. CLARKSON

Secretary of the Council  
and Advisory Commission