EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN JULY 1946

In the year since July 1945 the number of women in the civilian labor force (employed plus unemployed) decreased by 2,680,000. The average age of women workers increased slightly from 32.9 to 33.4 years. The rise in women's employment in July 1946 compared to June 1946 denotes a drop in agricultural employment and the first increase among women employed in nonagricultural industries in several months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July 1946</th>
<th>Change since June 1946</th>
<th>Total persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (14 years and over)</td>
<td>53,820,000</td>
<td>+ 70,000</td>
<td>106,360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>16,890,000</td>
<td>+ 180,000</td>
<td>58,130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>510,000</td>
<td>- 50,000</td>
<td>2,270,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed forces</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>- 10,000</td>
<td>2,640,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonworkers</td>
<td>36,370,000</td>
<td>- 50,000</td>
<td>43,320,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(U.S. Bureau of the Census)

LABOR STANDARDS

Minimum Wage -- Revised wage orders issued in 1946 include, with effective dates: Connecticut - Mercantile Trade, March 18; District of Columbia - Public Housekeeping, January 1; Laundry, Cleaning & Dyeing, July 8; New Jersey - Laundry, Cleaning & Dyeing, October 23; North Dakota - Public Housekeeping, May 6; Mercantile, May 9; Utah - Retail Trade, April 1; Restaurants, June 1; Public Housekeeping, July 1; Laundry, Cleaning & Dyeing, September 1; Washington (State) - All Occupations, except agriculture, domestic service, and some communications, June 5. Wage Boards in Massachusetts and Rhode Island have also made recommendations, but orders have not yet been issued.

Equal Pay

The Senate Committee on Education and Labor reported favorably on S. 1178, the "Women's Equal Pay Act of 1945" on June 21. The House Committee on Labor held hearings on July 27. It substituted the Senate bill for H.R. 5221 and reported favorably. Although equal pay was not debated in either house, favorable Committee action makes passage in the next Congress more hopeful.

"EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT" DEFEATED

Following extensive hearings and vigorous debate, S.J. Res. 61, ("Equal Rights Amendment") failed in the Senate, July 19. Of 73 votes, 38 favored, 35 opposed, adoption. Two-thirds majority was required for passage. No action was taken in the House.
WOMEN LAWYERS GAIN

Breaking a 50-year precedent, the Maryland State Bar Association voted unanimously (June 29) to admit women lawyers to membership and the organization's constitution was amended accordingly.

Governor Walter E. Edge of New Jersey has appointed Mrs. Libby E. Sachar of Plainfield judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of Union County. She is the first woman judge in the State.

Miss Bettie E. Renner, Washington, D. C. lawyer with the War Crimes Commission in Tokyo, has been made legal assistant to Sir William Webb, president of the International Military Tribunal for Far East-Tokyo. She is on leave from the Department of Justice.

WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Mrs. Krishnabai Wagh, labor official of the Government of Bombay, India, visited the Women's Bureau in July to get information about women workers in the United States. Mrs. Wagh was India's representative to the Committee of Experts on Women's Work of the International Labour Office, and one of the eight women who met in Montreal July 8-13 to discuss the postwar employment of women. She says India's women, who progressed in wartime, are in danger of losing their gains in peace.

The American Association of University Women has awarded 30 international study grants for 1946-47 to outstanding young women students in the following liberated countries: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Greece, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, and Yugoslavia. The women will study in 25 universities and colleges of the U. S.

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

The Federal Security Agency now includes the Children's Bureau (operating under the Social Security Administration); Miss Katherine Lenroot continues as the Bureau's chief. The Bureau's industrial division remains in the Labor Department. The new office of Special Services in FSA has a government career woman as director - Mrs. Jowell W. Swfford, formerly chairman of the U. S. Employees Compensation Board, now abolished. Director of FSA's new Office of Inter-Agency and International Relations is Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, formerly member of the Social Security Board.

* * * * *


Woman, Sleeping Beauty of Politics, speech by Fannie Hurst, reported in Independent Woman, July 1946.

Can We Lure Martha Back to the Kitchen -- Frida S. Miller, in New York Times Magazine, August 11, 1946.