EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN OCTOBER 1946

There was marked stability in the size of the woman labor force between September and October. However, the civilian labor force contained about 1 1/3 million fewer women in October 1946 than in October 1945. Recent seasonal declines in the number of farm workers were counteracted by an expansion in the number of women doing non-farm work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (14 years and over)</th>
<th>Number of women</th>
<th>Change since September 1946</th>
<th>Total persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>16,760,000</td>
<td>-20,000</td>
<td>57,360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>410,000</td>
<td>-80,000</td>
<td>1,950,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed forces</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>-10,000</td>
<td>2,170,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonworkers</td>
<td>36,870,000</td>
<td>+190,000</td>
<td>45,260,000</td>
</tr>
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<td>(U.S. Bureau of the Census)</td>
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</tbody>
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LAW STANDARDS

Equal Pay — The Executive Council, American Federation of Labor, reported to the 65th Annual Convention in Chicago: "We favor and will support the principle enunciated in the title of the bills (H.R.5221; S.1178) but as drafted, as amended, and reported they should be carefully examined before approval is given, if similar proposals are introduced in the next Congress." General Erskine, Director, Retraining and Reemployment, U.S. Dept. of Labor, also supported rate for the job, saying sex should not be a factor "in the selection or retention of workers or in the amount of compensation paid."

AMERICAN WOMAN WINS NOBEL PRIZE

Professor Emily Greene Balch, 79-year-old economist, shares the 1946 Nobel Peace Prize with Dr. John R. Mott of the Y.M.C.A. Prof. Balch is a graduate of Bryn Mawr, a former professor of political economy at Wellesley, and honorary international president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She is the third American woman to receive a Nobel prize; the others were Jane Addams, (Peace) 1931, and Pearl S. Buck, (Literature) 1938.
NEW YORK CITY ATTORNEY TO UNITED NATIONS POST

President Truman has named Dorothy Kenyon, New York jurist, as the United States representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Miss Kenyon is a member of the New York bar, a former judge of the court of the City of New York, and has practiced law since 1919. She was a member of the Committee of Jurists appointed by the League of Nations to study the legal status of women throughout the world. The United States term on the UN commission is three years.

NEGRO WOMEN TELEPHONE OPERATORS

Negro women are now employed as telephone operators in New York City, both in the local and long distance branches as well as in the long lines division of AT&T. Negro girls have recently been hired as telephone operators in Detroit, and for the past two years have been working at white-collar jobs in the accounting and commercial departments of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

WOMEN'S BUREAU ACTIVITIES

A significant conference with union women was held by the Women's Bureau Oct. 30-31, the delegates coming from some 20 organizations (both AFL and CIO) with large woman membership. The agenda was concerned for the most part with a positive program of action for eliminating discriminations against women. Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach welcomed the conference delegates, remarking "... we cannot have discrimination in the matter of employment ... the time is ripe for progress in this field. There are two strong reasons for it: first, there has been so recent a demonstration during the war of the capabilities of women in industry never dreamed of before.... the other reason is, this happens to be a time when employers want to get employees."

WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Women in Germany — In June 1946 women formed 38.6 percent of all workers in Germany, as compared with 35.9 percent in 1925. Labor registration and employment figures by sex are now available monthly for all Germany, and figures by industry and occupation may be obtained for the U. S. zone .... Berlin has 170 women for every 100 men. At the University of Berlin, two-thirds of the students are girls.

Britain Ends Bar To Wives — Abolition of the marriage bar for women in the British Civil Service was announced in the House of Commons on October 15. Members of British women's organizations hailed the move and hope private employers will fall into line with the government.

Woman Joins Rumanian Cabinet — For the first time in the country's history, a woman was named to the Rumanian Cabinet when Dr. Florica Bagdasar, widow of the world-famed brain surgeon, Prof. Dimitrie Bagdasar, was appointed Health Minister, a post held by her husband at the time of his death.
Women Elected to Congress -- Seven women were elected to the United States House of Representatives in the National elections, November 5: California, Mrs. Helen Gabagan Douglas (D); Maine, Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith (R); Massachusetts, Mrs. Edith Hourse Rogers (R); New Jersey, Mrs. Mary T. Norton (D); New Mexico, Mrs. Georgia Lusk (D); New York, Mrs. George B. St. George (R); and Ohio, Mrs. Frances P. Bolton (R).

Musicians -- Dr. Hans Kindler, conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D. C., has announced that 15 women (of a total of 100 musicians) will be members of his orchestra this winter. He said women served well when they were badly needed during the war years, but will remain on the merit of their fine playing. The instruments they will play: Harp, violin, viola, cello, string bass, bassoon, French horn, and trumpet. Sir Thomas Beecham, noted British conductor, claims that women are a distracting influence in an orchestra and prefers not to have them.

Mechanic -- Sergt. Gavin Jean Norment, 21, native of Washington, D. C., is the first woman to graduate from the Army's Airplane Mechanics Training School at Chanaute Field, Ill. She will be assigned to maintenance work on B-29 bombers at MacDill Field, Fla.

Unions -- Miss Agnes M. Bowden, New York City, was the only woman delegate to the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen Convention in Miami in September, and the first woman delegate to attend a convention since women were admitted to membership in the 63-year-old brotherhood. Miss Bowden is a brakeman on the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad. ... Mrs. Bessie Hillman, widow of Sidney Hillman, was elected a vice president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (CIO).

TRENDS IN WOMAN POPULATION 1940-1946

There are now almost 3 million more women of 14 and over in the civilian population than in 1940, according to a recent census report for February 1946.

The present population contains about 1 2/3 million fewer single women, and nearly 3 3/4 million more married women than in 1940, due to very high marriage rates through the entire period 1940-46 and to an increase in the number of persons of marriageable age. In fact, the increase in the percent married among adult women over these five years equaled the entire increase in the 50-year period 1890-1940. "The increase since 1940 is without doubt attributable mainly to the psychological effects of war conditions and to a new sense of economic security resulting from full employment and higher wages."

Numbers of older women have increased. There are nearly 1 million more women of 35-44, and 2 million more of 45 and over, than in 1940. These two groups now number 29 million women, who are 55 percent of the adult woman population as compared to only 52.4 in 1940.
FOREIGN JOBS FOR AMERICAN WOMEN

Women eager for employment abroad will find opportunities limited except in the clerical and stenographic field, and in a few professional and highly technical classifications, such as law and engineering. However, those with the necessary qualifications who are under 45, and in excellent health, may find interesting positions open in various countries outside the continental United States.

Information regarding overseas employment with the U. S. Government or with private firms may be obtained from the "Guide to Foreign Employment Opportunities" bulletin which is on file at State employment offices. (Copies of the bulletin cannot be distributed to individuals.)

In addition to those mentioned above, women at the present time are needed in the following occupations: Court reporter, legal stenographer, x-ray and laboratory technician, hospital staff nurse, public health nurse, teacher, librarian, accountant, and dietitian.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

The Inter-American Commission of Women, composed of 21 delegates appointed by the governments of the American Republics, will hold its Fifth Assembly in the Pan American Union, Washington, D. C., December 2-12. Miss Mary M. Cannon, Chief of the International Division of the Women's Bureau, is U. S. delegate. Friday, December 13, the Commission has invited women's organizations of the United States and other American Republics to participate in a forum on "The Role of Women in the World Today." Afternoon and evening sessions will be open to the public.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

"Yours is an organization dedicated to the principles of justice and equality -- two immortal words that are the foundations of our democracy," Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach told the 468 delegates attending the 11th annual convention of the National Council of Negro Women in Washington, D. C., Nov. 13-16. To delegates concerned with postwar job opportunities and training for Negro women and youth were made available the consultative services and publications of the Women's Bureau, USES, and Child Labor and Youth Employment Branch of the Department of Labor. Opening the convention, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Founder-President, said: "Let us continue to broaden our vision, break down the barriers, and unitedly join hands with the women of the world ..."

HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYMENT, A Digest of Current Information. Women's Bureau, 75 pages, mimeographed.
WHO'S IN WHO'S WHO - Independent Woman, October 1946, pp. 304-305.
MARRIED WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE (their relation to the declining birthrate), John D. Durand, American Journal of Sociology, November 1946.