

on **WOMEN WORKERS**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

James P. Mitchell, Secretary

WOMEN'S BUREAU
Alice K. Leopold, DirectorRec'd
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**Learning More is
Their Business**

Eight Indonesian women, all keenly interested in civic affairs in their country, are traveling in the United States. These women, who represent four women's organizations in Indonesia, are here through the leader grants of our Government's exchange of persons program in the State Department. Their schedules were arranged with the assistance of the Women's Bureau.

Their first stop was in Washington, D.C., where they learned about the workings of our Government. They will be together in New York and Chicago, but will separate as they go to smaller communities and places picked for their individual fields. For example, two are practicing midwives and are spending time at maternal and child health centers here. Others expressed a desire to study community service programs of women's organizations, juvenile delinquency, programs for school-age girls and boys, and Parent-Teacher Associations. Their stops are planned to give them information on these subjects.

Arrangements have been made for them to be guests in homes in many towns, and in some cases they are staying in private homes.

All eight women are married, and all but one have children. Their religious beliefs vary, but they are alike in that they all want to help their country progress. Indonesian women worked side by side with the men in their nation to win their freedom, and they hold many responsible positions in the government and the community work of the country.

The group arrived in the United States September 27 and will return to their own country December 8.

**Older Worker Forums
Go South in January**

Community minded people in two Florida cities have combined forces to hold Earning Opportunities Forums during the month of January. St. Petersburg will host a Forum January 24 through the efforts of Altrusa Club, Pilot, Soroptimist and the Women's Club of St. Petersburg and the Women of St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Florida State Employment Service and the United States Department of Labor. Miami's Forum, scheduled January 25, is being sponsored by the Miami Business and Professional Women's Club in cooperation with District No. 10 of the Florida Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the Florida State Employment Services, Community Organizations and the United States Department of Labor.

Earning Opportunities Forums have been held in cities throughout the United States where the community has expressed a need to assist older women who are looking for jobs. They have been held in Baltimore, Boston, Washington, D.C., Springfield, Massachusetts, Seattle, and Ephrata in the State of Washington, Philadelphia, and St. Louis, Missouri. Ephrata was the first rural district Forum. Many of these women have a great deal of experience in managing their homes and taking part in local projects, and some have worked earlier in life. Various reasons such as age and lack of job experience, make it difficult for them to find their "niche." Earning Opportunities Forums are arranged in cooperation with the State Employment Services, local employers, and labor groups.

Stories have come from many women who have achieved in their later years a successful career. The results of the first three Forums are available on request from the Women's Bureau.

ALMOST 13 MILLION OLDER WOMEN WORKED IN '56

STATES ARE LEGISLATIVE CONSCIOUS

Vermont enacted minimum-wage legislation for the first time this year. Now, 30 States,* plus Alaska, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico have minimum-wage laws.

During the year, statutory rates increased in Hawaii and 6 States--Connecticut, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire,** New Mexico, and Rhode Island.** In addition, minimum rates set by wage orders for specified industries or occupations were raised in 9 States: California--11 orders,** including a new one for Radio and TV; Connecticut--4 orders; District of Columbia--1 order;* Massachusetts--6 orders; Minnesota--4 orders; New Hampshire--4 orders;** New York--4 orders; North Dakota--1 order; and Rhode Island--3 orders.**

Massachusetts and North Dakota adopted resolutions authorizing studies of labor laws, and in the former the need for a Women's and Minor's Division in the Department of Labor and Industries is also being studied.

Other State legislative activity included the extension of laws providing for relaxation of certain labor standards during emergencies in New York, Massachusetts, and California. California amended the homework statute.

* Excludes Delaware with minimum-wage provision for minors only.

** Effective fall of 1957.

FIELD STAFF LEARNS THE ROPES

The field staff of the Women's Bureau, an addition voted by the 87th Congress of the United States, will complete their orientation program by the end of this month. Their program has introduced them to all Bureaus of the United States Department of Labor, and they will go into the field early in January.

Since 1940 the number of older women working has more than doubled. Factually, almost 13 million women 35 years of age and over were in the labor force in 1956, as compared with less than 6 million in 1940.

In addition to these impressive figures, 50 percent increase in this number has taken place just since 1947. Again to quote the facts--there were 8-1/2 million women 35 or over working in 1947.

Some of this increase is undoubtedly due to larger numbers of women who went to work during World War II and who remained in the labor force. Furthermore, women over 35 years of age are increasingly reentering the work force. These and other factors have resulted in the fact that 1 out of every 3 women 35 years of age and over was a worker in 1956--as compared with only 1 out of 5 in 1940 and 1 out of 4 in 1947. As a result, we now find that women 35 and over are a distinct majority in the woman labor force, representing some 3 out of 5 of all women workers. In 1947, they formed about half of all women workers and in 1940, only 2 out of 5.

Minimum Wage Meeting Planned in Boston

The first in a series of regional meetings of the State Minimum Wage Administrators has been planned to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, December 5 and 6.

The meeting is being sponsored by the United States Department of Labor on specific request from the State Labor Commissioners through their organization, International Association of Governmental Labor Officials. It is being conducted by the Women's Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Standards. Nine States from the New England and Middle Atlantic States, which have minimum wage laws, will participate in the meeting.

Signs of the Times!

Over 8,000 copies of the leaflet, "Is Math in the Stars for You?" have been sold from the Government Printing Office since it was released by the Women's Bureau September 8.

This is certainly indicative of the fast-growing realization that the technical world needs skilled workers. Besides those sold from the Government Printing Office almost 3,000 have been distributed by the Women's Bureau.

"Is Math in the Stars for You?" is prepared especially to encourage high school girls to investigate the field of mathematics. It was published in addition to the bulletin, "Employment Opportunities for Women Mathematicians

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MORE MARRIED WOMEN WORKING

Two and a half times as many married women were in the labor force in March of this year than in 1940. Those over 35 outnumbered younger wives by almost 2 to 1.

These figures, just released by the Census Bureau, show the continuation of the increase in the employment of married women after their home responsibilities have decreased.

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and Statisticians," released early in 1957 because of the growing demand for well-trained and qualified mathematicians.

THE PICTURE ON

EQUAL PAY

Fifteen equal-pay bills were introduced in the 85th Congress--2 in the Senate, the remainder in the House. Many had bipartisan sponsorship. No hearings were scheduled in the 1st Session, but it is anticipated they will be held early next year.

State interest in equal-pay legislation is increasing. Alaska and 16 States now have such laws. The 1957 California Legislature enacted a strengthening amendment and the Nebraska Legislature adopted an equal-pay resolution. In addition, bills were introduced in 7 States^{1/} which do not now have equal-pay laws, and amendments to existing laws in 4 States.^{2/}

^{1/} Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Utah, and Wisconsin.

^{2/} Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.

SOON OFF
THE
PRESS!

OFFICE WORKERS

Traditionally jobs for office secretaries, stenographers, typists and machine operators have been earmarked for women. This plus the fact that there is a definite need for more trained workers in this field has inspired the Women's Bureau to publish a new booklet to be released in January on employment opportunities for women as secretaries, stenographers and typists--as office machine operators and cashiers.

This booklet includes qualifications and training necessary, earnings and hours, advancement and other concrete materials aimed to assist the potential office worker in planning her future.

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN THE U.S.

An informative booklet called SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, will be out in January. It has been prepared to bridge the gap between publication of the last Handbook and the next one which will be published in 1958.

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES brings out many interesting facts about the employment of women. It is particularly good because it brings things up to date for those who want statistical information.

The booklet points up fields where there are shortages such as the nursing profession. Incidentally, there are very outstanding figures given on nursing which show, amazingly enough, that nurses in the West and Midwest receive higher pay than those on the East Coast!

GET THEM HERE

These publications, in addition to those already in print, will be available at the Government Printing Office as soon as they are released. Address requests to Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.