

on **WOMEN WORKERS**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

James P. Mitchell, Secretary

WOMEN'S BUREAU

Alice K. Leopold, Director



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## Communities and Field Staff Cooperate

## Occupational Outlook

By JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY OF LABOR

After the excitement of commencement exercises, the most important question that faces college graduates is a basic one: "Can I find a job?"

At the moment the American economy is operating at levels somewhat below those of the past few years. This is a temporary situation which will inevitably be altered by the forces which are already at work within the economy to restore it to its normal high levels. And we must not allow the current situation to blind us to the long-term trends which will determine the Nation's manpower future, and, in large measure, the employment outlook of 1958's college graduates.

Forecasts of economic growth have indicated that there will be a great need in the coming decade for professional, technical, clerical and sales personnel. These predictions are still valid.

The immediate picture shows a favorable employment outlook for college graduates this spring, although there are somewhat fewer recruiters on the campus than in recent years and companies are being much more selective in hiring. Greater emphasis is being placed on qualifications, and there is a continued need for men and women with advanced degrees, reflecting persistent shortages of specialists in many fields. Those who can continue their education to get advanced training in their specialties should certainly do so.

Reports from the members of the new field staff of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor who have completed their first trip for 1958, show exceptional cooperation in the communities where they have been working.

June-July itineraries will take the staff into Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Kansas, and Missouri.

Eleven States have been visited by the staff. They are Louisiana, California, Texas, Colorado, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the State of Washington.

In all communities where contacts were made, the staff members were enthusiastic about the exceptional interest of local groups in programs for women. Meetings of local groups were called, materials presented, and generally groundwork was laid for continuing service on the part of the staff to help with local programs which concern the Women's Bureau and the Department of Labor.

Projects of current concern include the shortage of nurses. The new publications which have just been released by the Women's Bureau tell the story of the need for more trained nurses. The pamphlet and leaflet will be well received by local associations of the national nurses' groups and were featured at the convention of the American Nurses' Association in Atlantic City in June.

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## EOF REPORTS ARE GOOD

"Little Rock, Arkansas, and St. Petersburg and Miami, Florida, have conducted Earning Opportunities Forums this year," Mrs. Alice K. Leopold reported.

In Little Rock, the follow-up committee, enthusiastic with EOF results, voted to concentrate this year on efforts to: provide group counseling for older workers; assist in developing job openings for senior workers; work with publicity committees to present on television, interviews with successful mature workers; help promote setting up training classes.

The follow-up questionnaire sent out by the local committee to the 778 people who attended the St. Petersburg EOF brought back the word that the majority found the Forum was helpful either in their looking for a job, preparing for a job, or deciding what they would like to do.

Earning Opportunities Forums to help older workers who want to or need to work have been a major program of the Women's Bureau for the past few years. They are conducted by community groups and service clubs with the cooperation of the State Employment Service, and the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Employment Security and Women's Bureau.

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The teacher shortage, women in scientific and technical jobs, day care for children of working mothers, youth programs, effect of automation and electronics on women's jobs, and older worker programs were other subjects in which local groups are keenly interested.

A wealth of information which has enabled the Women's Bureau to put its finger on the most important needs of local communities was gathered from these first major trips of the year.

## Working Wives

About 28 percent of all married couples were working in the spring of 1957, according to a recent report by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This represents an increase from the end of World War II, when the proportion was 20 percent. The majority of wives, however, are still full-time homemakers. For some 63 percent of married couples, the husband was a worker and the wife a full-time homemaker. The remaining couples were chiefly older people who were not working.

The report shows that wives were more likely to work: when the husband was unemployed; when his income was under \$4,000 a year; or when there were no children under 18 years of age in the home. Mothers of children under 6 years of age were only about one-half as likely to be working as other married women.

### MIDWEST TRIP

"Spotlight on American Women" is the title of the talk Mrs. Leopold will give at the convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs June 6. The meeting takes place in Detroit.

The day before her Detroit speech, Mrs. Leopold will address the second annual National Convention of Golden Age and Senior Citizens Clubs in St. Louis, Missouri.

### EAST COAST

A report on nurses' salaries will be given by Mrs. Leopold at the convention of the American Nurses' Association in Atlantic City, June 11. There will also be a new exhibit and other materials portraying occupations of women and stressing nationwide shortages of women workers.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL  
LEGISLATION IN THE MAKING

A new summary digest of major Federal legislation affecting women workers is being prepared by the Legislation Division of the Women's Bureau for use by the members of Girls' State and Girls' Nation. The digest will contain information on the Fair Labor Standards, Social Security, Employment Security system, and Labor Relations legislation.

The Women's Bureau has assisted the leaders of this project in planning State and National programs. Among study materials provided are digests of State labor laws and digests of laws on family and property rights. Mrs. Leopold was speaker at Girls' Nation last year and has been invited again this year.

Girls' States and Girls' Nation were organized by the American Legion Auxiliary to encourage young women to have an interest in public life and their Government. Each year a conference is set up in every one of the 48 States. They organize themselves as a local government and elect their officials. Next they organize themselves as a State government. Representatives are chosen from each State conference to come to Washington for a week to study the National Government.

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WB ASSISTING MIGRATORY LABOR PROGRAM

The President's Committee on Migratory Labor and the Department of Labor are cooperating in planning a program for areas where migratory labor is a problem. The Women's Bureau is working with the Intradepartmental Committee on this matter. Some of the groundwork is being done by members of the Field Staff of the Bureau.

In essence the Women's Bureau encourages communities with a demonstrated need to plan and carry through a program for improvement of working and living conditions of migrant families.

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U.S. DELEGATE TO U.N.  
TELLS OF FUTURE PLANS

Mrs. Lorena B. Hahn, head of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, met with Mrs. Leopold and staff members of the Women's Bureau this month to discuss new developments in women's international programs.

The 12th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women was held in Geneva March 18 - April 4. The agenda covered a wide range of topics, including access of women to higher education, working women with family responsibilities, age of marriage, freedom of consent to marriage, and equal pay.

The United Nations is giving increased attention to regional conferences in order to advance the status of women. The first such conference, held in Bangkok in 1957, demonstrated the particular value of regional seminars where participants from countries with common interests and problems can benefit by sharing their experience and information.

A resolution adopted at the recent Status of Women Commission meeting expressed the hope that the United Nations would hold a regional seminar on civic responsibilities of women and their participation in public life in either Africa or Latin America in 1959; a regional seminar on family and property rights in Asia in 1960; and a regional seminar either in Africa or Latin America in 1961; with a seminar in Europe at a later date.

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Among the many agencies interested in the migratory field are church groups, National Consumers League, 4-H Clubs, the Grange, and youth clubs.

FOOD FOR  
INFORMATION  
AND THOUGHT

IF YOU WANT COPIES:

All Women's Bureau publications are sold by the Government Printing Office as soon as they are printed. Address orders to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The price for individual copies is noted following the listing of publications.

SURVEY RESULTS

A nationwide study of women college graduates of 1956 has been made by the National Vocational Guidance Association in cooperation with the Women's Bureau. The findings of this survey are reported in two Women's Bureau publications.

The leaflet, which appeared late in May, is called "Young Women of the Year" (5¢), and the pamphlet, "College Women Go to Work" (30¢), will be ready in June.

NURSES ARE NEEDED!

Two new releases from the Women's Bureau which have become very popular in the short time they have been available, are the pamphlet, "Nurses and Other Hospital Personnel--Their Earnings and Employment Conditions" (15¢), and the leaflet, "Memo To: Communities Re: The Nurse Shortage" (5¢), which point up the continuing need for more nurses in the Nation.

WOMEN LAWYERS

The would-be "Portias" of the Nation will be able to find out the requirements they must meet and the problems they have to hurdle when Employment Opportunities for Women in Legal Work is published within the next few weeks by the Women's Bureau.

HELP FOR HANDICAPPED

Help for Handicapped Women, a pamphlet to be published in July by the Women's Bureau and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, makes available for the first time information on the various aspects of the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation program affecting women.

The publication deals with women workers who are handicapped, handicapped homemakers, and women who have disabled persons in their families; how women's organizations can help; community resources for the handicapped; and professional careers for women in the field of rehabilitation.