

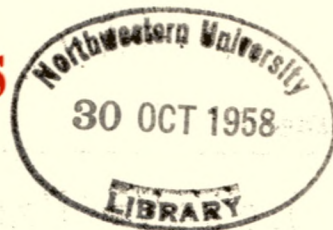
on **WOMEN WORKERS**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

James P. Mitchell, Secretary

WOMEN'S BUREAU

Alice K. Leopold, Director



October 1958



Major General Melvin J. Maas, (center) Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped, accepted the booklet "Help for Handicapped Women" from Miss Mary E. Switzer (left), Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation of HEW, and Mrs. Alice K. Leopold (right), Assistant to the Secretary of Labor, in the Council Room at the White House.

White House Ceremony Launches Booklet Story

"Help for Handicapped Women" a pamphlet published by the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor in co-operation with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, was released at a ceremony held in the Council Room of the White House, September 11.

Mr. Gerald D. Morgan, Special Counsel to President Eisenhower, read a letter from the President written in acceptance of the publication. In his letter the President stated:

"I am very interested in the fact that this booklet is the first of its kind, enunciating and coordinating as it does the variety of ways in which women can aid, and be aided by, our vocational rehabilitation program.

"It is personally gratifying to me to know that many thousands of handicapped women, both wage-earners and housewives, can benefit from the myriad of inspirational facts presented in this pamphlet."

Latest Facts About Women Workers In 1958 Handbook

Women workers have experienced a gain of about 5% in individual income over their median income of 1956. In 1957 the median income was \$3,000 for year-round, full-time women workers and \$1,200 for all women with income.

This is just one of the highlights of the 1958 Handbook on Women Workers released October 9 by the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The book, published biennially, has a wealth of information about women workers, all of which reflects the present day trend in the woman's world.

For example, the emphasis on education is brought to light in the growing number of girls and women who are attending colleges and universities. Over 139,000 women earned college degrees in 1956-57, and women were a third of all students in institutions of higher learning.

The 1958 Handbook on Women Workers may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.--price 45 cents.

Latest Figures on Women Workers

During the month of August 1958 just over 21 million women were employed and about 1.6 million were unemployed.

According to the figures of the Bureau of the Census almost 11 million women worked at full-time jobs for the entire year of 1957. Another 18 million worked either at part-time jobs or full-time jobs for a part of the year. Women who worked at full-time jobs during 1957 had an average income of \$3,000.

'Women in Legal Work' Continues to Grab the Limelight

Interest in the pamphlet "Women in Legal Work," published by the Women's Bureau this fall, has been outstanding. Reactions have been very favorable from women lawyers and in articles written in newspapers across the country.

Recently Mrs. Leopold and staff members met with Lady Gladys Chatterjee, an English barrister, who added her favorable comment to the publication.

Copies may be obtained from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.--price 20 cents.

Women Leaders Attend Conference

Mrs. Alice K. Leopold, Assistant to the Secretary of Labor, urged women's organizations to share plans and projects in working toward their mutual goals of progress for women, community betterment, better educational standards, and understanding among peoples of all nationalities, at the conference on Programs of International Cooperation held September 25 in Washington, D. C.

Key speakers at the conference were Mrs. Theodora Philippa Manuwa, Founder and Principal of Girls Modern Academy, Lagos, Nigeria; Dr. Margaret H. Sloan, National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, D. C., in charge of advisory services to the National Blood Program; and Dr. Graciela Quan, Chairman, Inter-American Commission of Women, Guatemala.

Representatives of nearly 40 women's organizations took part and participated in round-table discussions, chaired by a member elected from the group.

Alaska Is No Folly!

In spite of history's story that President Johnson's Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, committed a grave error when he purchased Alaska from Russia, the territory which is almost a fifth as large as the United States is a new member of the family! Alaska proved to be no "icebox" but a very smart buy. It is only normal then to wonder what makes this large peninsula "tick."

Contrary to general opinion Alaska is not all snow and ice and completely dark 6 months of the year. As a matter of fact, in the so-called panhandle section (southeast Alaska) temperatures average the same as Baltimore and Philadelphia. It numbers among outstanding industries fishing, Federal Government, fur-trapping, and mining, and its population includes Eskimos, Aleutians, and Indians, as well as a large white population which is part native and part foreign born.

It is true that many parts of this future State are not developed as yet, but every year brings great changes and progress. The cost of living, by virtue of the fact that few products are home produced, is high.

ABOUT THE WOMEN

Census records for 1950 show us that there are about 12,000 women in the labor force in Alaska. This is slightly more than a quarter of the entire labor force, as compared with the United States proper, where women comprise one-third of the labor force. Women in the territory are typists, waitresses, teachers, salesladies and workers in the canning industry. More than 100 are hunters and animal trappers. Besides more than 200 women tan and sew skins and furs.



It is natural, based on the fact that the Federal Government is one of the largest employers, that most of the women are working for the Government. Still others work in eating and drinking places, hospitals, schools, and canning and preserving.

The legal status of women in Alaska is considered very good. Percentagewise as compared to the United States proper, for instance, the number of women holding political offices is high.

Women also enjoy a generally favorable position under laws governing property and family rights. More detailed information on this subject may be found in the LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN ALASKA, a bulletin (WB Bulletin 157-51) soon to be on sale at the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

DO YOU KNOW THEIR OBJECTIVES?

(BRIEF FACTS ON INTERNATIONAL GROUPS)

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

The Inter-American Commission of Women is a specialized agency of the Organization of American States (whose Secretariat, the Pan American Union, is located in Washington, D. C.)

The governments of each of the 21 American Republics appoint one delegate to this Commission. Mrs. Frances M. Lee, San Mateo, New Mexico, is the United States delegate, and is Vice-Chairman. Dr. Quan (who participated in the International Conference--see page 2, column 2) is chairman.

The Commission was established in 1928 to obtain political and civil rights for women in the American Republics. More recently economic and social rights were added to its objectives.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION

The International Labor Organization is the oldest of the major specialized agencies operating today in association with the United Nations. It is a tripartite international agency in which government, employer and worker representatives from all parts of the world participate.

The ILO promotes the voluntary cooperation of nations to improve labor conditions and raise living standards. It thereby improves the prospects of peace by contributing to economic and social stability throughout the world.

The ILO meets in conference each June in Geneva, Switzerland, its headquarters. There are 79 member countries.

UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women is one of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It is concerned with all phases of the status of women--political, civil, economic, and social.

Its purpose is to improve the status of women in these areas through study, reports and recommendations made to the Economic and Social Council.

The membership of 18 rotates among the nations of the UN. Mrs. Lorena B. Hahn, Omaha, Neb., is the U. S. delegate.