Geneva Meeting First for Permanent Panel

Mrs. Alice K. Leopold, Assistant to the Secretary of Labor, has returned from Geneva, Switzerland, where she was elected chairman of a Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers. Composed of both men and women, the Panel was established as a permanent Commission by the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization to advise and assist the ILO on the specific problems and needs of women workers and on programs designed to meet them. There were 27 members on the Panel from 19 countries, 9 each appointed from Governments, employers, and workers. Also present were advisers and observers.

Among the members of the Panel attending the session were the president of the board of directors of an industrial firm; a member of Parliament; the secretary of a confederation of trade unions; and officials from several Labor Departments. Five of the consultants on the Panel were women who had studied the work of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor when they were in the United States on programs.

The specific items considered by the Panel were: (1) Recent trends in women workers' opportunities and needs; (2) Conditions and problems of women working in agriculture; (3) Women's wages; and (4) Future programs regarding women workers. This initial meeting of the Panel, Mrs. Leopold explained, "was a first step in a continuing process of cooperation on questions particularly affecting women workers, in both the more industrialized and the economically developing countries. The Panel adds to the ILO machinery a permanent channel for

(Continued on page 4)
Earning Opportunities Forums Gain Momentum

West Palm Beach, Florida, held the 18th Earning Opportunities Forum to be held since the program to assist mature workers was started in 1956. It took place November 14.

Another Forum was held in Baltimore, Maryland, October 21. Requests have come from organizations in 22 States interested in sponsoring Forums.

WEST PALM BEACH

The West Palm Beach Forum was held in the high school auditorium, and Mrs. Sylvia Howard of the Women’s Bureau Field Staff was one of the speakers. It was sponsored by Altrusa Club, Pilot Club, Quota Club, Zonta Club, Soroptimist Club, Business and Professional Women’s Club of West Palm Beach, and the National Secretaries Association in cooperation with the Florida State Employment Service and U.S. Department of Labor.

BALTIMORE

Baltimore named its Forum "Operation Joblift," and one of the principal speakers was Newell Brown, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Both men and women were included in this one-day meeting, headed by Samuel H. Patterson, Personnel Manager of Black and Decker Manufacturing Company.


Mrs. Leopold Speaks In Toronto

Mrs. Alice K. Leopold stressed the opportunity that Canadians and people of our country have to live in an atmosphere that makes possible "the fullest development of an individual's talents" when she addressed the Women’s Canadian Club in Toronto, November 12. "Your country and mine are fully responsive to the needs and desires of its people," she continued.

Mrs. Leopold was guest speaker at a meeting of the Toronto branch of the Women’s Canadian Club, a national organization with branches in all major cities and towns in Canada. The membership in Toronto is more than 2,000.

The average age at which women marry today is 20—the average age for men is 22.

Madras Fair Exhibit

"The Role of American Women" was the theme of the exhibit designed by the Women’s Bureau for the Trade Fair held in Madras, India, in September.

Bright colored slides moving constantly in telastory machines were in the foreground of the display. The background of large black and white stills repeated the story of people actually photographed in their homes, at their work, or in some type of public service work. The legend was printed on the backdrop both in English and an Indian dialect.

The "average" woman worker of today is 40 years of age. Better than 60 percent of all women who work are 35 years of age or older.
Ambitious Women Can Have a Bright Future

"Careers for Women in Retailing," a new employment opportunities booklet published by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, presents specific, useful information to women who want a career in retailing. The publication, released November 15, describes many supervisory and executive positions open to women in department and specialty stores, and points out the personal qualities, education, and experience needed for success.

"Retailing is a large and vital industry and offers ambitious women a bright future," the booklet points out. "Almost 8 million persons were employed by retail trade establishments in 1958—1 million of them in department and specialty stores. These stores have many executive and supervisory jobs open to women who qualify."


Watch for These!
(To be released soon)

Careers for Women in the Physical Sciences

Purpose is to acquaint more young women of ability with opportunities in these fields.

Will be on sale at the U.S. Government Printing Office when published.

Will have companion leaflet, "Science Future for Girls," written especially for high-school students.

Expanded Activities of Women's Bureau Field Staff

To date, this year, members of the field staff of the Women's Bureau have visited 27 States, 56 cities, and the District of Columbia. This brings the total of places visited since the field staff was established to 45 States, 118 cities and the District of Columbia. The field staff has participated in numerous conferences, workshops, and symposiums, and has served as panel members and speakers at forums and conventions.

In meetings with employment service personnel, State departments of labor, unions, Members of Congress, students, employers, professional organizations (e.g. nurses, personnel clubs, educators) and women's groups, they have exchanged information on local needs and community efforts which have proved successful in expanding employment opportunities for women or in meeting shortages in specific occupations. In recent weeks their field visits have been concerned with Earning Opportunities Forums for Mature Workers, community programs for migrant workers, and the promotion of community action to alleviate local shortages of nurses and teachers. Future plans include a continuation of these activities plus numerous other projects which will take them into widely separated parts of the country.

The Women's Bureau welcomes suggestions from the readers of the Fact Sheet to help strengthen our services to women.

MORE WOMEN WORKERS

In October of this year there were more than 23 1/2 million women workers in the United States. Almost 21 million of these women were employed in nonagricultural industries.
Children's Bureau and Women's Bureau Join Forces to Plan Nationwide Day Care Conference

Plans for a national conference designed to center attention on the need for good day care services for children were announced at a preliminary meeting held November 4. Scheduled for the fall of 1960, the conference will be held under the auspices of Mrs. Alice K. Leopold, Assistant to the Secretary of Labor, and Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger, Chief, Children's Bureau, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Those who took part in the first pre-conference session represented voluntary and public agencies concerned with the welfare of children, and women's groups. These will form the nucleus for a larger committee which will have wider representation from industry, unions, and national organizations.

The need for a national conference was emphasized by replies to a questionnaire survey on resources of national organizations for day care of children under 12. This was brought into sharp focus too by a recent Children's Bureau report on "working mothers and their arrangements for the care of their children," based on special Census data.

Day care is one of the important agenda items to be considered at the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth. The findings and resources of that Conference will be utilized in the preparation for the day care meeting.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Assuming favorable economic conditions, these are some of the projections for 1975:

There will be almost 32 1/2 million women workers—which is almost 10 million more than in 1958. It is also expected that there will be an unusually large increase in the number of part-time workers, partly because of the large numbers of young people and married women who will want to work only part time.

The demand for teachers will still be great because of continuing high birth rates.

GENEVA MEETING - Continued from page 1

consultations between ILO and experts from member countries."

Among the significant facts revealed by the Panel discussions was the marked increase in opportunities available to women workers in nearly all countries. There was agreement that education, training, and vocational guidance of girls should receive continuing emphasis and priority. A program of this kind, it was pointed out, could be the basic step in the vocational adaptability and advancement of women and possibly the solution to problems of equality of opportunity and treatment for women.

The countries represented at the Geneva meeting were: Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland, India, Austria, France, Union of South Africa, Japan, Brazil, Italy, Madagascar, United Kingdom, United Arab Republic, Israel, Philippines, Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States.