For Immediate Release,  
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Works Progress Administration Exhibit, Division of Women's and Professional Projects, Mayflower Promenade, May 4 and 5.

Dresses, shirts, hats, sweaters, undergarments, sewed with painstaking care and considerable artistry of design; books transcribed into Braille for the blind; period-costumed little figures dressed for the use of visual education classes in the public schools; copper vessels shaped by hand; disease immunization studies; classes of instruction in music and drama......

The Works Progress Administration is holding an exhibit of this type of work, being done in each of the 48 states by women and professional workers under the direction of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects.

This exhibit to be shown in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel today and tomorrow, is one of the high lights of the Washington conference of state directors of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects, meeting at the Mayflower and Carlton Hotels, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

While the conference lasts three days, the exhibit will close tomorrow night, according to Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator in charge of the Women's Division, who called the meeting at the direction of Harry L. Hopkins, Administrator.
Topping the exhibit in interest and variety are the examples of the work being done in the several thousand WPA sewing rooms which are giving employment to 225,000 destitute women all over the country.

Children's garments, finely stitched and well designed, boys' lumberjackets; babies' caps and mittens, sweaters, coats; shirts for men; and women's dresses -- are but a few of the pieces sent here from various parts of the country to demonstrate this type of project being conducted in practically every county in the land as a part of WPA's vast program of work relief. All products of the sewing rooms go to families on relief. They are distributed by the sponsors of the Project, in all cases the local Department of Public Welfare or other public relief agencies.

Several blind women demonstrate the process of transcribing books into Braille. A group of fascinating small models, garbed in costumes of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, are shown. Each dress has been worked by the hands of women whose only training was in rough sewing or domestic work.

The method of making public health bacteria slides is shown. Gleaming copper kettles, vases, and other objects illustrate the work being done out in one of the southwestern states by men and boys who are learning a self-sustaining skill while they work for WPA.

Chairs made by WPA workers learning the woodworking craft form another part of the exhibit.

One chair comes from Chupadero, New Mexico, a tiny mountain village a short distance from Santa Fe, where a WPA project has been responsible for making practically every family self-supporting.
The residents, who are all descendants of early Spanish settlers, formerly made their living by hauling firewood to Santa Fe. But Santa Fe introduced natural gas and threw them all out of work four years ago.

In the village of Chupadero, Federal funds have been used to teach the young and renew the interest of the older people in making furniture from white pine, willow and rawhide. Recently the Mexican people in this little village built a community vocational school and workshop combined. All labor was donated, and a Spanish American instructor was provided under the Emergency Education program. Thus these old Spanish arts and crafts have been revived.

The chair exhibited is an exact copy of the earliest type of Spanish furniture to be made in New Mexico. It is fashioned from white pine—by the same process employed by the ancestors of the present workers. Nails and screws were never used in making this early furniture, and very few go into the pieces that are being made today. Another interesting feature of this exhibit of furniture from New Mexico is a willow table, covered with rawhide, such as was constructed and used in this section generations ago.

All of the objects shown have been sent to Washington by the state supervisors in charge of various projects. The exhibit is the first opportunity offered Washingtonians to see the work being done by the so-called white-collar army of the once unemployed.

The exhibit will be located near the Seventeenth Street end of the Mayflower Lobby, adjacent to the Chinese Room.