

WOMEN'S STUDIES ARCHIVE

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF WOMEN DURING WORLD WAR II

Women's Studies Archive provides insight into social, political, and professional aspects of women's lives in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries through historical newsletters, correspondence, and other primary sources.

Throughout World War II, American women tackled new roles to support their country.

Before the United States joined the fight, several women's organizations were hard at work, lobbying to avoid involvement and restore peace.

As men enlisted, women established themselves as more than necessary replacements, serving as efficient, dedicated workers in diverse industries.

When fighting approached a close, some fought the assumption that women should leave the workplace, believing that post-war plans must include consideration of this proven workforce.

SEPTEMBER 1939

SIGN UP NOW FOR WORK AGAINST WAR

Can you write? Can you speak? Can you do office work? Can you get signatures to a petition? Can you rally your neighborhood? Are you willing to be called upon? Get everyone you can to

"But now that war has come, everyone must do his uttermost to limit its extent, to end it as soon as possible..."

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

1942

WOMEN SHOULDERING DOUBLE LOAD

Continued large scale employment of women calls for a frank recognition, where it has not existed up to the present time, of the special problems which such employment has brought with it.

Most working women today are required to carry out far more arduous schedules than their male co-workers. They are compelled to manage households and fre-

"Despite the demands of health and home, experience to date has shown that the married woman worker, on the average, is highly efficient."

MARCH 1944

Equal Status for Women in Industry

American Women's View

THE Women's Advisory Committee of the War Manpower Commission, after consideration of a report of its sub-committee on post-war planning, recently issued the following statement:—

OLD VIEW CHALLENGED

"The assumption on the part of many male workers and employers that women form a labour reserve to be called up temporarily is having its repercussion in war production to-day. The belief of many women that they are a reserve group for war employment only is held by the Committee to be a contributing cause of under-utilization, absenteeism, and turnover of women in the war-time labour market.

"The Women's Advisory Committee was appointed to study the national situation, advise the War Manpower Commission with respect to conditions militating against the most effective utilization of women, and

be extended into the post-war period. It is opposed to discrimination in employment on the basis of sex in time of peace and war.

POST-WAR EMPLOYMENT

"If the rights of women workers are to be protected, intelligent and comprehensive programmes will have to be evolved and put into effect. The Committee is of the opinion that national planning should be taking definite shape now to provide employment outlets for everyone who wants to work—both men and women—after the war.

"The Committee is in full recognition of the fact that men in the armed forces will have their old jobs back when they return if they want them. This is written into the Selective Service Act. It is further recognized that some women will leave their jobs of their own accord and return to their homes as soon as possible.

"Furthermore, no society can boast of democratic ideals, if it utilizes its woman-power in a crisis and neglects it in peace."

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