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Married Women Important In Country's Labor Force, Says Women's Bureau Head

"That there is a place for married women in the labor force as well as in the home has been definitely established as more and more women with husbands take jobs where their services are needed in the business and industrial institutions of the country," said Miss Frieda S. Miller, Director of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor in her Labor Day message analyzing the most recent census Bureau reports on this subject.

There has been a large increase in the ranks of women workers in the years since World War II, practically all of it due to the entrance of married women into the labor force, Miss Miller said. Throughout the postwar period there has been no material change in the number of single women workers, which stands at about 5.5 million. Neither has there

been any notable increase in women workers who are widowed or divorced, of whom there are about 2.9 million. The number of married women workers, on the other hand, has grown from 7.5 million in 1947 to 10.4 million in April, 1952 (date of latest figures released).

There was a smaller increase between 1951 and 1952 than in earlier postwar years, but over the rest of that period (1947 to 1951) an average of 650,000 married women was added to the labor force each year. The number of married women who were working in April, 1952, exceeded the World War II peak by almost 2 million. Today there are 19 million women workers producing goods and services in the United States and slightly more than half are married women.

The Women's Bureau Director called attention to another significant trend in married women's employment as revealed by the census figures: the tendency during the past decade for women to return to work—or, as it may happen, to take jobs for the first time—after reaching middle age, whereas before World War II it was largely young wives in their twenties and early thirties who went into outside employment.

The April, 1952, figures showed that the greatest proportion of working wives were those in their early forties (33.3 per cent were working! and even married women in their early fifties entered the labor force in about the same proportions as those in their twenties and early thirties (around 25 per cent in both the younger and older groups.)

Married women living with their husbands are still much less likely to seek employment than single women or those who are widowed or divorced. Single women, in fact, are almost as likely to be working as single men, Miss Miller said. Only teenage girls and women over 65 are

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in the labor force in much smaller proportions than single men of the same age. About 50 per cent of all single women are working, whereas only 25 per cent of married women living with their husbands are in the labor force, and 35 per cent of those who are widowed or divorced.

Women whose husbands earn the least money are the ones most likely to be found on jobs of their own and, conversely, the proportion of wives who work dwindles as the husband's salary bracket rises. This is a numerical indication, Miss Miller pointed out, that married women work primarily, though not necessarily, because their earnings are needed for family support or to supplement the family income.

Around 5.3 million women workers have children under 18 years of age and 2.1 million of these

have youngsters below school age for whose care the mothers must provide during the hours they spend at work outside the home. Miss Miller pointed out the urgent need of day-care centers to help working mothers solve this problem which she stressed as of community as well as family significance.

SECRETARY OF LABOR DURKIN'S ADDRESS

(Cont. from Page 1, This Section)

stantial gains have occurred in the past year, and their effect may easily be seen in the business totals. Industrial production has reached unprecedented peacetime highs, and the gross national product has expanded by \$25 billion, mainly because consumers have been buying more heavily than ever of durable goods, non-durable goods, and numerous services. Yet, with personal expenditures so heavy, the total of personal savings has continued.

We are firm in the knowledge and belief that if men and women are free they will work unceasingly to improve their lives and their homes, and to create a better future for their children.

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(Cont. from Page 1, This Section)

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