

## F. Rationing Creates Problems and Contributes to Tensions

Republic Aviation, 1943

**Question: How are you going to manage with a ration limit of three pairs of shoes per year?**

**Edna Fett, Mail Service:** Recently moved to Brightwaters. Graduated from Our Lady of Wisdom Academy, Ozone Park. "We mail girls can't possibly get along on three pairs of shoe a year because we use our feet more than anyone else in the Plant. I'd like to borrow a scooter from Maintenance and whip around it. Anyway, I'm in favor of asking the OPA to let mail girls buy more footwear."

**Helen Marie Tenca, Page :** Goes for long walks on Sunday afternoon and likes to dance. "I wear saddle oxfords with rubber soles -- they seem to last longer besides speeding up my trips. If the shoe situation gets extremely tough I shall wrap bags around my feet -- might be better to have bags on my feet than under my eyes."

**Jane Airing, Mail Service:** Likes swimming because it takes her off her feet after being on them nearly day. Lives in Sayville, about 28 miles from Republic. "I don't see how I can possibly make out with only three pairs of shoes a year. Oh, maybe I can borrow my mother's if she'd let me; she wears the same size I do. If I run out of shoes I'll wear boots to continue my eight-miles-a-day rounds at Republic."

Questions:

1. Why do these working women feel it is unfair to ration shoes?
2. What plans do they have to manage if shoes are rationed?
3. In your opinion, should materials be rationed to insure that soldiers have them first? Why?

Hempstead Sentinel, June 21, 1945

### **Just Some More**

By Justa Nother

It was just six by the clock striking in the Town Hall as I walked along Greenwich street the other morning and already four women were waiting outside of a meat market door on which was a sign: "Open at 9:30 a.m." Three and a half hours to wait. . . . I learned that on the previous Friday the women had stood in line for six hours so this week they were determined to get an early start. . . . One came from Roosevelt, the second from Mineola, another from Elmont and the fourth from New Hyde Park.

A few moments after talking with the women on Greenwich street I was on Front Street at a poultry market, which had a sign that it would sell "parts of chickens and ducks only." Gathered in the front were nine colored people and I observed, "Well, your people have a long wait ahead of you," to which an enormous woman almost belligerently barked out, "We gotter eat, ain't we?"

Question:

1. Why are these women waiting in line?
2. Why did people travel to Hempstead to make their purchases?
3. Why do you think the African American people were so upset?
4. Do you think the reporter is sensitive to the reasons they are upset? Why?