

A. Women Lose War Time Jobs

Newsday, September 11, 1944

See Auto Industry Dropping Women

Detroit-Rosie the Riveter probably will change her slacks involuntarily for a postwar housedress unless unprecedented peacetime production is achieved in the automotive industry.

Interviews with high-ranking officials of leading automobile companies and with labor representatives showed one thing clearly--that the woman war worker, the lowest in seniority rating, will be the first to feel the blow of large contract cancellations.

Cutbacks already approximating \$2,000,000 have caused a drop of three percent in women's automotive employment since January, 1944 At the present time, 27 percent or 200,000 of the workers are women compared to 7 percent in pre-war automotive production.

A survey by United Automobile Workers (CIO), showed 85 percent of the women answered "yes" to the question: "If a job is available, will you continue to work outside your home after the war?"

Similar queries by the Thompson Products Co., and Bendix Aviation Corp. showed affirmative replies from 84 percent, and 64 percent.

Hempstead Sentinel, February 7, 1946

Ex-Servicemen Back At Old Jobs

Paul J. Cocchi of 105 Front Street, one of hundreds of ex-servicemen who have returned to their old jobs with Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, Bethpage. A staff sergeant with the 878th Air Service Group, Cocchi saw action in Central Europe and the Rhineland. He entered the Army on March 9, 1943 and was honorably discharged on November 12, 1945.

Thomas P. Culk of Kendig Place, another ex-serviceman who has returned to his old job with Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, Bethpage. An aerial gunner with the 351st Bomber Group, 510th Bomber Squad 8th Air Force, Culk was shot down on his mission and head prisoner of war in Germany for 2 years. He entered service on September 9, 1942, and received a medical discharge on September 13, 1945.

Questions:

1. Why did the percentage of women working in the automotive industry increase during the war?
2. Why did many women face unemployment at the end of the war?
3. According to the United Automobile Workers, did women want to leave the industry?
4. In your opinion, why would women want to keep their wartime jobs?
5. In your opinion, was it fair for returning servicemen to replace women who held these jobs? Why?