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Special To The Voice

Women Are Productive

by Mrs. Margaret Grant

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Women can do many of the same jobs now done by men. If employers would convert or redesign their job operations or methods suitable to female labor they would find that women could produce as well as men. During World War II, with the men away, women performed many jobs normally thought of as primarily for men.

Most of the heads of household in ghetto areas are women and because of this they make better employees. They tend to be on time and be more dependable due to their responsibility to their families.

There are women who have been known to stay on jobs 20 or more years even without a decent salary. Kitchen helpers and other domestics often times work 10 or 12 hours per day for six days including Saturday or Sunday on jobs which offer no opportunity for advancement and for this, they make only about \$1.15 per hour. Therefore training is very essential for those in low-income jobs. Some of the current training programs have not proved successful.

There are jobs that women can perform as well as men: Watch repairer, power and sewing machine operators, shipping clerks and even automobile mechanics.

Some of these may sound heavy or dirty but we always had to do some dirty works, especially those of us who live in low-income areas.

Most young women in the ghetto desire jobs such as secretaries, cashiers, file clerks, but because of the lack of skills and personal qualities, they cannot qualify for the job.

I propose the following:

1. Employers should lower requirements as to the experience and skills for some clerical jobs. For example, if a clerk typist job requires an applicant 40 words a minute and a promising applicant types 35, she should be given a strong consideration.
2. For jobs in industry such as T.V., Radio and watch repairing, operation of machines, and furniture repairing simplified

training methods should be offered so that a woman with a sixth to eighth grade education could develop the necessary skills.

3. Women in low-income areas should be allowed the opportunity to advance to supervisory positions. Employers should supplement the cost of additional education needed to perform the job. I recommend a job training center to equip women for decent jobs.

Women are asking for an equal chance to make a contribution to society.
