

"Were I able to get in the Mills I sure would not want to work on the W.P.A."

Women's problems, serious as usual, centered around dismissals from sewing projects, employment on manual labor projects and forcing in to domestic service.

From several sources in North Carolina complaints reached this Administration that Negro women were being dismissed in large numbers from sewing projects. They were then forced to take domestic or farm employment at low wages and impossible conditions, or were assigned to cleaning and other types of manual labor projects.

This office in cooperation with the Women's and Professional Projects Division has had this whole matter looked into. The following excerpts from reports are informative:

Raleigh, N. C.
April 30, 1937.

"I assure you that although we are stressing a diversification in women's work and urging the Supervisors to remove women from the sewing rooms whenever possible, this is to be done in every case on an individual basis. Our women in the sewing rooms are judged as to ability by means of standard tests set up over the entire state. When they are to be transferred to cleaning projects, we have emphasized that their willingness to do this work be first expressed and in many cases they have welcomed the opportunity.

"I do not believe there has been any distinction between the Negro and white women workers except where the tests have shown objectively a lack of ability to meet the standards set.

"We shall be very glad to send you a report on this particular situation."