

Raleigh, N. C.
April 15, 1937.

"In April, 1936, all sewing rooms, both white and colored, in the strawberry section of this county were closed because of the fact that labor was available to these women both in picking and packing of strawberries. Since employment was available in the tobacco fields, these rooms were not re-opened until after the tobacco season, which was sometime during the month of November, 1936. . . .

". . . there is not any doubt in my mind that these women could secure work if they so desired. Of course, it is natural that they would prefer working sixteen days a month at a wage of \$22.12 to working full time for that same wage; and I believe that this accounts for the feeling that they have been discriminated against. Some of these women who signed this petition have employable men in the family. There is a large amount of building going on in and about Whiteville at the present time and I see no reason why these men could not secure private employment."

Miss Agnes Cronin of the Women's and Professional Projects

Division has this comment to make on the situation:

April 28, 1937.

"As you know, Mr. Hopkins is very much interested in seeing that the women's work program is diversified in such a way as to avoid the materials costs which the sewing rooms have made necessary, since he feels that 'pump priming' in this direction is not so important as it was at the beginning of the program. In view of this, we are continuously making efforts to get women off the sewing projects and into projects where labor costs represents a larger proportion of the total expenditure.