

The State reports on this matter as follows:

Norfolk, Virginia
May 25, 1937.

"Miss Hatcher has asked me to write about the conditions here which resulted in WPA closing the sewing rooms and landscape project. Formerly there have been only two firms capping strawberries in Norfolk, but this year there are three colored and two white. We have had calls for over two hundred or more women, at one time. We sent all the women capable of work whom we had on direct relief and still there were not enough so WPA felt that as long as there was work for these women in private industry they should be released until the work was over.

"We have been to all the plants several times and find that the working conditions are fair for the colored and good for the white. They can earn anywhere from one to three dollars a day.

"I feel that if WPA had kept these women on while there was a demand for their services elsewhere that there would have been a great deal of criticism from the community."

Other women's complaints centered around the usual miscellaneous matters as indicated by the following:

Montgomery, Alabama
May 7, 1937.

... "I was told the last time to report to a white residence for employment and I found that it paid two dollars per week for nursing a baby, washing for it, cleaning the house and cooking. Although my work has always been stenographer and teacher, this was given me to do."

San Marcos, Texas
April, 1937

"I am asking for information. Do these poor Negro women have to get out and mow the grass and pull weeds from the lawn around the sewing room while white and mexican women sit up in the sewing room and do nothing. And those women may get snake bit pulling grass out of and around all those rock