

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK,**

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Baltimore

Celebration of Business and Professional Women's Week takes on vastly increased interest in this war-time year, because of the increased scope of womens' participation in every phase of the National effort. This year would seem to mark the culmination of all the progress that has been made by women in the field of business, professional and industrial endeavor. Never before was the complete assistance of women in these fields so needed, or utilized so thoroughly, as is the case today.

In the Proclamation which I was very pleased to issue declaring Business and Professional Women's Week from the period of October 11th to 17th, it was noted that it was designed to be "a time set apart when deserved recognition would be given to thousands of women for their outstanding achievements and splendid progress in many fields of endeavor". Furthermore, it was noted in the Proclamation that "women bring to their office or position in the business and professional world a true understanding and knowledge of the fundamental principles of justice, plus a sincerity of purpose, and they are taking their place side by side with men in war industry plants, thus adding another phase to their accomplishments."

Developments since Pearl Harbor seem to indicate clearly that the time when women were limited in their activities in the life of community and Country is gone, certainly for the emergency and probably forever. Day by day the newspapers and magazines impress upon us the growing number of women now engaged in avocations where they are practically on an equal economic basis with the men of the Nation. Furthermore, the establishment here in Baltimore and throughout the Country of a Woman-Power Section of the Federal War Manpower Commission gives evidence that the increased part being played by women in the war effort, great as it is, will still be expanded very materially.

Sometime ago Chairman Paul V. McNutt, of the War Manpower Board, declared that it will be vital to the war effort to add at least one million more women to the ranks of industrial workers during the coming year. It doesn't require a great deal of imagination to picture the effect this will have on life here in America throughout all the years to come.

Surely it isn't reasonable to expect that, when the emergency facing America has ended in the final Victory that must be ours, if freedom is to survive upon the earth, women will be satisfied to retire to the lesser part in American life that has been theirs up to very recently. Even though the need for women in production fields will be greatly lessened by cessation of war activities, the footing, the VERY SECURE FOOTING, already obtained in