

Miss Schneiderman of the NRA

By ROSE WORTIS

At the recent convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers in Chicago, Rose Schneiderman, head of the Women's Trade Union League, and member of the Advisory Board of the N.R.A. was invited to address the convention. In the speech that she delivered before the delegates of the convention, she explained that her selection to the National Labor Board was a sign of recognition on the part of the government of the importance of women and that while sitting on the Advisory Board she has done everything in her power to see that justice is given to working women.

However, in her speech she failed to state just exactly how she fought for the demands of the working women. Since Rose Schneiderman, who occupies such an important post has failed to give concrete facts as to her "fight" in behalf of working women, we want to use this opportunity to show that not only has she failed to put forward a fight for the demands of the working women but that she, just the same as the other labor bureaucrats, while sitting on the National Advisory Board has permitted the adoption of codes in which are included provisions for outright discrimination against working women.

In this article we want to mention but a few instances. Let us take for instance the code of the fur dyers. In this industry where the raw fur skins are prepared, the working conditions are the most hazardous. The workers have to use all sorts of dyes which are very injurious to the health. The trade employs a considerable number of women. But the code passed with the consent of the Advisory Committee provides for lower wages for women workers. This discrimination of women workers is not only working havoc with women, but serves to reduce the standards of the entire trade. In the Hollander shop in Newark, N. J., the biggest fur dyeing shop, the adoption of these lower scales for women has resulted in the discharge of quite a number of men and hiring of women workers in their places. This means that lower wages will be forced upon the men and will result in a cut throat competition between men and women.

In the cloak industry female operators are to receive 10c less an hour than the men. In the Boot and Shoe code the wages of the women are 5 per cent less than those of the men. In the automobile industry women workers receive about 33c as against 40c and 43c an hour for the men. In the candy manufacturing industry the wages of the women vary up to 27½c an hour, as against 40c for men. The bakery icers, wrappers and cleaners who are mainly women, get about 8c an hour less than men workers. In the canning industry, the wages are 20c for women in the South as against 40c for men in the North. We could go on enumerating many others.

Such discrimination against women workers has been embodied in about one quarter of the codes signed by the president. Outside of a formal statement of protest from the National Women's Trade Union League to General Johnson, we have not heard of any real protest or struggle undertaken by Rose Schneiderman during the year that she was on the Advisory Board against this discrimination of working women and no effort on her part to really mobilize the women as well as the men workers to fight against such discrimination. On the contrary, wherever struggles were undertaken by the women workers to fight this discrimination and to win better conditions through struggle, Rose Schneiderman did not find herself on the side of the workers,

Rose Schneiderman was chosen by the Roosevelt administration as a member of the National Advisory Board not because of her militant struggle in behalf of the working women but because Rose Schneiderman just like her colleagues, the men on the Labor Advisory Board, are staunch supporters of the class collaboration policy, because she together with the men officials of the A. F. of L., will be ready to crush every militant struggle of the workers as was the case in the ladies' garment industry where Rose Schneiderman together with the leaders of the Women's Trade Union League have aligned themselves with the officialdom against the militant rank and file. Rose Schneiderman was placed on the Advisory Board because she, like her men colleagues, can be used to mislead the women workers into believing

that they have labor representatives in the government.

The thousands of women workers who are suffering under discriminatory codes must expose the role played by Rose Schneiderman. The women workers must organize in the shops and in the trade unions to fight against the lower wages and together with the men workers carry on a militant struggle for equal wages and other conditions, and through this joint struggle force the bosses to grant better conditions to all workers.

The unorganized working women cannot depend on the leadership of the Women's Trade Union League or leader like Rose Schneiderman to improve their conditions. It is the task of the militant working women in all industries to intensify the agitation among the unorganized women and to lend them a helping hand toward organizing militant unions that will fight and defend the interests of the working women.

CWA Smiles

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protest against all these rackets that are used against workers in general, and especially against the women. These politicians don't consider us human beings.

One woman about 50 years old was also standing in line waiting for a job. The same sweet lady told her that she ought to be ashamed of herself for trying to get a job saying, "a woman of your age should retire already and leave place for the young ones."

The old woman answered: "I would like to retire, but even if I am 50 years old I have to eat." Then the sweet lady put her through a cross-examination, until she pumped out the fact that there are eight in the family and only one boy got a C.W.A. job for \$18.

"Well, are you not satisfied," the sweet lady asked. But the poor working woman explained that by the time she pays rent, gas, coal, and electric bills, and buys shoes for the children so that they can go to school, she has no money left for food. The sweet smiling lady said that the old working woman needs a lesson in managing a home. "You must learn to economize."