

With Brief Case and Enthusiasm Feminine Brain Truster Arrives

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"They have acquired vocabulary," defends Dr. Dorothy Nyswander in behalf of scholars in government. She is Utah's contribution to the Brain Trust.

Dr. Nyswander Is Latest Addition to Ranks of FERA.

By Mary Greiner Kelly.

HER brown eyes wide with interest and a brief case under her arm, Dr. Dorothy Bird Nyswander, Utah's feminine contribution to the Brain Trust, arrived in Washington yesterday. Recently appointed Federal emergency relief director of women's work in 11 western States, the youthfully energetic professor of psychology in the University of Utah, came to the Capitol to learn more about her new job.

She will spend the next few days conferring with Acting Administrator Aubrey Williams and Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, women's director of FERA. Then she will plunge into the gigantic task to which she has devoted much of her spare time without compensation since last November. Having closed a summer course at the university Thursday, she will give full time to the emergency program until October, when she will again resume classes.

Woman Brain Truster? Dr. Nyswander was neither offended nor flattered by the title. Smiling, she came back with, "We grow them out in Utah." She explained the FERA in her State was virtually manned by experts enlisted from universities and colleges.

Enthusiastic About FERA.

Having worked after teaching hours on relief projects and devoted much of her spare time to experimental work along this line, Dr. Nyswander is frankly enthusiastic about the FERA. The women's phase of the work especially interests her.

"The program throughout is sound and scientifically planned," she said. "Each project is made to serve a multifold purpose. Under the direction of the women's division, thousands who need work are gainfully employed. Their efforts are expended in making use of the Nation's resources and supplies. Surpluses are used up, and subsequently, farmers and producers are aided."

In illustration, she cited the four factories being erected in Utah in an effort to utilize a large share of the cotton surplus. There, women will be employed in manufacturing 10,000 mattresses and 20,000 comforters.

"This," she added, "is only one of 82 such projects being carried out in our State alone. Other activities carried on by women under FERA throughout the 11 Western States include child, welfare and nursing centers, text book repairing, food canning and preservation, and recreational and educational projects.

Interested in Handicrafts.

"I am personally much interested in a revival of the handicrafts," added the professor.

In defense of professors in the Governmental scheme, Dr. Nyswander said:

"They have, first of all scientific training which obviously and logically should qualify them in specialized work where expert knowledge is demanded. Accustomed to scientific procedure and experiment, they are inclined to attack social problems with open minds, instead of plunging into the task with a set of blind convictions. They are not concerned with politics. In fact, the ordinary professor rarely thinks to inquire to what political faith his coworkers belong. He is too engrossed in obtaining results. Last, but not least, they have acquired vocabulary. And that is of vast importance as a medium of expressing ideas in their proper light."

Dr. Nyswander, who has a 15-year-old daughter, has academic learnings matrimonially as well as professionally. Her husband is a professor of mathematics at the University of Michigan. Their daughter having accompanied her mother as far as Ann Arbor is visiting with her father until Dr. Nyswander's return trip.