

# Discuss Ways to Help Idle Women in U. S.

## Mrs. Roosevelt Presides at Conference.

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[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., April 30.—[Special.]—Women with jobs met today in the East room of the White House to talk about the women who haven't jobs.

Mrs. Roosevelt presided. A dozen or so women, representing the federal emergency relief administration, state and municipal relief set-ups, and social welfare work pointed out the tragedy of the jobless woman, particularly the single woman adrift today.

Often she's young—statistics reported at the meeting revealed that 18 per cent of the 107,000 destitute transients tabulated in three-fourths of the states are women and girls; and that a good 47 per cent of all, men and women, are under 24 years of age.

Sometimes she's old—and old—so Mrs. Mary G. Moon of Chicago declared—means as young as 35 years of age. She fixed 35 as the age at which the woman in industry is likely to slow down her speed, step down her skill. She spoke with authority of statistics, for as director of women's work for the FERA in Illinois she has accumulated some definite but drab data about the idle woman, particularly in Cook county.

Since the Cook county service bureau for women was established in 1931, he said, about 15,000 women had applied for relief. And of that number 60 per cent were between the ages of 40 and 60. They seem to have three major complaints:

1. The indifference of the employment agency to the older woman's request for a chance at a job.
2. The change in the status of domestic service which now, they claim, is merely the dumping ground for those who can't do anything else.
3. The admission that they have lost some of their skills; their plea for a place, a camp or a school, where they may get vocational guidance.

It is this last point—a school camp project—which shaped up out of today's conference.

Such a plan has the blessing of Federal Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins, so one of his assistants, Aubrey Williams, told the meeting. Mr. Williams, speaking realistically, said:

"Now we may all talk here about how nice it would be to start such camp schools for the jobless woman; but the main question is 'Who's going to pay for it?' Mr. Hopkins is for the plan; but that does not mean that he wants every state or local community to come up, hat in hand, asking for federal funds."