

THE WOMEN'S BUREAU ITS HISTORY, ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATION

CHAPTER I

HISTORY

The Women's Bureau was originally organized in July, 1918, as a war agency of the Department of Labor under the name of "Women in Industry Service," to meet the emergencies of war conditions as far as they related to the employment of women. By the act of June 5, 1920 it was given a permanent legal status and its name was changed to "Women's Bureau."

One of the reasons assigned why this work should be done by a special bureau instead of by one of the other existing government agencies, such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is that "there are physical differences that the women understand, which make it important that provision be made in all the industries of the country for the methods under which the women work and for their accommodation while employed, which make it not only wise but humane that women shall have charge of this sort of thing."¹

Among the first acts of the Advisory Council of the Secretary of Labor, which was appointed in January, 1918, was a recommendation for an appropriation from

¹ Congressman P. P. Campbell, Congressional Record, April 19, 1920, p. 5873.