

PART II

HOURS IN FACTORIES, STORES, AND LAUNDRIES

Data given in this section on scheduled hours represent the normal working hours of the establishments visited and only rarely the schedules resulting from the industrial depression. The tabulations shown are based on information obtained from managers relative to the daily and weekly hour schedules prevailing in their establishments; in other words, statistics have been compiled concerning the number of hours stipulated by each firm that women in its employ should work regularly, each day and each week. Policies in regard to lunch periods, Saturday half holidays, and night work in the various plants are recorded, since knowledge of such practices aids greatly in determining the suitability of the hours of women. It should be borne in mind that scheduled hours do not take into account overtime and time lost by employees; in fact, it frequently happens that the hours which women actually work during a day or a week do not coincide with the scheduled hours of the plant. Whenever possible, data on the hours actually worked by the women included in the survey were secured, and an analysis of this material appears later in the report.

The scheduled hours of women working in canneries and restaurants are not discussed in this section. Fluctuations day by day in the hours of canneries and the great irregularities in the hours of hotel and restaurant employees make it impossible to include the data on these two industries in the hour tabulations of plants with a regular schedule. For these groups, therefore, separate discussions are presented.

SCHEDULED HOURS

Daily hours.

The scheduled daily working hours for women in the establishments included in the survey are shown in Table 2. Generally speaking these hours are representative of a five-day week, but the schedules of some plants included in the analysis covered only four days, since at the time of the investigation a few establishments in Delaware were not operating full time. Saturday, so often regarded as shorter than other workdays, is not included in the following table of daily hours.

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