

Representative REUSS. Thank you, Mr. Clague.

I am delighted that your organization is conducting a number of studies into these mysteries, and mysteries they are, as economics and sociology change. I suspect that answers to many of the economic problems that plague us can result from these studies if they are as well done as I feel confident they will be.

I am staggered at being told that one out of every two women from the ages of 45 to 54 is a member of the labor force.

This includes all women, married and unmarried?

Mr. CLAGUE. Yes; that is correct.

Representative REUSS. And those who are incapacitated and so on?

Mr. CLAGUE. That is right; all women of those ages, except those in institutions.

Representative REUSS. What has happened to this figure historically?

Certainly 50 years ago it was not true that one out of every two women 45 to 54 was in the labor force, was it?

Mr. CLAGUE. Oh, no; of course not.

We do not have these kinds of figures for 50 years ago, except the decennial censuses, as you know, because we did not have any such statistics as we have now.

On the other hand, this number of women, of older women in this age group and surrounding age groups, this number has been growing steadily for, I would say, at least 25 years.

Miss BANCROFT. Very sharply since World War—

Mr. CLAGUE. Miss Bancroft might answer that in more detail.

Representative REUSS. Before Miss Bancroft answers, I want to add that while World War II brought in a great many, I would have thought that after World War II the labor force participation of this group would have declined.

I see you making a nod of your head.

Miss BANCROFT. It has been rising almost continually since World War II, and at a really quite rapid rate.

Representative REUSS. Do you have any breakdowns of the marital composition of the 50 percent of the women 45 to 54?

Miss BANCROFT. We do have—I am not sure that we have it with us; but we know that most of them are married.

Representative REUSS. Would you file at this point in the record such supplementary breakdowns as you have?

(The reply to this inquiry appears in a letter dated August 23 which appears at p. 744, below.)

Miss BANCROFT. Yes.

For example, in 1950, or even back in 1949, in the second quarter of the year, 35.6 percent of these women were in the labor force. That is 1949.

In 1962 it is 49.7 percent.

Mr. CLAGUE. In 13 years it has gone up from about 35 to 50 percent.

Representative REUSS. This is very interesting to me, and I do not know what to make of it, but maybe with the benefit of your breakdowns, which you will file at this point, we can turn it over in our