

Their work is essential to support themselves and their dependents.

This has been demonstrated by a study conducted by the Women's Bureau of a sample of the ILGWU membership. For every 100 women who reported, 64 supported or partly supported dependents (including children, husbands, parents or other relatives) in addition to supporting themselves. More married women than single used all of their earnings for daily living, irrespective of whether the particular woman was or was not the sole support of the family.^{10/}

Nearly one-third of the women had at least one other person to support, one-fifth had two and one-eighth of them had three or more persons to support.^{11/}

These statistics are indicative of the type of workers that readily find jobs in this industry. They have very few alternative opportunities for employment. For the most part, they are women whose family ties prevent geographic mobility. Many of them share characteristics which recent experience indicates mark persons in the ranks of the hard-core unemployed. It is particularly significant, therefore, that the apparel (knit and woven) industry provides one out of every four jobs in the manufacturing sector of the economy for women workers and is the largest single employer for women seeking factory work.^{12/} The industry thus performs a dual function in the economy. On the one hand, it provides the American people with a basic necessity. On the

^{10/}U. S. Women's Bureau, Women Workers and Their Dependents (Bulletin 239, pp. 52f).

^{11/}Ibid., p. 17.

^{12/}Data for 1966 in U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings and Monthly Report on the Labor Force, March 1968, pp. 73ff.