

Resource Sheet #2

Document A-*Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, Paul V. McNutt's Speech in Baltimore, MD*

“Managers, they said, must learn to use women workers; The age old theory that women cannot do factory jobs must go down. Britain has had several years of experience at full use of its manpower and reports that women can do eighty percent of all industrial jobs.”

Source: McNutt, P. V. (1942, October). War and manpower [Special section]. *Baltimore*, 11.

Background Information

Paul V. McNutt served as the Chairman of the War Manpower Commission during World War II. As Chairman, McNutt was responsible for ensuring the efficient use of labor during the war. Before becoming chairman of the War Manpower Commission, McNutt served as Democratic Governor of Indiana, and later supported Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his 1940 election campaign. He played an active role in supporting women in the workforce during the war years as is noted here in his Baltimore Address given on September 29, 1942. In this address, McNutt is emphasizing the importance of Baltimore city as a major industrial center supporting the war effort.

Guiding Questions

1. Why does McNutt emphasize the need for managers to utilize the skills of women workers?

2. To what extent does McNutt value women workers?