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WOMEN IN THE WORKING FORCE

- Q. Some observers have attributed the rise in the unemployment rate in July to women's liberation and to the increasing tendency of women to seek jobs. Do you believe that this is a major part of the explanation, and if so, what policies are required to cope with this new aspect of the labor market situation?
- A. It is true that an extremely large portion of the increase in the labor force has been women aged 20 and over. During the past year, about two-thirds (2/3) of the new entrants to the labor force were women age 20 and over. Yet we should recognize that the entrance of women into the labor force is not a new phenomenon. (Thirty years ago, 32 percent of working age women either held jobs or were looking for work. Today that figure is 47 percent. Over this period, an additional 20 million women have joined the labor force and found work. Most economists expect this trend to continue. It is not something which we should be overly concerned about. It may make it more difficult for us to provide the additional jobs required, but the U.S. economy has managed to provide jobs for the vast increases in the numbers of women seeking work, and with proper policies, it will continue to do so in the future. The end result will be higher production, higher incomes and a further advance in the standard of living.

A. Greenspan
8/13/76

Q. Some observers have attributed the rise in the unemployment rate in July to women's liberation and to the increasing tendency of women to seek jobs. Do you believe that this is a major part of the explanation and if so what policies are required to cope with this new aspect of the labor market situation?

A. It is true that an extremely large portion of the increase in the labor force has been women aged 20 and over. During the past year ~~70 percent~~ ^{about 2/3 of} of the new entrants to the labor force were women ^{age 20 and over.} Yet we should recognize that the entrance of women into the labor force is not a new phenomenon. ~~Twenty~~ ^{Thirty} years ago ~~32~~ percent of working age women either held jobs or were looking for work. Today that figure is ~~47~~ ⁴⁷ percent. [^] Most economists expect this trend to continue. It is not something which we should be overly concerned about. It may make it more difficult for us to provide the additional jobs required, but the [^] end result will be higher production, higher incomes and a further advance in the standard of living.

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