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Women on the Go



By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Rights of working women are a major concern for Redford Township's Millie Rowson, who has numbered herself in that group most of her adult life.

This mother of three would like to see more women who hold jobs aware of what's possible with regard to working hours, pensions, insurance and other benefits.

Recently she outlined some of her advice in remarks to a women's concerns seminar sponsored by the 17th Congressional District Women's Democratic Caucus.

Mrs. Rowson, who works as an accountant for Chrysler Local 869 of the United Auto Workers, is as interested as her employer in helping working women—and men, too—avoid long hours of compulsory overtime.

But what the UAW is trying to win at the bargaining table can also be achieved, Millie Rowson points out, in the legislative halls of Lansing.

"A bill has been introduced to place a legal limit of 40 hours a week on the amount of time an employer require a worker to be on the job," she said.

"It's House of Representatives bill 4537 and Senate Bill 136."

She Champions Working Women

If people would write to their state representatives or senators now or when the Legislature reconvenes in the fall, she said, Michigan could have a law that would remove the problems of production line weariness.

"This is important for both men and women who work in factory jobs," she said. "We are hearing too many reports that young people in the plants are finding the very long hours extremely taxing."

Limiting hours for those who want limits would go a long way to make production work satisfying for women, Mrs. Rowson said.

"I want to see it happen," she added, "because I feel so strongly that people should feel comfortable in their work, find it satisfying and take pride in what they produce, too."

Limitation of hours and job classifications for women—in force before the Equal Rights Amendment—were an unnecessary and unwanted restriction on women interested in supervisory jobs in factories, Mrs. Rowson said.

"It's right that men and women should have equal opportunities," she added. "But the long overtime should not be forced on workers who do not want it."

Mrs. Rowson also said

employed women should have complete knowledge of their fringe benefits.

"They should know what's available to them with regard to severance pay, pensions and insurance plans," she said. "I think too often they are hazy on these matters until they have to have the information."

"Fringe benefits are just as important as salary. Women who have jobs should check on the amount of money they pay into their social security account, and they should be sure the account is in their names and in good order."

"They also should know about sickness and accident insurance benefits their firm offers. They should be much more aware of what the policy says and how it works and what is the collection procedure."

Millie Rowson kept books for the construction firm headed by her husband, Robert, before going to work for the Chrysler local.

She is a member of the executive board of Local 42, Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO.

Active for years in the Democratic party, she would like to see more women participating in political activities.

"I ran for the Redford Township Parks and Recreation Commission in 1961," she said. "I lost, and since then I've been more involved in getting other people elected."

Recently she was appointed to the township lighting commission, and since then "I'm amazed at how aware I've become about which streets are well lighted and where the lighting needs repair or improvement."

Mrs. Rowson also is an active member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom because "I'm concerned about the quest of peace" and is a charter member and former president of the South Redford Business and Professional Women's Club.



MILLIE ROWLSON, Redford Township accountant, Democrat, peace worker and Lighting Commission member. (Evert photo)

Couple Gets Medal Of Honor On Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Badilas of Farmington now are proud possessors of the St. Paul medal of honor highest honor the Greek Orthodox Church can bestow.

It was presented to them by Bishop Germanos of the Seventh Diocese on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated the last weekend in July.

Over 200 friends and relatives gathered at the dinner-dance celebration held in the Community Center of the Saints Constantine and Helen Church, Detroit.

The party was given by the couple's children, John and Helen Madias and grandchildren, Mike and Wanda Madias of Los Angeles, and Kathy, Nikki, Marissa and Annette Madias of Farmington.

Mr. and Mrs. Badilas were married July 7, 1923, in Weirton, W. Va; where they lived for many years. In 1961 they moved to Detroit.

Throughout their lives they placed emphasis on church, and civic projects and they have remained active in these areas.

Mr. Badilas is a charter member of the national progressive organization AHEPA.

Mrs. Badilas is honorary president of the local philanthropic organization, Philoptochos and a charter member of the Seventh Archdiocesan District Council of the Greek Orthodox Church. She received a citation from the Greek government for her work in the Greek War Relief.

Mr. and Mrs. Badilas have both received citations from the American government for their work in Defense Bond Drives and from former Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh and Mayor Roman S. Gibbis for their contributions to the community.

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