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... of ... February, 1938 reports that in

to consider this subject again for some years, and we believe we will be missing an opportunity if we fail to approach them on the general subject at the same time as the particular aspect already referred to them. As to whether the subject is outside their scope, it is for the Bench to decide. We are advised that it is within their scope. We are further advised that any adjustments or recommendations arrived at by the Full Bench of the Industrial Commission would have a great influence on the future policy of the Federal Court.

In making awards, the Federal Court of Arbitration and Conciliation is not guided in its decisions as to the rates of the respective male and female wages by any legal directions. They are free to award any wage which they in their wisdom decide upon. Their guide to date has been custom. If it can be shown before the Full Bench of the Industrial Commission that the principle of paying females at a lower rate than males is not in the public interest, it is bound to influence the decisions of the Federal Court in favour of equal pay. The outcome of such proceedings might be a progressive move towards the final achievement of the principle of equal pay for men and women.

We ask you to give serious consideration to our request to extend the scope of the application so as to ventilate the whole subject of equal pay before the Full Bench of the Industrial Commission.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JESSIE M. G. STREET,

President.

UAW
MLMS 2160