

- (h) As some employers have failed to fully pay in connection with the employment of conscientious objectors, summary means of requiring payment through court action were provided.

The announcement of these amendments to the Regulations stated that in part they were designed to overcome operating difficulties which had come to light, while in part also they were to make the Regulations more flexible in order to meet changing employment conditions, and conditions anticipated at the close of European hostilities.

RESTRICTIONS ON SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT

24. All the provisions for getting men into employment were not totally effective without a companion provision to make it difficult or impossible for men to leave high priority employment. Consequently in September, 1943, an amendment was made to the Regulations to provide that men employed in "designated industries" coming within the two highest priority ratings could not terminate their employment or cease to perform their duties without first obtaining the permission of a National Selective Service officer. In ordinary practice such permission was refused unless special circumstances existed. This provision is sometimes known as the "freeze in employment" and, as indicated by the use of the word "freeze", was intended to slow down the turnover of labour in the most essential industries. These provisions do not apply to women employed in the "designated establishments," who may terminate their employment in the "designated establishments" by giving the customary seven days' notice of separation.

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

25. Since the beginning of the war the agricultural population had been steadily draining away into the armed forces and into war industries which offered high remuneration. This was a serious matter in view of the urgency of keeping up the supply of foodstuffs. Approximately 400,000 men and 100,000 women had already left the farms before March 23, 1942, when Selective Service was established. As already mentioned, special provisions for stabilizing agriculture formed an important part of the original National Selective Service Regulations when introduced in March, 1942.
26. At the beginning of the war farm workers had been accorded the same treatment as any one else in regard to postponement for military training. In the spring of 1941 a degree of stabilization was achieved when mobilization boards were asked to grant postponements to farm workers if such postponements were considered necessary to maintain farm production. In the spring of 1942 an order-in-council was made that amended the National Selective Service Mobilization Regulations by including a provision which gave special consideration to the postponement of essential farm workers, although they might continue to enlist as volunteers where they chose to do so. These amendments also provided that postponements were to be given "until further notice," whereas definite time limits were placed on postponements given to workers in other occupations. In March, 1944, an order-in-council was passed to provide that farm postponements would not be granted to persons who were not engaged in farm work at March, 1942.
27. In June, 1942, when the Regulations made it illegal for any man or woman to take a job without the permit of a Selective Service officer, workers taking jobs in agriculture were exempted. Farmers were obliged to remain in agriculture, except under special conditions. For instance, leeway was allowed to accept essential non-farm employment in the off-season: In fact, positive encouragement in this regard has been given. Under the revision of January 19, 1943, farmers might then accept seasonal employment outside an urban municipality for not more than 60 days in any year, but only