

# At the Quiltin' Bee

Among the projects aided by our diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph and the Edmundite Fathers is the Freedom Quilting Bee, a cooperative sewing industry in Alberta, Ala., about 35 miles from Selma.

Sister Catherine takes care of the clerical work for "the Bee" and also assists in the formulation of business policies.

She has been performing these duties since 1960 when a group of some 60 black women who started the business desperately need secretarial and bookkeeping help.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan visited the cooperative last Tuesday and was given an explanation of its work and a tour of the facilities.

The cooperative produces quilts which it sells to Sak's in New York City and potholders, aprons, pot

covers, etc., which it produces for Sears. Julia Pettway is business manager and Betty Bendolph production manager. Mrs. Witherspoon is also on staff.

While being shown around the plant, Bishop Hogan met Mrs. Emma Lefever, a Mennonite missionary, who formerly lived in Andover, near Hornell.

"What brought you here?" asked the bishop.

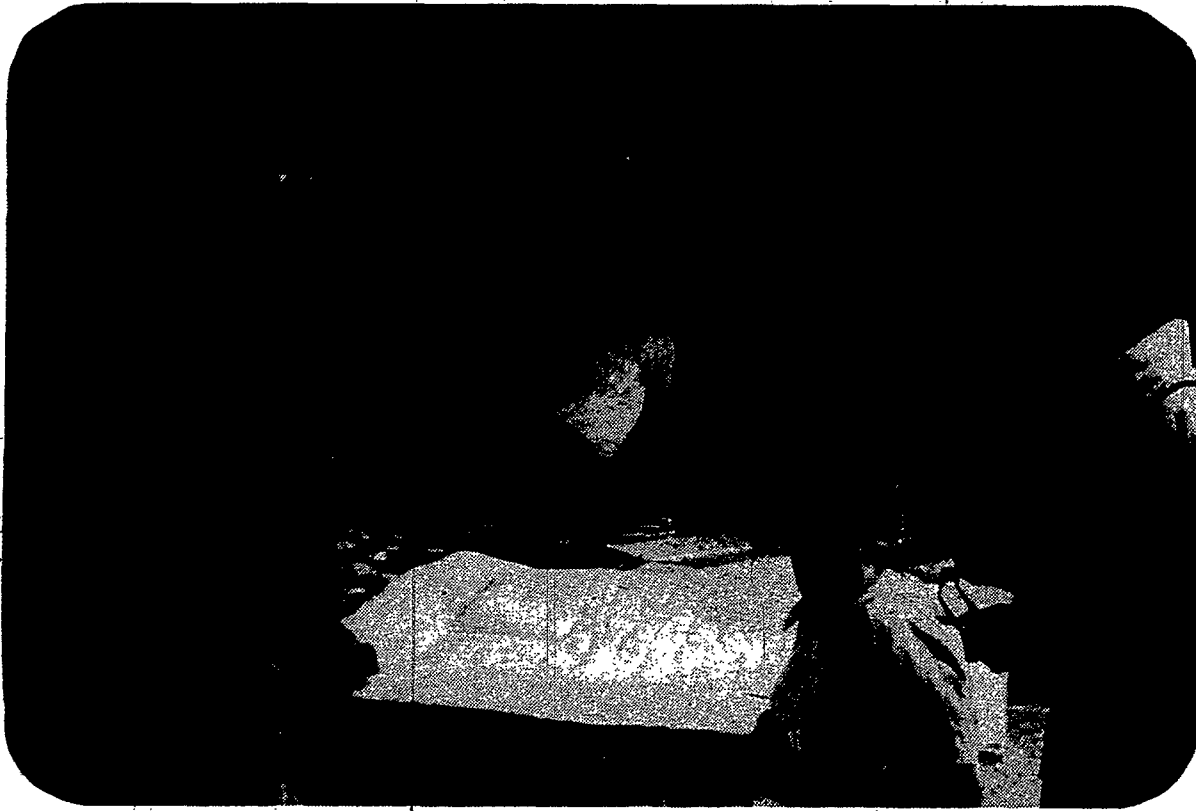
"The Lord," came the quick and simple reply.

The women work five days a week and their children are cared for at a federally-funded day care center established right at the plant.

The cooperative is a typical example of the missionaries who strive not only to care of people's immediate and urgent needs but also to establish businesses making them self-supporting and earning them self-respect.



Sister Catherine gets an expert's view of quilt. Sister takes care of clerical work at the "the Bee" and assists with business policies.



Bishop Hogan and Sister Josette chat with Mrs. Emma Lefever, a Mennonite missionary, who formerly lived in Andover near Hornell. She has been working at the "Bee" for a year.



Bishop Hogan and Sister Catherine look over potholders which are among the merchandise produced.



Some of the intricate design work fascinates the Bishop and Sister Catherine.



Another quilt on way to market.



The Bishop, Father Louis Hohman and Sister Josette observe a seamstress.

Photos by  
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