

THE MILL MOTHER'S

The song below was written by Ella Mae Wiggins. She was a union worker and song writer from the USA. She had seen four of her nine children die of whooping cough because she was unable to afford medication. She said: "I never made no more than nine dollars a week and you can't do for a family on such money. I was working nights, and I asked the supervisor to put me on day-shift, so that I could tend to them when they had their bad spells. But he wouldn't. He's the meanest man alive, I reckon. So I had to quit, and then there wasn't any money for medicine, and they just died. I couldn't do for my children any more than you women with jobs on the money we got. That's why I came out for the union, and why we all got to stand for the union, so's we can do better for our children, and they won't have lives like we got."

Ella Mae Wiggins was murdered on September 13, 1929 - shot down in cold blood on a highway on the way to a union rally. They sang this song of hers at her funeral.

By Ella Mae Wiggins

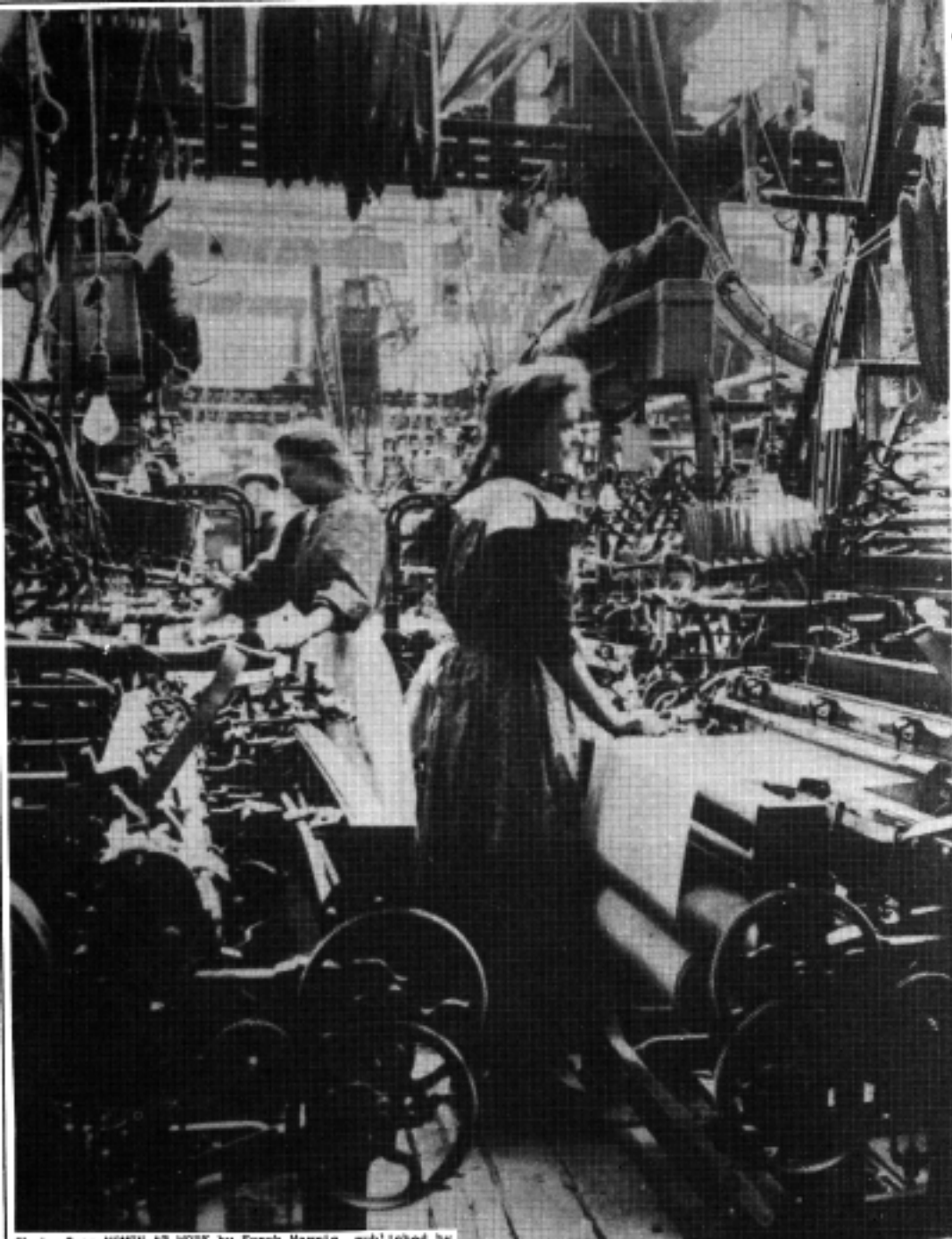


Photo from WOMEN AT WORK by Sarah Harris, published by Batsford Academic and Educational Ltd.

LAMENT

We leave our homes in the morning,
We kiss our children goodbye,
While we slave for the bosses,
Our children scream and cry.

And when we draw our money,
Our grocery bills to pay,
Not a cent to spend for clothing,
Not a cent to lay away.

And on that very evening,
Our little son will say:
"I need some shoes, mother,
And so does sister May."

How it grieves the heart of a mother,
You everyone must know,
But we can't buy for our children,
Our wages are too low.

It is for our little children,
That seem to us so dear,
But for us nor them, dear workers,
The bosses do not care.

But understand, all workers,
Our union they do fear;
Let's stand together, workers,
And have a union here.

Story and song from 'The Liberated Woman's Songbook', J. Silverman
The Macmillan Company



DEADLY CONTRACEPTIVE Women must claim!

Millions of women around the world were told in January 1986 that they could claim money if they had worn or are still wearing a contraceptive loop (IU-CD) called the Dalkon Shield. The Dalkon shield is dangerous because it causes infections very easily. Many women have died from infection and others have been left sterile - unable to have babies. It is believed that as many as 150 000 Dalkon Shields have been inserted into South African women.



Women who want to make a claim can have their Dalkon Shield loop removed at the expense of A.H. Robins, the company who made the Dalkon Shield. Women can also claim for any damage which the Dalkon Shield may have caused them.

Women wanting to claim should send their full name and complete address, plus a simple statement that they want to make a claim. Send it to the following address: Dalkon Shield, P.O. Box 444 Richmond, Virginia 23203, USA. Or write to SPEAK for further information.