

Wives and Mothers - Sources for Worksheet 2 – Spinsters



Spinsters protesting outside the House of Commons

SOURCE A

*Fight, fight for Spinster's Pensions!
What about it, you MPs?
It has been too long delayed
But still we're not dismayed
And we want to make you Spinster
Conscious please.*

*It would come in very handy
For those spinsters who are frail
For at fifty-five you know
We haven't too much 'go'
And would help a lot along the
long, long trail.*

*Day by day it's getting harder
And employers aren't too kind
We feel we've done our duty
Week by week we've done our
whack
So rise up and join the throng
And resound the Spinsters Song
For we feel we should be getting
something back*

Spinster Rally Song SOURCE B

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING AT HUDDERSFIELD

Miss White stated that the spinsters had a real grievance: they were the least secure section of the community and were receiving the least in the Security Scheme.

Their grievance called for a strong protest from everybody who valued the services that single women gave to the community.

They had worked harder than any other woman during the war because they had to be full time workers.

Many single women had been 'tied to the wheels of industry' all their lives and others struggled to keep up homes for aged relatives and sick parents.

'The Spinster' – April 1946

SOURCE C