

FOR APPROVAL

New York, Nov. 16 ----- The Executive & Finance Committee of the Board of Directors of International Business Machines Corporation today elected Miss Ruth Leach a vice president of the corporation. She is the first woman and the youngest person ever to hold a corporate office with IBM. She was previously manager of systems service for the entire company.

"The election of a woman to major executive rank is recognition by IBM of the increasingly important part which women are playing in its operations," President Thomas J. Watson stated in announcing the action of the Committee. He pointed out that the company now employs over 5,000 women, constituting 30 percent of its total personnel.

At the same time, the appointment of Miss Mary Schultz as assistant vice president, to act as director of the Women's Division, was also announced. She was previously assistant manager of systems service.

"We are adding women to our executive staff through promotions in order to make sure that the women in every department and branch of IBM will receive maximum assistance in carrying on the important work which they are doing at present, and in developing their individual opportunities for advancement in the organization," Mr. Watson stated.

IBM has employed and trained women for all departments of the business and today they are successfully filling positions in the company's factories, as systems service women and customer engineers in the field,

as instructors and as research engineers, in addition to clerical and secretarial work, he added.

Miss Leach joined the company in 1939 at San Francisco. She is a native of Oakland, California and a graduate of the University of California. She served in the Atlanta office, as an instructor in the IBM employees' school at Endicott, N.Y. and later as the company's secretary of education for women before becoming manager of systems service. In the latter capacity she has selected, trained and supervised hundreds of young women from all parts of the United States and a number of foreign countries and, with Miss Schultz, has visited practically every IBM office in the United States and Canada in the course of their work with the company's sales, service and engineering personnel and with its customers.

Miss Schultz is a native of New Britain, Conn. and a graduate of Smith College. She joined IBM in 1935. She served with the Newark, N.J. office and as personnel manager of the company's World Headquarters in New York before becoming assistant systems service manager last year.

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