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## Opportunities for Women

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## Opportunities for Women

is computed by dividing total depreciation reserves of all assets in a class by a total basis of the assets in the class. Fully depreciated assets are included in this computation. However, if any portion of the basis of any asset in a guideline class is subject to amortization under Sections 168 or 169 of the Internal Revenue Code, 1954, or is recovered through the additional first year depreciation allowance provided by Section 179 of the 1954 Code, that portion shall be excluded from the total basis of the assets and the amortization or depreciation deducted under these special sections shall be excluded from the depreciation reserve.

The second step in applying the reserve ratio test is to select the reserve ratio range from the printed tables. To do this it is necessary to know:

1. The method of depreciation used for the assets in the guideline class.
2. The test life.
3. The rate of growth.

Special rules for determining each of these items are outlined in Publication No. 456. Because of their complexity they will not be discussed here. When the appropriate reserve ratio range has been determined, it is compared with the taxpayer's reserve ratio. Where the rules indicate that a shorter class life used by a taxpayer may be justified, the appropriate class life is determined from the special adjustment table. A class life may also be lengthened. The table is also used to determine how the class life should be lengthened.

In summary we should note that this Revenue Procedure requires good faith by both the Internal Revenue Service and the taxpayer if it is to be effective. This is an administrative procedure which can be amended, changed or withdrawn, in whole or in part, whenever it does not fit a particular set of circumstances or where it is being used as a tax abuse device.

As Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Caplin pointed out when discussing the procedure, depreciation reform is not something that can be accomplished once and for all time. The Revenue Procedure reflects administrative policy dedicated to a continuing review and updating of depreciation standards and procedures to keep abreast of changing conditions and circumstances in our economy.

The Revenue Procedure is not a panacea for all depreciation problems but it should resolve many problems for both the taxpayers and the Government.

In a memorandum to agency heads last July, President Kennedy set forth a new policy governing employment of women in the Federal Service. As a result, hereafter, appointments and promotions must be made without regard to sex, except in certain hazardous law-enforcement occupations. This should open up greater employment opportunities for women throughout Government.

The new policy seems especially appropriate in the Revenue Service. After all, women have been paying a good share of our nation's tax bill. It's only right they should have an equal chance to participate in the collection of revenue.

From time to time I propose to include in this letter brief write-ups about women employees enjoying professional careers with the Service, and I'll also be reporting on the status of the program, generally. I'd like to start out this issue with a "profile" on Lois C. Mottonen, Group Supervisor in Office Audit, in our Cheyenne District Office.

Born in Rock Springs, Wyoming, Lois graduated with honors from the local high school and won a scholarship to the University of Wyoming. There she carried off department honors in her major, accounting.

Faced with a job decision, Lois picked Internal Revenue because she felt she could move ahead faster under the Government's merit system than anywhere else. Events proved her right.

She started as office auditor in Cheyenne, was promoted in a year's time, and then became a Revenue Agent—the first woman ever to hold this assignment in Wyoming. Subsequent advancement brought her to her present position.

Miss Mottonen was nominated for the Federal Woman's Award for Outstanding Achievement by Women in Federal Career Service and was also commended by us for a booklet she authored on an Advanced Income Tax Course for Office Auditors.

*The foregoing is an excerpt from Commissioner Mortimer M. Caplin's letter to his associates in the Internal Revenue Service, dated October 17, 1962.*