

Widows of Five Presidents Serve on Council Organized To Restore Sight to Blind

By ADELAIDE KERR
AP Newsfeatures Writer

"The mother of three grown sons ran down the steps of the hospital as lightly as a girl and signaled a passing taxi. The driver glanced at her curiously as she stepped into his cab—her face sparkling, her eyes shining.

"Must be something special, lady," he said as he wheeled toward her destination, Pier 56.

"Special!" she cried. "Yes, it's special. You'd think so too if you could see again after being blind for 15 years! And that's not all. I've just had word my oldest boy is coming home from war today. I'm going to see him—really see him—for the first time since he was a little fellow of ten."

The sight she had lost when a pressure cooker exploded in her face years before had been restored by a corneal graft operation—the replacement of a clouded cornea by a clear one. It was made possible by the work of the Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, established in February 1945 to collect and preserve healthy corneal tissue from human eyes for transplanting to persons who had lost their sight because of defects of the cornea.

Linked With 80 Hospitals

The Eye Bank, which now has affiliations with 80 hospitals in nine states, grew out of the need and vision of some of the country's leading ophthalmologists. But women have played a telling part in its growth, and are now rallying in a nationwide movement to extend its scope. The Eye Bank's executive director is Mrs. Henry Breckinridge, wife of a New York lawyer, who has long been identified with humanitarian, civic and philanthropic work.

On the organization's council are the widows of five presidents of the United States: Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison and Mrs. Thomas J. Preston (widow of Grover Cleveland). Other less famous women are sponsoring the bank's work through an educational program conducted by various women's organizations, and still others have offered to give their eyes after death to be used in the corneal graft operation.

Members of the Red Cross Motor Corps provide a 24-hour service making speedy delivery of eyes, which at present can be preserved for corneal grafting only 72 hours, by shuttling them from hospital to plane and from the New York airport to the Eye Bank at 210 East 64th Street, New York. All eyes must be examined at the bank before they can be used in the operation.

"Much of our work is educational," says Mrs. Breckinridge.

Committeemen of AAA Will Direct Food Aid Programs

Chairmen of county agricultural conservation committees have been designated by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson as local emergency food program managers to help speed the job of supplying food under the President's emergency famine relief program.

These farmer-committeemen will enlist the cooperation of all local groups who are willing to promise the conservation of food in order to save the lives of people in other lands. Specific goals and conservation measures will be worked out and launched locally.

Harvey Miller, state director of the Production and Marketing Administration named by the secretary as the state manager, says: "How many lives are saved through voluntary local efforts to conserve food so that others may live will depend more upon individual efforts than upon elaborate programs. We need the cooperation of every group and person to increase understandings of why we need to conserve food for others and specific ways in which this can be done. If this is done adequately and quickly, the results will be

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Wallace's Plan For Party Ouster Draws Criticism

WASHINGTON, March 20—(AP)—

Two Democratic and Republican chiefs yesterday termed "impractical" a suggestion by Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace that Congressmen who oppose their party on major issues should be banned from seeking election on their party tickets.

Such a step, they said, would deprive Senators and Representatives of the right to vote their convictions on other than party issues.

"It's impractical," House Democratic Leader John W. McClellan of Massachusetts told a reporter. "Under our two-party system, membership in a political party is a matter of individual

choice and no party can deny an individual that choice."

Rep. Leslie Arends of Illinois, House Republican whip, likewise called Wallace's proposal "impractical."

"While a man should vote with his party on purely political issues," Arends said in an interview, "he certainly has the right and the duty to vote his convictions on other major matters. After all, he represents in Congress not only a single political party but all the people of his district, whether Republicans or Democrats."

Arends added that if Wallace's idea had been "followed to the letter," Wallace would not be Commerce Secretary.

"His nomination was approved by Republican as well as Democratic votes in the Senate," Arends explained.

The Commerce Secretary, addressing members of the Women's Democratic Club here, suggested party discipline on what

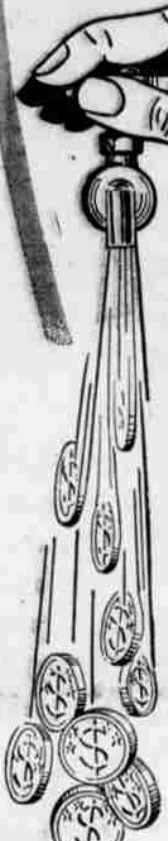
he termed such major questions as the proposed British loan, foreign relations, full employment and atomic energy.

Saying that the Democratic party favors the British loan and the Republican party opposes it, Wallace explained his meaning thus:

"Members of the Democratic party should vote for the British loan or be put out of the party by not being allowed to run again on the Democratic party ticket. Either the dissenting members should join the other party or organize an independent one. The same should apply to the Republicans."

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