

Case Against Women....

By ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

The cards have been stacked against women in government. On the whole, men have had more experience and better experience in nearly all the fields in which the bulk of government jobs fall. Today not as much experience is required of prospective employees as in pre-war days. The government has been hard hit by the draft. It has had to lower its standards somewhat to maintain staffs and keep going. As a result, women have entered the professional Washington scene to a greater extent than ever before.

But many administrators still prefer to comb the supply of 4-F males rather than hire women. Others prefer to have staff vacancies rather than hire women. Women are still, in too many cases, a last resort.

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One top government administrator has this to say about his prejudice against hiring members of the gentler sex: "Before the war, I had one woman on my professional staff. The proportion of one woman to about 15 men worked out splendidly. Then, right after Pearl Harbor, I hired three more women. The first thing I knew, I had trouble on my hands. Two of the women couldn't get along with each other or anyone else. They began having office spats that finally involved the whole staff. I had to fire both of them to get some peace and quiet and some work done. And I'm through hiring women from now on."

Other administrators chorus about similar experiences with women. An important division chief in a large agency had some helpful hints to offer women before they apply for government employment: "Women should adopt a professional appearance and attitude. Somehow it's hard to believe a woman has a great deal of job experience and competence when she comes to apply for a job when she's dressed for a tea or cocktail party. On the other hand, I don't like to see anyone come in with flat heels and sloppy sweaters and skirts. The woman that makes an impression on me, as a prospective employee, is the one that is dressed in a tailored outfit, whose hair is neat and not hanging all over her shoulders, and who is poised and self-contained in her manner."

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What about feminine behavior on the job? There again he insisted on a professional attitude. "I've had women on my staff," he said, "she pouted and acted hurt every time I handed an interesting assignment to someone else. They took everything like that as a personal slight. I hand out an assignment to the person who I think can best handle it. Most of us are better at some types of work than others. Every individual on my staff has, more or less, some kind of specialty. I try to fit the work to their particular abilities. Work volume determines assignments, too. If someone is free to handle an assignment, the chances are that I'll give it to that person."

"But women sometimes tend to think that the assignment I give the men or to other women are more interesting than their own. It's mostly a matter of other pastures being greener. Often women fail to realize the full significance and interest of their own work."

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Was that the division chief's only complaint about women? By no means. "A lot of women expect favors. They come around dripping with insincere charm and hoping to be shown favoritism as a result. Some of them don't work as well or as hard as they might—they rely on good looks to carry them along. And some of them are so temperamental that they'd drive you crazy if you had them on the staff very long. Another complaint against them—some of them—they get jealous of other women on the staff. And that means we can't work together as a team."

Asked if the men on his staff had always got along together, this section chief said, "Not always. That is, they didn't always form mutual admiration societies. And I've had some men who actually disliked each other. But they managed to conceal their feelings better than the women do. As a result, their attitudes didn't often interfere with their working together. The men have generally been less interested in petty office squabbles and gossip and more interested in doing a good job."

"I don't know what accounts for the difference between the two sexes as it's worked out in my office. Maybe it's because men have families and more responsibility toward their jobs because of it. A lot of women in government are footloose and fancy free. No one depends on them for a living. Many of them hope to get married soon and stop working. That all tends to give them less of a professional attitude toward their work."

Most secretaries, stenographers and clerk-typists in government are women. Many of them will not work for other women, because, they say, they get better treatment from men. One secretary says, "Women are too bossy. Instead of asking you to do something, they order you to do it. And they treat you like dirt. Men don't treat you that way, not many of them."

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Charges like that may make some women irate, but the fact remains that strong prejudice against women still exists in many spots in government.

Today the government is employing more women than ever

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A New Tradition....

War abruptly ends a lot of things. It throttles liberal reform; it terminates individual liberties; it chokes social progress. But the fact that it does not necessarily impair the activity of those who maintain the fine arts will be plainly shown tonight when the second all-campus Odeon gets under way in the music auditorium at 8 p.m.

Odeon had its inception last year, when a little group of artistic and literary-minded students got together and decided that they and others in the University student body like themselves should be encouraged rather than almost totally ignored outside the classroom. So this little group proceeded to interest several members of the faculty, and with their help a program was formulated which consisted entirely of student-written stories, essays, and poetry, and student-composed musical numbers, supplemented by an array of student-created art exhibits. This presentation turned out to be one of the most successful programs of the year, and it was decided to continue Odeon and make it a campus tradition.

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But this year the war, while it did not stop Odeon, has nevertheless got in some good hard blows. The student body, from which the material is drawn, has been sadly depleted. A crowded schedule has necessitated the giving of the program at a time when many students will have gone home.

But those who remain will turn out in force, we have no doubt. And whether a thousand people come, or only one, the attempt to establish Odeon as a campus tradition will have been definitely furthered.—N.Y.

Globally Speaking

By BILL SINNOTT

Wendell L. Willkie's withdrawal from the presidential derby is the news of the week. Mr. Willkie was the only Republican candidate who showed any awareness of the role that America should play after the armistice.

Mr. Willkie is an internationalist. He believes that the United States must play a paramount part in the restoring of peace and prosperity to a war-torn world.

Few remember that the Republican party was the internationalist party 40 years ago. The Democrats, under the leadership of William Jennings Bryan, were the isolationists of that era.

During the administrations of McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt Americans suddenly became interested in world affairs. We became international-minded, due to our war with Spain. T. R. arbitrated the Russo-Japanese war at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. John Hay and Elihu Root made our influence greatly felt in the diplomatic jockeying that was the prelude to Sarajevo. We believe that if T. R. had been president in 1914 World War I might have been avoided. He understood the technique of handling Emperor William II.

Active Part Favored

Taft, Root, and Hughes were in favor of our assuming an active role in World War I reconstruction. Wilson made many mistakes that led eventually to our withdrawal from European and world affairs. He should never have gone to Paris. He should have appointed some senator to our delegation. He was not agile enough to cope with those two cynical, clever opportunists, Clemenceau and Lloyd George.

The "Tiger's" obsession was French security; Lloyd George's idee fixe was the effect of his actions on the voters back home, and Wilson—Wilson, with Calvinist stubbornness, wanted the League—a League covenant without a period changed.

The uneasy armistice of 1918 ended in 1931 with the Mukden incident in Manchuria. The Lytton report was made—and filed in the pigeonholes of the European foreign offices. Secretary of State Stimson, with the active backing of Hoover, wanted to stop the "War of the Future" then and there. Sir John Simon, that peerless appeaser who has sat on the fence so long that the iron has entered into his soul, sold us out before in its history. It is up to these women—and up to those soon to join the ranks of government employees—to leave a good impression in the minds of government officials. If women continue to be known as trouble-makers, the jobs will be scarce for them in Washington after the war.

by giving Japan carte blanche to do what she wished in "Manchukuo."

The thirties were filled with a series of successive steps by which the axis powers prepared for a New Order. Hitler's policy was so supremely simple that we can't imagine how he fooled our Bertie McCormacks, Ham Fishes, and Rufus Holmans.

Hitler Marched

He restored conscription, reoccupied the Rhineland, took Austria, and Czechoslovakia. The anti-comintern pact and the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis made it evident that our turn would be next.

The fall of France brought us to our senses. We joined the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies. Republicans like Willkie, Stimson, Wadsworth, and Austen became aware of our danger.

We believe an international organization is essential for prosperity and avoidance of future wars. If bureaucracy and economic nationalism become the policy of the United Nations after the war, we might as well prepare for World War III.

An international organization would ensure a free flow of trade and a stable monetary system. If the Republican party nominates an isolationist at Chicago it might as well fold up. Willkie was our logical candidate—a believer in co-operation abroad and free enterprise at home.



Easter....

By A. HARE

Easter . . . some say its an old Roman custom, others say that our arch enemies, the Germans, started the quaint customs, still others say that it's an ancient Persian custom, meaning things like Easter eggs and overdressing in too-new clothes.

It really began 1900 years ago with the cry "crucify him, crucify him . . ." Earlier terms, "Ostara" and "Eastre" signified a festival for the season of new birth, the modern recognition of the resurrection of Christ.

"Ostara" was the divinity of spring of the ancient Norsemen, who was welcomed by a festival of celebration on her annual return. She reclothed the earth with the greenery and flowers after each winter or night of death had swept away its fading verdancy.

The painting of Easter eggs is an age-old symbol of redemption and deliverance. The hare and/or rabbit is representative of the moon. It is supposed to steal into home on Easter eve and lay brightly colored eggs. This conception, however, is a slight distortion of biological phenomena. Both the symbol of the Easter egg and of the Easter rabbit is life-giving. The earlier ideas for coloring eggs were derived from the rays of the aurora borealis and the dawning hues of the Easter sun.

Fires

Another way in which Easter was cited was by laying a new hearth fire and lighting it. Easter bonfires were kindled on the hills to remove evil with their light. Young men and maidens who desired to marry during the coming year sang and danced around the flames.

And then there is the Constantine school of thought. It is said that Constantine, emperor of Rome 1600 years ago, used Easter as an excuse to appear in rich apparel so new and unusual that everyone else would seem poorly clad in comparison. Of course, "the Joneses" had to "dress up," too. The heretofore simple ceremonies performed on Easter didn't suit Constantine's taste for grandeur. He declared that elaborate services filled with pomp and extraordinary richness be observed.