Protocol Is Etiquette And Is Often Quite Vital

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON (AP)—To a capital hostess protocol must be as familiar as an oyster fork.

Protocol is the etiquette of formal occasions.

In Washington it applies to the placing of persons according to their importance in a receiving line or at a dinner table. It applies also to the manner in which you address officials and the business of making calls.

"Protocol in Washington is of momentous importance, and the rules of precedence governing who ranks whom must be adhered to rigidly when entertaining officials," says Mrs. Caroline Hagner Shaw, social arbiter and publisher of the 'Social List of Washington'. "Sometimes when not respected they cause crises, even an international situation!"

Hard Times

Mrs. Shaw recalls the time when Cordell Hull was secretary of state and an attache of a South American country was misplaced at a state dinner. Notes had to be exchanged between the government of the United States and that of his country.

Then there was the famous Dolly Gann-Alice Roosevelt Longworth incident of the Hoover Administration concerning who outranked the other—Mrs. Gann, as official hostess for her widowed brother, Vice President Charles Curtis, or Mrs. Longworth, as wife of the Speaker of the House, Nicholas Longworth.

At a reception given by President Theodore Roosevelt for the Supreme Court, the chief justice and the associate justices walked right out of the White House because the President had received members of the diplomatic corps first.

Long Time

Abigail Adams, in 1800, was the first to set up a dignified social salon in the White House.

Thomas Jefferson would have none of this. Capital social leaders were very upset, the diplomats even more so.

The first real precedence controversy blew up when Jefferson offered his arm to Dolly Madison, wife of his vice president, to lead her in to dinner instead of the British minister's wife. Jefferson issued a statement:

"When brought together in society, all are perfectly equal, whether foreign or domestic, in or out of office—no title being admitted here, those of foreigners given no precedence . . ." he wrote.

Protocol was reintroduced by Mrs. James Monroe after the "grand manner." It looks now like it's here to stay.

Must Know

About the most important thing for a Washington hostess to know is rank — whom to place above whom in a receiving line or at a dinner table.

Currently all hands agree this is the way you should seat your guests if (God forbid) you should ever wish to entertain all the bigwigs at the same time:

The President, then vice president, chief justice, former presidents, ambassadors of foreign powers, widows of former presidents, speaker of the house, secretary of state, representative to U.N., ministers of foreign powers, associate justices and cabinet members.

(Early this year the zingiest question was where Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby ranked as Federal Security Administrator. The quandry was solved when she became secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Following the tradition that Cabinet officials rank one another according to when their department was founded, she automatically became tenth in line in the cabinet section.)

Here They Go

After cabinet members come the Foreign operations administrator, director of the budget, governors of states, senators, the assistant to the President, acting heads of executive departments, former vice presidents, members of the House of Representatives, under secretary of state, charges d'affairs of foreign powers, under secretaries of departments, the Army, Navy and Air Force secretaries, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, chiefs of staff, five-star generals and fleet admirals, and so on.

Gets Rank

"It is important to remember that the wife of an official always assumes the rank held by her husband, whether he is present or not," Mrs. Shaw points out. "Following this same ruling, the husband of a woman official, like former Gov. Hobby of Texas, assumes his wife's rank, as tenth in line among cabinet members."

Wives or widows of former officials, except presidents, have no rank at all but are usually given a courtesy position. Protocol protagonists claim, however, this is not obligatory.

LOCUSTS MENACE JORDAN

AHMAN, Jordan (AP) — The worst attack of locusts in 23 years is predicted for Jordan following an unusually early appearance of locust swarms. Normally locusts arrive later and their eggs hatch after most of the crops have been harvested. Action against locusts is not taken during the present stage—only after the eggs are laid.

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Drive Gains to Place Blind In Industry

BOSTON (INS) — A drive to place blind persons in industry so that they can be self-sufficient is gaining headway in Massachusetts.

Officials of the Massachusetts Division of the Blind say that blind workers are better in some jobs that those who can see.

"The blind don't look up when a blonde walks into the room. They get more done because they are subject to fewer distractions," says John E. Ferguson of the Bay State's taxpayer-supported organization devoted to training the blind and placing them in jobs where they can be self-supporting.

More Efficient

"Employers tell us blind employes are more efficient and productive than fellow workers who see," says John F. Mungovan, director of the program.

All equipment operated by the blind in their training programs is standard, the same as that used by unhandicapped people. Miss Dorothy Forbush, who works with blind children, says that no special equipment is used. To do so would defeat the purpose of the program.

The Division of the Blind recently demonstrated to more than 150,000 people how the blind are taking their place in business and industry in Massachusetts. Their exhibit at the 80th annual Brockton Fair drew record crowds.

Sightless men and women demonstrated their efficiency in secretarial work, operation of power-driven machines, weaving baskets, making toys and other occupations.

Visitors Amazed

Visitors were amazed at the sight of blind persons typing letters from recorded dictation with speed and accuracy superior to that of many whose eyesight is perfect.

Albert J. Clark, blind 40-year old native of South Boston, lost his sight six years ago.

"I've been studying the use of the Gray Audiograph dictating machine for six months, and now I'm ready to go to work," Clark said. He demonstrated how the machine recorded dictation on a plastic record and then put on an ear listening device which resembles a stethoscope, sat down at a typewriter and transcribed the dictation without an error.

The record was amplified so that the visitors to the Fair could hear the speed of the dictation Clark kept up with. Clark has a job arranged with a large Boston company near his home. Many blind workers are placed with insurance companies.

"Modern office machines are so simple to operate that only a few days are required to make expert operators of the blind men and women with whom we work," Ferguson says.

DIGGING

PHILADELPHIA (INS)- A team of University of Pennsylvania scientists is digging in Afghanistan to unearth the ancient remains of Balkh, legendary "Mother of Cities." Dr. Rodney S. Young, leader of the expedition, says the long range operations in the area might conceivably turn up one of the world's oldest civilizations.

HASTINGS, Neb. (INS) — A sign above a shoe repair shop in Hastings reads: "Shoes Left Done Right."

BUTTER SALES CONTINUE

PALO PINTO, Tex. (AP) — Mrs J. H. Gilbert is 77 years old, but she milks 11 cows, churns and drives her own car to sell butter to 80 customers a week. She and her husband own a 1,500-acre farm. In 55 years she says, "I have not lost a customer except by death or removal.

Intellectuals Fleeing From Red Chinese

MANILA, P. I. (INS) — An American official of a Chinese refugee agency disclosed recently that Chinese intellectuals are escaping China's bamboo curtain into Formosa.

These intellectuals have sought refuge in Hong Kong and are being successfully evacuated in large numbers to the Nationalist Chinese island bastion of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

The official, Dr. Bettis Garside, estimated some 2,000 Chinese had been evacuated in the last six months by the Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, a private American organization with headquarters in New York.

The Chinese evacuees, Dr. Garside said, are being trained in Formosa for civilian and military employment.

Dr. Garside, acompanied by Leslie Severinghaus, completed negotiations with both the Hong Kong and Formosan governments in an effort to further the scope of evacuation of Chinese intellectual refugees.

INDIA CLAIMS RECORDS

NEW DELHI (AP)-India lays claim to both the wettest and driest areas of the world. Cherrapunji, a village in the Assam hills of Northwest India is acknowledged the world's wettest, with an annual rainfall of 425 inches. Rajasthan in western India is this nation's choice for the record of having no rainfall. In many sections of the great Rajasthan there is no record of any rain ever having fallen.

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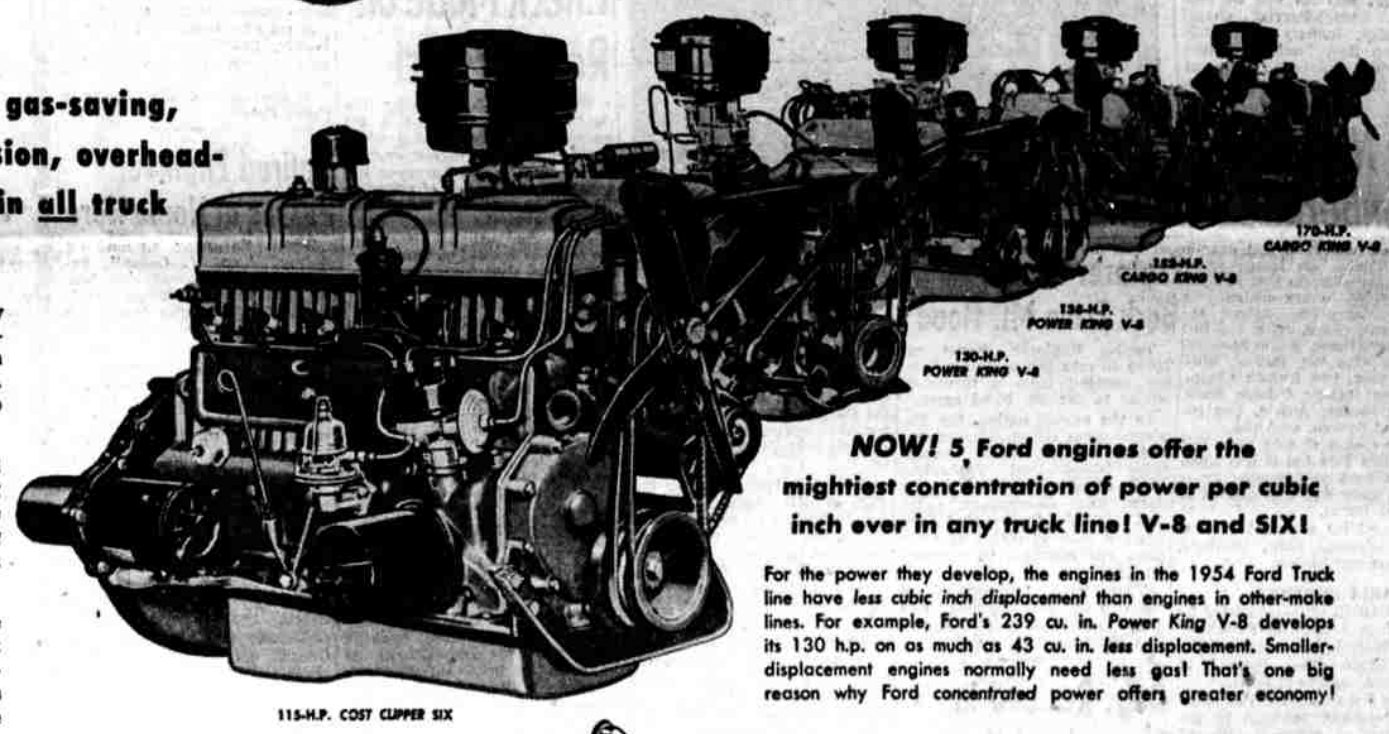

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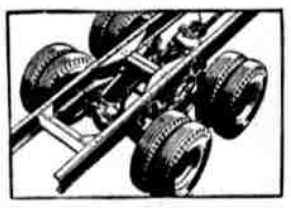

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