

Great Women Dressers Have Mixed Views On Skirts

By DOROTHY ROE
Associated Press Women's Editor
NEW YORK (AP)—Women on the best-dressed list have a mixed reaction to Christian Dior's shortened hemline, an international survey revealed today.

Reached at fashionable spas and summer homes on both sides of the Atlantic, some of the fabulous 12 indicated pleasure at the prospect of a change. Others differed. Here are some comments:

The Duchess of Windsor (in Paris): "For my personal taste I prefer an intermediate length, neither too long nor too short. But I can't take sides for either Mr. Hartnell (British designer for the royal family, who champions longer skirts) or M. Dior without seeing their designs. It is only by seeing the dresses on the mannequins that I could decide what I like."

Mme. Louis Arago, of New York (reached at her Paris home): "I like Dior's short dresses, and I've already started to shorten my hems! However, I'll never wear my skirts right up to my knees, because I'm too tall for it. I think women will protest, but they'll accept the shorter length. I personally think a shorter skirt looks much better than just a little piece of leg showing. Women should adapt the shorter skirt to suit their own figures."

Mrs. Winston Guest (in New

York): "It all depends on how good your legs are. If the men like it, I guess it's all right. But if you're tall like I am (5 feet 6½), I think it's a very uncomplimentary length. It sort of cuts you off. It's for women who are 5 feet 4 and have legs like Marlene Dietrich. I'm sure no one in America will be pleased. But Dior has to do something to sell those expensive dresses."

Marlene Dietrich (in New York): "We have worn short skirts before, and liked them. We always need something new to keep things interesting, but it's not necessary to go to extremes. Anyway, it's much easier to shorten your skirts than to lengthen them. I think it's fun to change."

Mrs. William Randolph Hearst Jr. (visiting friends at Bethany Beach, Del.): "I'll shorten my skirts within reason, but I don't believe short skirts are becoming to most women. I'll wait to see what Charles James (New York custom designer) has to say about it all before I do anything."

Mme. Henri Bonnet (in Paris): "My prediction is that within six months everyone will be wearing shorter skirts. I found Dior's clothes very beautiful and I think this has been ignored in the future over the shorter skirts. You know sometimes we wear skirts a little shorter, the times change and we

wear them longer. Every woman wears what's becoming to her, but I think the Dior trend will catch on."

Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower said that she is not contemplating any change in her skirt length at present. She now wears her skirts at mid-calf length.

Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, who with Mrs. Eisenhower was an added starter on this year's best-dressed list, said in Washington:

"I am too busy to think about raising or lowering my hemline. My hemline will remain in status quo so long as I'm in government."

Mrs. William Paley, of New York (reached on the French Riviera): "I haven't seen the Paris collections yet, so I cannot say." The Duchess of Kent's private

secretary told reporters: "even if the duchess had views on skirts she would not express them." Countess Rudolfo Crespi, of Rome, was vacationing at a remote mountain resort in Brazil and could not be reached for comment. Mrs. Byron Foy, of New York, also was unavailable.

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