

Sen. and Mrs.
Lyndon B. Johnson



WITH THE ELECTION of either Henry Cabot Lodge or Lyndon Baines Johnson as Vice President of the United States, the country's Second Lady, as I discovered by visiting recently with each of the "candidates," will be a woman of charm, elegance, intelligence, of what used to be called "breeding," and of an earnest dedication to her husband's cause.

What more important role could one have than to be, as Emily Lodge has been, the wife and confidante of America's permanent representative to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, the Chairman of the U. S. delegation to the 11th General Assembly, U. S. representative in the Security Council, and a member of President Eisenhower's cabinet? Only perhaps to be the wife, confidante, and active working partner, as Lady Bird Johnson has been, of Lyndon B. Johnson, the hard-hitting, dynamic, indefatigable majority leader of the U. S. Senate, whose power on occasion has been described as second only to that of the President.

Their early influences ill-equipped Lady Bird Johnson and Emily Lodge for the strenuous demands of public life. Mrs. Lodge had been reared in the Brahmin tradition of keeping one's own counsel. And Mrs. Johnson, when her mother died not long before her sixth birthday, lived the lonely life of a country child brought up by her mother's intellectual but unworlly maiden sister.

"Aunt Effie," Lady Bird told me, "opened my mind to books and my spirit to beauty, but she neglected to give me any insight into the practical matters a girl should know about. Something even as simple as how to match colors was outside my ken. And so, except for visits to my kinfolk in Alabama, where I swam with my cousins or had parties, I had no outside relationships."

Both Emily Sears and Lady Bird Taylor somehow broke through the cocoon. At 18, Emily Sears met Henry Cabot Lodge at a dance. "I thought

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

What Kind of Second Lady Would

Cabot looked pretty good," she told me. "We were married two years later. He was then a Washington correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune*, and being the wife of a newspaperman was my coming of age."

The thawing of Lady Bird Taylor's reserve began when she was 17 and became friends with Mrs. Gene Lassater of Henderson, Tex., who arranged for her to meet some friends and advised her how to dress. Above all, as Lady Bird puts it, "She made me feel important for the first time."

Upon her graduation from the University of Texas, Lady Bird's father gave her a present of a trip to New York and Washington. Before she left Texas, Mrs. Lassater gave her a glowing description of the young secretary of Congressman Richard M. Kleberg of Texas and suggested that she look him up while she was in Washington. Lady Bird was too absorbed by the excitement of seeing new places to bother about the Congressman's secretary—a man named Lyndon B. Johnson.

Two months later, however, the young secretary was himself visiting in Texas where, at Mrs. Lassater's, he met Lady Bird by accident. That night she and a group of friends joined him at a party. The next day Lady Bird met him again. A few weeks later, after a whirlwind courtship

which was disapproved by both his parents and her Aunt Effie, Lyndon Johnson and Lady Bird Taylor were married.

"Though we have lived happily ever after," she told me, "I admit I married him with a great deal of apprehension!"

They're More Dynamic in Person

Both "candidates" for Second Lady seem more attractive, more vivacious face-to-face than they do on television or in photographs. Behind Emily Lodge's dignified demeanor, one detects a tomboy, pixie quality, a tremendous zest for living that makes her seem girlish in her 50s. In clothes, tastes, and hairdress, the accent is on casualness.

"In winter," Mrs. Lodge says, "I prefer sweaters and skirts or casual straight dresses to anything else. Blacks, reds, pale pinks are my favorite colors. I like going without a hat. And jewelry doesn't mean much to me. It's a bother to put on. Flowers in the house, which are much more tempting than jewels, are my luxury."

Lady Bird Johnson, 48, petite, and a Southern charmer with chiseled features, gives the impression of being a woman of purpose. And, along with purpose, there is the magic of color—the spell she creates by choosing bright colors—Chinese reds,