

Woman's Boredom With Household Chores One Of Toughest Problems Facing Husband

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The other evening a magazine editor named Robert Stein told the General Federation of Women's Clubs here that housewives lead more exciting lives than their husbands do.

"She is playing a direct and indispensable part in shaping her children's lives," he said, "while he is involved in meaningless work in order to feed and clothe them."

They say Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was a flop at the time of delivery, and it may be that sometime in the next century Stein will be saluted as an immortal operator who uttered an enduring truth. But right now he is in the soup so far as the overwhelming number of American women are concerned. And experts are almost unanimous in the opinion that a woman's boredom with household chores is one of the toughest problems facing the American husband.

Bored women who seek psychiatric help come up with these complaints:

—The husband's job is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., five days a week.

—The wife's job is likely to be 7:30 a.m., until the dinner dishes are washed. Seven days a week.

—The husband can look forward to retirement at age 65. The wife never retires because the meals must be cooked and the beds made regardless of whether they are living in a vine covered cottage in California or Florida.

—In infancy the children are almost exclusively the responsibility of the wife. What Stein calls a "direct and indispensable part in shaping her children's lives" also means endlessly changing diapers and preparing baby food.

—A woman's work is made up of many small chores and sometimes it is difficult to fit them into a schedule or time table. (She can't iron the clothes until they dry.)

Privileged Status
The American husband occupies a somewhat privileged status in the eyes of students of matrimony. They assume in most cases that it is the wife who must put forth time, thought and extra effort to keep things running smoothly at home.

"From the time the female child is born," writes Dr. Virgil G. Damon, "she is stronger and has a better chance for sur-

vival than the male. She is tougher, braver, more patient, more willing to sacrifice herself for the family. It takes a lot of work to make a good marriage, and husbands are sometimes too busy carving out a career."

In addition to cleaning the house, buying the food, cooking the meals and washing the dishes, the American housewife is urged to take on some of the qualities of a first-class diplomat and the dazzling blonde hostess in a cocktail lounge. She is urged to "fib gracefully when your opinion is asked about a minor matter; say something nice if you possibly can." She also should "take 20 minutes just before he comes home to put on make-up, brush your hair and change clothes, if only to put on a clean blouse."

Common Complaint
The monotony of housework is such a common complaint that the American Institute of Family Relations has a special course for bored housewives called "Less work, more fun, for houseworkers." Some advice: It is quicker to stack dishes on your right side and move them to the left side. Alternate standing up and sitting on a stool when in the kitchen. Don't waste time trying to decide whether to have string beans or peas; flip a coin.

Make a diagram of the necessary steps in baking muffins and save waste motion. Sit down every Sunday and plan the work for each day of the coming week. Keep on good terms with your neighbors; encourage all members of the family to take part in community activities, and try to maintain the reputation of being a mighty fine family.

No matter what job a man holds there is an element of competition. Either he is trying to sell more groceries than his rival down the street or he is trying to edge out another man for a better job. There is not that much zest in keeping house and, in fact, the toughest competitor the housewife has is the clock. If she is going to do everything the marriage counselors advise her to do, she is likely to find herself in a rat race. The clock is a tyrant, cracking a whip over her from morning till night and silently ordering her to drop what she is doing because it is time for the children's lunch.

Unkind Comments
American literature and folklore have been unkind to women. "A bad woman raises hell

with a good many men while a good woman raises hell with only one," wrote E. W. Howe in an acid commentary on matrimony. Jiggs is the sympathetic character in an enduring comic strip, and his wife, Maggie, the villainess. Ancient joke: Husband—I feel as though I were going to have appendicitis. Wife—Well, you'll just have to wait; I need a new hat.

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Jittery Germans Not Convinced American Troops Will Remain

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
Notes from the foreign news cables:

Too Good:
Mechanically, Operation "Big Lift," the job of flying a complete U.S. division to Germany in little more than 60 hours, was a total success. But in Bonn they are saying it may prove a long-term political embarrassment. Despite U.S. assurances, jittery West Germans are not convinced that the massive airlift was not a forerunner to reduction of U.S. forces in Europe. Pressures now may begin building on new Chancellor Ludwig Erhard to start being nicer to President Charles de Gaulle.

Closer and Closer:
Expect Britain to move even closer to the United States under the new leadership of Sir Alexander Douglas-Home. The new prime minister, even more than Harold Macmillan, has been a staunch supporter of an Atlantic policy in firm alignment with the United States. Douglas-Home has been the driving force behind Britain's decision to join the United States in talks with other allies on the possible creation of a multi-nation nuclear naval force. He held out against strong opposition in the cabinet when he was the foreign minister in Macmillan's set up.

Closer with France, Too:
Despite the decision to retain close ties to the United States, a marked improvement in relations between France and Britain may also be in the offing. The meeting at the Hague last Thursday between French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville and Britain's new foreign secretary, R. A. Butler, may mark a fresh start after nine months of deep freeze that followed De Gaulle's blackball of Britain for Common Market membership.

Austerity:
The French government is bracing for a troublesome round of strikes this fall, particularly in nationalized industries such as the rails, and gas and electricity. But De Gaulle, Premier Georges Pompidou and Finance Minister Valery Giscard d'Estaing reportedly feel time and public opinion will be on the government's side in defending its save-the-franc austerity program, including a temporary wage freeze.

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