The Women's Place in Politics As Viewed by Forty Campus Men and Women

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The Women's Place in Politics
As Viewed by Forty
Campus Men and Women
By Dorothy Fedderson

In interviewing 40 campus men and women, we find those who quizically raise their eyebrows upon women in politics. Then there are others who believe that the expression—"God created all men equal . . . to most women" could be made to apply to politics.

"Well, generally speaking," Howard Chase, organist, mused when approached on the subject, "Women er . . . are generally speaking." (Yes, we know we talk a lot.) On this point Francis Byrnes says, "It has been wholly disgusting to me to see and read about some of the women politicians of the past four years, who have raved and ranted about things entirely beyond their conception."

When a woman steps upon a soapbox, figuratively speaking, Clare Robinson, I. S. Sr., thinks it's time to turn thumbs down. "Politics in the shape they are today," she observes, "is no place for women, although they may have just as much ability as men."

William Jensen, managing editor of the Student, leaning thoughtfully back in his editorial chair, agrees that women have ability in politics, but considers the bias against women because of the position she has held in the past. "I just doubt," he decides, "if women would make good as really important statesmen, because being women they would have to fight the bias against them. However, they should take an active interest in politics. Everyone should know more about how our country is run. There have been outstanding women in state politics." Margaret Sheridan also justifies women's place in state politics by calling attention to Mrs. Alex Miller. Mrs. Miller is known all over the country for her organization of the highway police of Iowa.

"Beyond participation in the state legislature and congress," Margaret White, H. Mgt., grad., states emphatically, "I am not in favor of women politicians. Certainly many women have not accomplished much in the way of informing themselves about politics." And Ida Ruth Yonkin, H. Ec. Sr., puzzles over those women who often take pride in their ignorance of politics.

Robert Thompson, Chem. E. Sr., has very definite reasons for believing that there should be more women in actual political jobs. "Because women are concerned with home life and all that goes with it, they will do their best to preserve it. Reliable authorities say that women buy at least 65 percent of all goods sold. Why not let them buy the same proportion of cannons and armaments for this country? Then, I'm sure that peace among nations would be everlasting.

"Women are the most astute shoppers, for rarely even a bug in the lettuce gets by them. With our government squandering money as it is today, I believe that a few good bargain hunters, I refer to women, would be a great advantage in balancing the budget."

Quite frankly Walter Barlow, Gen. Sci. So., admits that women are perfectly privileged to enter politics. "But," he concludes, "it doesn't look right to me, when I see a woman playing politics."

Here Robert Tennant, I. S. Sr., disagrees. "No if women are capable, I see no reason why they should not be in office." Garner McNaught, I. S. Jr., mentions Agnes Samuelson, head of the State Education Department, or Frances Perkins as women who surely deserve to be in office. "Men and women," Garner estimates, "are about equally informed on politics. I'll bet the average man can't name two or three planks of the major political parties."

Robert Bliss also comments that in general women do not seem to be so well informed on current issues. Since one-half of the total number of voters are women, he believes they should take a more active interest in politics.

Nearly all of the students interviewed are in favor of the League of Women Voters, as a non-partisan organization to increase the interest of women in politics. Doris Dechert, Diet. Sr., president, is enthusiastically working to increase the membership of the local chapter.

"A League of Women Voters should be started in every town," suggests Win Hansen T. Jl. Spe., and attendance should be made compulsory. It would be a good idea for men also to have a voters' league."

Welch Richardson, Ag. Jl. Sr., alias Roscoe, alias Reggie, etc., thinks that the League of Women Voters is unnecessary, because political understanding should be a personal problem and not something to acquire from a group. Also the work of such a club falls on a few interested members, and the others are likely to be just hangers on.

"If a man and a woman who were exactly equal in ability were running for the same office," remarks Wallace Inman, Ag. Jl. Jr., "I would vote for the woman, because I believe that she would give more of herself to the job. Women do a lot of political work for which they get no credit. There are secretaries who write important speeches, women who work on civic projects, and women who influence prominent politicians in their work."