

## ATOMS & MOLECULES

### GLOBETROTTERS

Please save any white elephants or overseas treasures you are not using for the Globetrotter Booth at the National Cathedral Flower Mart the first Friday in May. Are you going overseas before April? Consider bringing back an item or two to contribute.

Mrs. Norman Redden (966-8858) and Mrs. Owen Roberts (966-1715) are Co-Chairpersons this year and they are looking for a good fortune teller as well.

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Mrs. James K. Penfield, AAFSW Past President 1969-70, attended the January meeting. In town for a brief visit, the Penfields have retired to Seattle, Washington, where they have built a "small house with a guest house". Mrs. Penfield says it is easy for friends to visit either going to or from San Francisco, which city seems to attract more Foreign Service visitors than Seattle, to her sorrow. She is currently writing a book for young people about Iceland, where her husband served as Ambassador.

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Past President 1966-67 Mrs. Randolph A. Kidder wrote from France, where she is now living, for reservations to attend the February meeting. Afterwards she was brought up to date on AAFSW changes during a luncheon at the Foreign Service Club attended by current President Mrs. Elbert G. Mathews, Mrs. James M. Byrne, President for AAFSW's first two years 1961-63, Mrs. Olcott H. Deming, Past President 1964, and Mrs. G. Lewis Jones, Past President 1967-69, all of whom live in the Washington Area.

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### CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF.

AAFSW, which has a reputation as one of the most exciting women's organizations in Washington, is active in a wealth of timely projects and needs continued active and informed leadership. Please send immediately to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Martha Caldwell (Mrs. Robert W.) 40007 Wexford Drive, Kensington, Md. 20795, the names of those (including yourself!) who should be considered for membership on AAFSW's Board for 1972-3.

## BILL OF RIGHTS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE WIVES

-Summary by Sue Parsons

The wife of a Foreign Service Officer is henceforth to be clearly recognized as a private person, not a Government employee, and her participation in the work of a post understood to be purely voluntary, not an obligation. The Foreign Service can only require that she comport herself in a manner which will not reflect discredit on the U.S. These statements were the outgrowth of several months of discussion and study by the Open Forum Panel, working in conjunction with State Department management. They were published as a Department Notice January 21, 1972 directed to all employees of State, AID and USIA.

Ever since the emergence of the controversial MRP#20 last June, the Secretary's Open Forum (see *Newsletter* of November 1971) has been engaged in the drafting of a realistic policy regarding the role of wives overseas. Just as recognition of a woman's right to be treated as an individual is increasing at home and a role more than that of wife and mother is now possible, so changing attitudes must be reflected in any viable and effective Foreign Service.

Many wives felt a need to express belief in the **voluntary** nature of wives' participation in the work of a post. As a corollary to this, some urged that the time had come to break the "chain of fear" that has sometimes led wives to engage in certain activities solely because they were afraid that to do otherwise would adversely affect their husbands' careers. An affirmation that wives' activities or lack thereof, are no longer to be included in husbands' evaluation reports is intended to alleviate tensions.

The new policy also makes it clear that no wife has "authority over, or responsibility for, the wives of other employees." What a wife does overseas is to be determined by the wife herself, not by the Government nor by any other officer or his wife.

Lest some fears be raised that the new policy will undermine that traditional strength of the Foreign Service, husband and wife teams and wives' participation in the representational activities of a post, it should be emphasized that a primary aim of the Open Forum was to enhance, not to weaken, this strength. By making wives' participation truly voluntary, the Open Forum feels that the Foreign Service can only gain.

Changes will probably occur. Not all wives will participate in a given activity or a given charity. "The U.S. Government has no right to insist that a wife assume official representational burdens. Each wife must decide the extent to which she wants to participate as a partner in this aspect of her husband's job." But wives will probably continue to engage voluntarily in an ever-widening variety of activities useful to the Foreign Service and to the U. S. Government whether through entertaining, teaching, study, specific creative and artistic or family pursuits. Many will doubtless continue to follow a traditional approach. A wife is free to follow her own interests subject "to the laws and regulations of the host country and the U. S. Government."

It should be made clear that the aim of the Open Forum was not to set forth a series of past abuses, nor to attack past practices which have always varied widely. Rather, the goal has been to come to grips with changes which are occurring in the U. S. with regard to the role of women, and to reconcile such changes with State Department policy. By gaining the voluntary and sincere cooperation of a wife in an activity she herself has chosen, all will benefit and the success and effectiveness of the Foreign Service will have new impetus.

(*Newsweek*, the *N. Y. Times* and the *Washington Post* were among the publications quoting the Notice. Their correspondents' comments were generally restrained and fair and restricted to a single notice.)

### 100th FS CLASS

Twenty-six men and women from all areas of the U. S. were sworn in November 16th as the 100th class of Junior Foreign Service Officers, joining the roster of nearly 3500 officers from the Department and USIA who have participated in the Junior Officer Program since its establishment in 1955.

On January 26th, Mary Lou (Mrs. George) Donely invited to her home for welcoming coffee the new junior wives. Of those in town, six came. They are listed here with their assignments.

Mrs. George P. Fourier - Tehran  
Mrs. James Bell, Jr. - Washington  
Mrs. Alan Hegburg - Washington  
Mrs. John E. Hope - Ecuador  
Mrs. Michael A. Naylor - Israel  
Mrs. Eugene C. Zajac - Turkey