

Is There Room in Politics for a Strictly Feminist Party?

Inquiry Among Women Leaders Fails to Disclose Unanimous Opinion on the Subject

NOW that women have attained the ballot, is there still a place for the exclusively feminine political organization?

The question is one that is agitating the women of America at present. Already much a matter of discussion, it was brought into front-page prominence by Governor Miller's recent speech before the League of Women Voters, and it was one of the main topics of discussion in the recent convention of the National Woman's party in Washington.

It seems to me perfectly legitimate for women, by the power of their votes, to force these reforms into the parties. If this sort of action is not taken by groups of women and of men also the two great parties will have nothing to offer that can appeal to the imagination of the patriotic citizen.

By Ida Clyde Clarke
Contributing Editor of Pictorial Review

There never has been in the world's history such need of women's organizations as there is to-day. Through organization women have fought their way to political freedom, and only through organization will they be able to become articulate in national and international affairs. A million women seeing straight, thinking clearly and possessing the courage of their convictions will constitute a tremendous force, but their power will be multiplied many times if they speak with one voice.

Men have been doing the world's housekeeping, hiring the servants, spending the income, making the bills and paying them—or promising to pay them. They have failed utterly in their job. The administration of men, from the Garden of Eden to the present day, has been inefficient, wasteful and ineffectual. The world is living beyond its means, is heavily in debt and is facing economic disaster and financial ruin.

Now, the women feel that they can do better than men have done. At least, they can do no worse. World housekeeping is no more a job for men alone than home housekeeping is a job for women alone.

Both should be on a cooperative basis. The Garden of Eden was the first home established on earth. We are distinctly told in the second chapter of the Book of Genesis that God put man into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. Why he turned over his homekeeping job to Eve and sought the larger field for his labors the record fails to state.

We need organization as a powerhouse where we can generate and store energy and from which currents may be sent out in chosen directions. We need organization to record and to repeat our opinions, our principles and our creed, as a phonograph conveys the golden tones of the singer to millions whom the human voice has not the power to reach.

We need organization, if for nothing else, to state and restate the things which we believe, and to sustain us, as individuals, in the faith that is ours. Since the armistice I have had the privilege of studying conditions affecting women in twenty foreign countries (South America and Europe) and my conviction is that should the organizations of American women relax in the slightest degree their influence on the public mind which they have exerted through their efficient and effective organizations it would be a calamity, not only to the women of the world, but an impediment to the progress of civilization.

By Bessie Beatty
Editor of McCall's Magazine

GROUP consciousness usually arises from group suppression. When women find themselves at disadvantage in the struggle for livelihood, human rights and general self-expression they band themselves as a matter of mutual protection

into organizations. As the various prohibitions against them are abolished the necessity for group expression again disappears. I have been and am a feminist only because I believe that men and women alike—the whole human race—will benefit from a leveling of all barriers that keep women from any form of self-expression. Just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, society is only as sound as its weakest member. We don't want any weak members—male or female. I do not believe in the arbitrary use of the terms masculine and feminine, and I look forward to the passing of all discriminations against women as women, that they may join with men on a human platform which shall have for its program advancement of all individuals, regardless of sex.

I believe that eventually men and women will learn that their best interests lie in the same direction. Perhaps women are not at the moment sufficiently sophisticated about politics to relinquish their group strength. Certainly I do not think that they should allow themselves to be herded into parties without a searching study of the basic principles upon which these parties are founded.

By Mary Botsford Charlton
Managing Editor of The People's Home Journal

IT WAS away back in 1647 that Mistress Margaret Brent, of Maryland, made her demand for two votes in the Colonial Legislature, precipitating a hot debate which lasted for two hours, according to the chronicle. But she did not get her votes. It has taken nearly three centuries to wrest from reluctant legislators what Mistress Brent asked for, "a place and a voice" for women at the polls. But in spite of the justice of the demand, in spite of the powerful "driving force of a

pressing engagement for soon after lunch. When Mr. Jones arrived I wheeled him into the dining room and ordered lunch. Unquestionably he was impressed by my way of living, and I am sure I was able to add a couple of thousand to my yearly salary because of my reception of him. What a difference from the day before, when I sat in the park! Imagine my trying to meet a prospective employer at a certain park bench! The upshot of it was that,



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WOMEN'S organizations should not disband, says Marguerite Wilkinson

THE women's organizations should not disband. An individual may be as helpless alone as a single block of stone by the roadside, but an organization can be as useful as a building made of many blocks. Into it people put their effort, their dreams, their lives. It becomes a storehouse of power for honorable service. So long as it continues to be that and so long as it is needed it should not be destroyed. It should be used. We do not destroy a building when one tenant moves out, for we know that it will be needed by somebody else. Similarly, the women's organizations should not be destroyed, even though the suffrage has been won, while they are much needed to make women's influence effective politically and socially. They can do much to make it effective not only for the good of women, but for the good of men also, not only for the good of America, but for the good of mankind.

By Mrs. Henry R. Elliot
Editor of Woman's Work

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By Alice Booth
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I think that when the political parties really receive women into their councils, then, and then only, should women discontinue their own councils, which have borne such rich fruit.

By Elizabeth O. Toombs
Assistant Editor of Harper's Bazar

A WOMAN'S party immediately raises the question of sex, and to my mind, there is no sex in politics. The duty of the American woman, as I see it, is to enter one or the other of our political parties and work from within the organization. Only in this way will she become a power, individually and collectively. The dead wood, physical, spiritual and mental, that today clutters up both of our major parties can only be cut away by members, both men and women, of the party organizations boring or attacking from within. The process may seem slow, but if the American woman puts the same cooperative force back of her political contacts that she uses in her club work, our political future will be happier than our past.

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I BELIEVE the fact that suffrage has been gained through organization is the answer to the question whether women should work through organization or not. They have proved that they can organize, can maintain their organization, even through trying periods, and can gain the object for which they organized.

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Practically every country, however, has an organization of women—and in some instances of men and women—established to work for good legislation. In working inside a party, and inside such a legislative organization I believe that the voters can give the best service.

By Mrs. Douglas Robinson

MY WHOLE belief in connection with all women movements is that they should, politically, merge with the men movements as much as possible. It seems to me that the time has passed for any political line of cleavage between man and woman. We are all citizens, we all now have equal rights of suffrage, and the important thing is to work for the benefit of our country.

By Mrs. Frederick C. Hodgdon
President of the Women's Municipal League of New York

THE very fact that the Woman's Municipal League has been working as an organization for more than a quarter of a century proves that its members feel that more can be accomplished through organized effort than by individual action. The purpose of the league is to promote among women an intelligent interest in municipal affairs and to aid in securing permanent good government for the City of New York without regard to party or sectional lines. This, we feel, sums up the purpose of our organization and its permanent value to the community.

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The Man Who Sold Himself

GETTING a position in New York suitable to one's taste is altogether a question of mine, for instance. Four months ago I was sitting on a Central Park bench, friendless, hungry, absolutely penniless. I was tempted to take a job as a waiter for the assurance of having something to eat. Then a happy stroke struck me.

I sat in the office of a Broad Street investment firm. As he spoke he pulled open a drawer in his mahogany desk and, leaning back in his chair, passed out a box of cigars. "Have a smoke," he said. "Yes, please," I said to the clerk. "And, if you don't mind, I'd like it high up away from the noise." "A nice, pleasant room on the eleventh floor at \$6 a day," said the clerk, assigning me to a room. I left my trunk check and asked to have it sent for. A moment later I was being wafted to the eleventh floor by No. 29 bellboy in a blue uniform with gold braid. When I got into the room, which provided a panoramic view of Fifth Avenue, I told the boy I wanted my shoes shined, my clothes pressed and my laundry taken down. "And be particular about them, won't you, No. 29?" I admonished.

"As No. 29 was going out I fumbled around in my pocket as if fishing change. 'Lemme see,' I said, 'I wanted to give you a dollar, but I find I've got nothing smaller than a \$100 bill. I'll fix it with you later.' No. 29 seemed immensely pleased with his prospects, and intimated that he would give good service to such a generous patron.

"Now for a good meal. I went into the dining room and for the first time since arriving in New York indulged myself. It was substantial, nothing extravagant. When I finished I O.K.'d the check and added a dollar to be paid by the cashier as a tip to the waiter. Then I went back to my room and, my trunk having arrived, donned a change of clothes, and ordered up from the newsstand all that day's newspapers. "Ah, this was much better than sitting in Central Park! The prospect looked much better from the window of a good hotel than from a park bench. Finding nothing in the papers in the way of jobs suitable

to me, I sat down at the fancy little writing table and drew up an advertisement for a position. I stipulated that I was a mining expert, experienced in selling stock and familiar with the physical conditions of all the mines in the West. I named my price and said if I didn't show within a month that I was worth twice as much I wouldn't accept a cent. Then, after declaring that I would deal only with the heads of concerns, I gave my name and the hotel telephone number. Oh, yes, I mustn't forget to mention that I limited the hours at which I could be reached from 10 o'clock to noon in the morning. This was to give the impression that I was a pretty busy man. I had the hotel stenographer make half a dozen copies of my advertisement and got the hotel clerk to send them to the various papers, charging the expense to my hotel account. Then, having laid out my campaign, and ordering up some fresh cigars, I spent the evening in my room reading a novel.

"Succeed or bust was my determination. I hadn't deceived anybody. I simply had drawn a little on my prospects. It was what every business does, and I had constituted myself a business proposition. Anyway, I went to sleep anticipating a good breakfast and confident that my telephone would jingle merrily before noon.

"Jingle it did, but not as merrily as I expected. I had no sooner breakfasted, signing my check as before, than I repaired to my room. Three inquiries came on the phone, but none of them was promising. Two asked me to invest money as incidental to a job, but to penniless me that was out of the question. I was giving up in despair when just before noon the phone jingled again. It was the manager of a mining investment firm in Broad Street. That I might have to go a long distance for an appointment worried me, for I did not have five cents carfare. I determined, if possible, to invite my prospective employer to lunch. As it happened, Mr. Jones, the manager, was coming uptown, and after a brief talk on the phone he said he would drop in at my hotel. I urged him to call on the ground that I had

a pressing engagement for soon after lunch. When Mr. Jones arrived I wheeled him into the dining room and ordered lunch. Unquestionably he was impressed by my way of living, and I am sure I was able to add a couple of thousand to my yearly salary because of my reception of him. What a difference from the day before, when I sat in the park! Imagine my trying to meet a prospective employer at a certain park bench! The upshot of it was that,