



WOMAN'S PART IN THIS ERA OF READJUSTMENT

As Carried Out by

Mrs. Herbert Hoover

To Be Cheery and Hopeful, to Provide Odd Jobs About the House for the Unemployed, to Buy Essential Things That Now Can Be Had So Cheaply—These Are a Few of the Important Things Every One Can Do to Tide Over Current Period of Depression.

BY CORINNE REID FRAZIER.

IS the problem of a business crisis entirely one of international finance and world economics? Is this crisis something for Government officials and business men alone to bother their heads about?

Or do the women and children share, too, in the responsibilities involved? Is there a definite part for them to play in the business or rehabilitation?

"What are the women of America—yes, and the girls and boys—doing about it?" asks Mrs. Herbert Hoover, wife of the President, repeatedly over the air and in direct appeals through the press. Are they recognizing and making the most of their opportunities to shoulder a fair share of the burden?

Mrs. Hoover not only asks but also suggests the answer. She points out a hundred little ways in which every woman can do her share without adding any unwieldy or unreasonable burden to her personal load—and not only every woman, but also every child.

To the women Mrs. Hoover has spoken directly and frankly. Her advice is simple: Take stock of the little things that need to be done about your home; things which might wait for another season, perhaps, but which give employment to some one who needs it more than you need the small sum involved—have those things done now.

Some new curtains, it may be, or repairs to the back porch steps. Count your pennies and see not how little you can have done but how much.

"At the White House," Mrs. Hoover cites as an illustration of her point, "the curtains at many of the windows were rather frayed last Fall. They were still serviceable and perhaps we could have made them last through the Winter, but I decided to have new curtains made, for I found that the man who takes the order for White House curtains was much in need of the contract. It seemed to me to be poor economy to save on White House curtains at the expense of employment for one of our own citizens."

THE First Lady believes, with many others who have made a study of the psychology as well as the economics involved in the present situation, that in the co-operation of everybody on little things lies not only a patriotic duty but also a potent force for ultimate recovery. If every woman in the country, for instance, who had it within her means to do so—and there are hundreds of thousands so situated—would order just one odd job done or would buy just that one thing she had resolved "to get along without during these hard times," the resultant impetus to business might of itself add sufficient force to the optimistic trend already at work to roll away the stone of business paralysis which has blocked the path to prosperity for many weary months.

As Mrs. Hoover pointed out to newspaper

women in New York in a discussion of the things women could do to help, even so simple a thing as the ordering of new curtains may have far-reaching results.

"Of course, I could have that done," says Mrs. Homemaker, eyeing the woodwork that needs repainting, the curtains that need replacing or steps that might be mended, "but, after all, what's one odd job more or less at a time like this? Hardly a drop in the bucket."

But when drops are falling into a bucket, have you ever noticed how quickly the pail is filled to overflowing?

THERE'S that papering that needs to be done. Well, let's do it now! First, we order the new paper, giving a contract to a local paper dealer—not much, perhaps, but enough profit in it to enable him to go home and tell his wife she can have that dress she wanted, or Johnny can have the new suit he needs for school. A sale in a local dry goods store—Circle No. 1.

The paperhanger comes, whistling over his work, happy in the knowledge of an unexpected job that means meat on his table this week for the first time in two months—Circle No. 2. The odd job keeps him busy for several days, and while he's at work a neighbor drops in who had been thinking of having several rooms in his house done over but kept putting it off. "That's a fine job your man is doing."

"Yes, we had thought of waiting until next year, but when we realized how much odd jobs are needed around this town just now we decided to take the plunge."

"Say, that's an idea. I haven't felt I could afford to give much to the unemployment fund right now, as things are pretty tight with us, but I can have my papering done and give a man a job."

"We'll be through with this man tomorrow." Another job for the paperhanger—the third circle on the water.

Martha, the paperhanger's wife, rejoices because now she can buy those new shoes for little Martha and Tommy. More business for the local shoe store, and this in turn leads to more work for the shoe factory. The circle widens. And so it goes. That's what your odd job can do. That is what the wife of the President meant when she said: "The curtains might have lasted one more season, but it would be poor economy—"

If you are a young girl or boy still in school, you may think that there is nothing you can do about the depression. It's very distressing and it has cut you out of a lot of nice things you were able to have and to do two or three years ago—and Mary Jones, next door, hasn't had a new dress for ages. But it's just one of those things. You might feel stirred by a desire to help while everybody seems to be talking about what must be done, but what is there for you to do?

Let Mrs. Hoover tell you. The First Lady is as close in spirit to the school girls and boys of America as any other adult, if not closer,



Mrs. Herbert Hoover points out that in many cases members of the family circle can do much to alleviate present conditions by assuming the proper mental attitude.

for she is herself an active adviser to the Girl Scouts and has a keen interest in all similar youth organizations, following their activities with close interest and unfailingly sympathetic understanding. You can be of real service to your own family and to less fortunate neighbors in little ways that no one but you could serve, she points out in a recent heart-to-heart talk with the boys and girls of the 4-H Clubs of the country. And through them she was speaking to every boy and girl in the land.

"This year is one of special opportunity for the consideration of problems of helpfulness," Mrs. Hoover declares. "For this year there are more people than usual in need of special care, more than usual in need of your care. There is something for each one of you to do in this emergency, a special achievement awaiting you."

"In plotting your individual achievement projects (in 4-H Club works) you decide on the problem you will attack, you make an all-round survey of it, you lay out a plan for your course of action, then you go to work to carry out that plan diligently, perseveringly, enthusiastically. And if new factors enter into its development, you may ingeniously readjust your whole plan to the new demands. In much the same way as you did with that 4-H project, you find yourself meeting other problems which come into your life now. And in such a way you meet your share of the responsibilities of this present year."

"You all have read or heard so much of these times of depression, when crops or prices have been bad and unemployment has existed in the industrial sections of our country, that most of you no doubt have already thought over such of its phases as have thus far affected your community; and many of you may have already seen ways in which you could help lighten the burdens for some."

THE problems immediately about you, the ways in which you can help, differ greatly according to the section of the country in which you live and to the factors affecting your own family.

"Indeed, some of us will find the greatest problem is the problem of our own family. Some of us are going to find actual need there, perhaps the greatest need to be seen anywhere in our neighborhood. To know how to do without cheerfully, how to decide wisely what must be done this year for the ultimate good and what can wait until next year, how best to help the other members bear their individual share of the family's hardships, how to help make a Winter's campaign for achievement instead of submitting to an aimless day-to-day worry—this, in our own families, will be the great problem many of us will have to face."

"We want to face it confidently, courageously."

"I remember vividly when I was a little girl there was among my playmates one Winter a group of normal, pleasant children from a nearby farm. A number of times a week we saw each other. The next Summer one of the adult members of my family learned from

their mother that, because of a series of catastrophes on their farm and to their family's financial resources, they had lived all Winter virtually on corn and milk, the two items they had produced abundantly on the farm that year. Of course, it made an admirable diet with the addition of a fair amount of cabbage, beets and turnips which they had stored, and with the very occasional addition of chicken and eggs and only a very little pork, all of which was home-grown and home-stored. It sounds very meager. But they had had a happy Winter. Father and mother had kept cheerful and had kept the children active. Incidentally, mother must have been a good cook. And the children had not grumbled. Can you see the difference to that family if the six or seven children from 7 years up had complained? Through conversations at school and by observing the others' lunches, they knew that all the other children of the neighborhood were having much more in the line of "goodies" than were they. And the other children all had at least some new dresses and suits instead of all made-over and altered and mended ones. I heard my family later discussing the so-called "morale" of those children and what its effect must have been in the family and in the neighborhood.

"That little memory has helped me to visualize how much the attitude of the children in the family is going to help or hamper many families in pulling through these next months. There is nothing much more discouraging than a moody, complaining child."

"And, of course, the picture of that very family I have just painted shows where children may be helpful to other families than their own."

"I THINK I have emphasized indirectly, here, the fact that in your daily friendliness you can be of very essential help to your less fortunate friends this year if you happen to be among the very many whose families have suffered little in diminished income."

"Of course there are other and far more practical ways that you can find to be of material assistance if there are families in your neighborhood who are approaching actual want. Your one-time calf may have reached the stage of being a milk cow this year and you may have a quart or more of milk every day to take to the family whose baby or old grandmother actually needs it. You may have apples or root vegetables which you have canned, which you can share with some one less well provided, and now we know better than we did years ago how vital milk and vegetables and fruit are in a limited diet."

"And I must leave with you a word to those who have no actual want in their communities. I know many such. Where the crops have been good, where banks and stores are doing their normal business, where the people were not led into disastrous speculation in recent years; where, in fact, if no one aids any one else, still every one will have more than

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