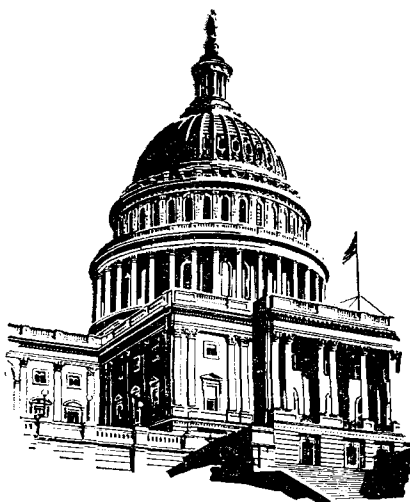


♦ 12 ♦ SENATE WIVES

By Irene Corbally Kuhn



THE MEASURE of a man's success in his career and a woman's success as a woman is never more accurately taken than in the national political arena and the Capitol's bear-pits. In Washington today are 12 Republican Senators whose success as public figures is due in no small degree to their wives. All these wives are women who have a clear, profound understanding of their real rôles in life as wives and helpmeets, and they have marshalled all their abundant personal gifts in order to fill those rôles. To a woman, they believe in the rightness of their husbands' personal and political convictions, and in old-fashioned concepts like duty to country and to conscience.

These are the loyal wives of a dozen controversial Senators who

would have found life much easier in all respects if they had just taken the "normal" way for women and stayed on the socially alkaline side. Instead, they've chosen to make their husbands' principles their own, to work and fight for those principles, and to brave the acid baths of innuendo and criticism, smear and suspicion.

This group of exceptional women are outstanding for their own accomplishments; but even more, for the way they've stood up to the tough job of being married to men who've been fighting the battles of a minority party through the long years of Democratic rule, and carrying on the fight for frequently unpopular or little-understood issues in these first years of hectic and divided Eisenhower Republicanism.

These are the wives of the men

whose work on investigating committees uncovered the terrifying Communist infiltration of virtually all branches of government and all phases of American life; who are linked to the bitterly-debated Bricker Amendment; the agonizing issues of peace or war over the Formosa question. These are the wives of Senators who are courageously questioning the leadership of the Administration, risking their own careers, making the deliberate choice against party for principle.

THE ROLL CALL of these 12, alphabetically, would put Harriet Bricker at the top; and then tick off the names of Marie Louise Butler, Doloris Bridges, Louella Dirksen, Peggy Goldwater, Janet Jenner, Helen Knowland, Jean McCarthy, Katy Malone, Mary Mundt, Marie Schoepfel and Gladys Welker.

All of them are good-looking, politically savvy, gracious and intelligent. One of them, the youngest Senate wife, Jean McCarthy, is a real beauty, and she has a sweetness and sincerity of character unmatched in Washington, and disputed by no one, not even her husband's bitterest enemies. Some of the women are singularly gifted. Helen Knowland is the author of a best-selling novel (*Madame Baltimore*); Mary Mundt and Doloris Bridges are popular and effective public speakers; Marie Schoepfel writes a regular column for a hometown newspaper in Kansas.

They are all, except the comparatively recent bride of Joe McCarthy, long-time marrieds. Only one, Doloris Bridges, is a second wife, and, although she has no children of her own, she has reared the three sons of the Senator from New Hampshire who was a widower when they met. All the rest, except the Mundts, the Schoepfels and the newly-wed McCarthys, have children and grandchildren. All of them, without exception, are gracious and accomplished hostesses; most of them do their own housework and cooking; most of them help out in the Senate offices when the work piles up.

Doloris Bridges and Mary Mundt are forceful personalities without being in the least unfeminine or personally and unpleasantly aggressive. Mrs. Bridges is an extremely pretty woman, slim, graceful, well-dressed, with long blonde hair worn in a big *chignon*. She has that exquisitely fresh-as-a-spring-morning look no matter what time you see her. She is clever, too; the kind of woman who can speak her mind and get away with it, even with men who are Styles Bridges' political opponents. In fact, she has been known to go to an opponent of the Senator and talk to him with such sincerity and intelligent conviction that she has won him over. The secret of this lies in her very real charm and in her tact and intelligence.

She is a big help to her husband in the way a wife should be. She

looks after his health and well-being. She is with him constantly, traveling all over the state of New Hampshire with him and representing him there when he cannot be in two places at once. Her gift for friendship was never more tellingly demonstrated than during the tumultuous Army-McCarthy hearings in the spring of 1954. She and Katy Malone, wife of Senator George Malone of Nevada, accompanied Jean McCarthy to every single hearing, morning and afternoon, for six weeks.

DOLORIS BRIDGES is a doctor's daughter. She comes from Scandinavian stock — her maiden name was Thauwald and her widowed mother still lives in St. Paul. She was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1935 and worked at Midway Hospital in St. Paul for three years. When she decided to go to Washington, she took Civil Service examinations and was appointed first to a job in the Internal Revenue Bureau. She was not sure she wanted to remain in Washington and so she never took long appointments. Yet the lure of the Capital was so strong she stayed on and in the course of six years she worked in almost every department of government — ten, all told, from Agriculture to State.

This unusually varied experience has been invaluable to Senator Bridges and time and time again, he has had recourse to his wife's good memory and specialized knowledge

when time was pressing and his paid assistants were not at hand. Before they were married she went to New Hampshire and oriented herself, met everyone, all the family connections and friends of the Senator, and his close constituents and political associates. She was asked to make her maiden speech at a college club in Manchester shortly after she married the Senator.

"I'd never done this but Styles urged me to accept the invitation," she said. "I thought about it for a while and I made up my mind if I was going to speak I'd talk about what my husband was doing. I did a lot of research and I wrote a 13-page, 45-minute speech. It went over very well and I've given hundreds since, but now I speak from notes — just a few are all I need now.

"Styles was not only willing but eager for me to do this kind of public speaking, and he put so much trust in me that I felt a real responsibility to check my facts and figures and be absolutely accurate. Styles never asks me what I'm going to say when I speak. Not many husbands, in public life especially, would give their wives this kind of leeway. He trusts me completely and because he does, I don't betray his trust."

Mary Mundt, who's been married to Karl Mundt, the Senator from South Dakota, for 31 years, is small, trim and good-looking, with a quiet voice that belies the strong personality behind it. The Mundts

have been 16 years in Washington, and Mary Mundt is one of the Capital's experts on Communism and the chilling history of its capture of the minds of so many Americans from the highest intellectual caliber to the lowest, ignorant emotional response, the whole gamut from Alger Hiss to Union Square hysteria.

Recently, in Topeka, at a statewide Kansas Day meeting of Republican women, she spoke as the guest of her friend, Marie Schoeppel, wife of the present Senator from Kansas. Mrs. Mundt explained the urgent, continuing need for Congressional investigations.

"I told them of the abuse we've had to take — and I used Karl and myself as examples — through the years, ever since Karl has been serving on Congressional investigating committees. It has been going on ever since Martin Dies' day. Dies was threatened, his family was threatened, you know; he was practically driven out of Congress. The vilification that is poured out on any man who heads an investigating committee into Communism is unbelievable. It doesn't happen if the investigation is of the stock market or a business firm, or a 'cartel' — only if it's into Communism in the United States.

"In our case, all during the Alger Hiss investigation in 1948 — and this is what I described to the Kansas women in detail — we had no police protection, although Communists picketed our apartment al-

most continuously, and we had threatening phone calls all night long."

MRS. MUNDT recalled the hostile atmosphere in which members of the Committee on Un-American Activities had to live during those days of revelation of Communist infiltration of high government office when Hiss was presumed to be the victim of the neurotic revenge of ex-Communist Whittaker Chambers.

"When we went out for a purely social afternoon or evening we'd be completely ignored. We'd walk up to a group of people we'd always known — and they'd just evaporate. I used to get telephone calls from society women in Washington asking me to try to induce my husband to drop the Alger Hiss investigation. The night telephone calls were the worst. People would ring and hang up when we answered. Karl's father was critically ill at the time and we didn't dare shut off the phone because the next call might be the one summoning us to his death bed. The calls went on and on, even after Karl's father passed away and we still had to keep the line open for family matters."

Karl and Mary Mundt were school teachers in South Dakota when they were married in 1924. They rebelled against John Dewey's teachings which they encountered in full flower at Columbia University when both went there in 1928 to get their master's degrees, he in

school administration, she in English. It was in that period and that atmosphere that she began to study Communist infiltration of American life.

But interested as she is in that subject, she is equally aware of the needs of her native state. Last summer, Budget Director Dodge cut out the appropriation for the Oahe Dam, near Pierre, South Dakota. The Truman budget had allocated an additional \$14,000,000 to finish the dam, but the Eisenhower budget chopped this out.

"The government had already spent \$20,000,000 on the dam," Mrs. Mundt said. "Either the dam was a good project and should be finished, or it should never have been started. It seemed to me if nearly two-thirds of the total cost had already been spent, it was foolish and wasteful to abandon the project, especially since only \$14,000,000 more was needed, a small sum comparatively for such public works.

"One night at a small dinner, Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, on my right, asked me how things were in South Dakota. Before I knew it, I was telling him about the dam and how the whole state was upset by the Budget Director's cut.

"I had no intention of asking Mr. Summerfield's help, but I had all the details and figures in my head, and I poured it all out. The Postmaster General listened to me

and he said he'd write a letter to Mr. Dodge. He did; and the appropriation for the Oahe Dam was restored."

LIKE Mary Mundt, Katy Malone is a Westerner with the vivid, honest directness and frankness of the West. The moderate-income Malones live in a hotel apartment in Washington and Katy does her own work most of the time. This doesn't diminish her bubbling, buoyant vivacious spirit. She is one of the best-looking women in Washington, with a trim, rounded, youthful figure despite her rôle of proud grandmother to the two beautiful children of her widowed daughter, Molly Malone O'Connor. Katy Malone has all the independent fearlessness of her Irish heritage and she is not one to sit by when something or someone is displeasing to her high moral standards and ethical code.

Another youthful-looking, handsome grandmother is Helen Knowland, wife of the California minority leader, William Fife Knowland, Senator Taft's choice to succeed him as Republican leader. The Knowlands grew up together in California and "went together" from the sixth grade, they are fond of saying.

The Knowlands married when they were 19. Now 46, they have three children and three grandchildren. Helen Knowland is one of the most interesting women in Senate circles, one of the most energetic and

indefatigable. During the war when her husband, not yet a Senator, was off with the Navy in the Pacific, she kept his political fences mended, taking an active part in California state politics. She also was active in the family newspaper, the Oakland, California *Tribune*, built upon the timber and mining fortunes of Senator Knowland's grandfather and published now by Knowland's father, Joseph R. Knowland.

Despite the fact that there is money in the Knowland family, Bill and Helen Knowland live modestly in Washington in a Massachusetts Avenue apartment which Helen Knowland keeps herself. She does her own marketing and housewifely chores, is an excellent mother and grandmother, a fine hostess who is well-liked and popular and somehow she has also found time for a writing career. Her first mystery novel was a success. She has finished a second and has another type of book in mind for her third. With all this, she is not one of those tense, do-or-die women. She takes life in her stride and enjoys it.

When Arizona sent department store tycoon and jet pilot Barry Goldwater to the Senate, Washington discovered a devoted and fun-loving family that was always good company. Barry and Peggy Goldwater have four children and they all live Western style in the Capital, dancing, riding, giving and going to parties. But the Arizona Senator takes his job seriously and so does

his wife; and although a comparative newcomer to the lawmakers' ranks, he is already making his influence felt.

Senator John Butler's wife, Marie Louise, comes from an old Baltimore family and has had to courageously accommodate herself to a new way of life since her husband defeated Millard Tydings for his Senate seat. Mrs. Butler is a quiet, reserved woman, concerned mainly with her family, living the old-fashioned private kind of life cherished by Baltimore aristocrats. She has a regal, but not aloof, air; and she has subjugated her own deep personal desires for a thoroughly private life in order to be of real assistance to her husband.

Janet Jenner, wife of William Jenner, the firebrand from Indiana, resembles Doloris Bridges in her blonde good looks and vivacity. She was born in Scotland, just outside Glasgow, and is a real homebody, devoted to their one son, a boy about ten. She seldom goes out to social events but is interested in and well-informed about everything her husband does. Their boy is a young go-getter, independent and enterprising, with his own newspaper which he puts out every two weeks and distributes around the neighborhood.

SENATOR Herman Welker's wife, Gladys, is probably one of the best loved Senate wives, immersed in her husband's interest, intense in

her feelings about Communism, American foreign policy and the welfare of their native state of Idaho.

Mrs. Everett Dirksen probably works in a more explicit way for her husband than any one of the other wives. She drives the Senate's top orator all over the state of Illinois when he's home on Senate business; and she helps out in the clerical work in his Washington office. She is active in Republican groups and is more inclined to listen than to talk — but when she speaks she is worth listening to.

Mrs. John Bricker, like her distinguished-looking husband, is handsome and charming. Devoted to her grandchildren, she is one of those women who give strength and support in a quiet feminine way. She plays the piano exceedingly well and at small gatherings of Senators and their wives often gets everybody relaxed with group singing. Her friendliness is real, not politically assumed. When the Bricker Amendment was being debated in 1954, and again this year, she took every long-distance call that came into the Senator's office and talked earnestly to the caller, explaining the Amendment.

Marie Schoepfel is a charmer who makes friends for the Senator from Kansas merely by smiling and saying, "Hello." Some women have the gift. Mrs. Schoepfel has it in abundance; and she is the best type of homespun, middle-Western American, pleasant and modest, the kind that wears well and stands up

to prosperity and success as well as to adversity. She has a keen intelligence and insight and writes regularly for Kansas newspapers. Everything interests her and when she writes, as when she speaks, it is with knowledge and quiet authority.

JEAN Kerr McCarthy, the beauty, wife of the most controversial Senator of them all, is not yet 30. The older Senate wives all surround her with a kind of protective affection which she has earned. "It is unusual for a girl as young as she is to take hold as she has," one of them told me. "She is utterly unspoiled and natural, an unusually fine girl. And she's clear-headed and sound."

"Jeanie's courage is remarkable," another friend told me. "She had those two nasty accidents — first a broken hip that would have put almost anyone out of the running for a year. That was when she was working for Senator McCarthy, just as paid help, not as his wife. But she went right on doing her job, getting around Senate corridors and hearing rooms on crutches; and she never complained or quit. And then that broken ankle she got when a drunken driver ran into her taxicab in New York. She took that like a Trojan, too. Mostly though, it's the way she's stood up under the pounding that Joe McCarthy's taken that endears her to us. Nobody works harder for Joe McCarthy than Jeanie McCarthy — and she's at her best when the chips are down."

Automation:~

BLESSING OR CURSE?

BY THEODORE GRANIK

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NBC Radio-TV programs, "The American Forum"
and "Youth Wants to Know"*

A "SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION" is transforming America. Automation, the harnessing of electronic brains to mechanical muscles, is completely altering the pattern of U. S. mass production. So fantastic are the possibilities for automatic-robot-factories that many people now visualize acres and acres of factory and office space filled with huge clattering machines but without a single worker, with the exception of maintenance personnel.

Already, automation — machines regulating machines — is being used to refine oil, make artillery shells, assemble TV sets, bake cakes, process chemicals, generate electric power, mail out insurance bills, put through transatlantic phone calls and build automobile engines.

The essence of the automation technique is the so-called "feedback" principle. The same idea is embodied in the thermostat which automatically regulates the heat in

your house. As soon as it receives an indication that the temperature in your home is reaching say 70 degrees, the thermostat may turn the furnace off; or it turns it on when the temperature falls below a critical point. This same self-correcting technique occurs in automation, except that instead of just one factor — temperature — dozens or hundreds of factors are controlled by the complex electronic brain. Once you give the brain its instructions through a punch-card or a recording tape, it will carry them out — regulating all sorts of small or great machines — with super-human precision.

Now, what does this Second Industrial Revolution actually signify? Already the air is filled with strong claims and counterclaims concerning the advantages and disadvantages of automation. Here is a summary of the principal arguments being used on both sides of the case, as compiled from leading protagonists.