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Among Women

Business - Like Business Meetings

By MARY LENNON SNYDER

President, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Perhaps it is the very high sounding procession of syllables with their connotation of considered debate and weighty problems that makes the term "Parliamentary Procedure" a bugaboo to so many. I have been told by able potential leaders that they could never accept a presiding office in any organization because they do not "understand parliamentary procedure."

Mrs. Snyder

Basically, parliamentary procedure is a set of rules laid down to maintain order and expedite business in deliberative assemblies. Over the years certain usages have become crystallized into a pattern and it is this basic set of rules which the average person means when he speaks of parliamentary procedure.

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CONSIDERING this from the viewpoint of an organization there are a few simple rules to follow. Any business which is to be considered must be presented to the club in the form of a motion. A member wishing to present a motion rises, addresses the presiding officer (referred in parliamentary rule books as the "chair") waits to be acknowledged by the chair and then presents the motion.

In large assemblies or where members do not know each other, the person, after addressing the chair, gives his name and identification; for example, at a deanery or diocesan meeting, she would rise and say, "Madam president." The president nods her head in acknowledgement if she does not know the speaker's name and the speaker says, Mrs. John Hayes, St. James Rosary Society, Rochester."

The speaker then presents the motion. She states it in the affirmative and with only one thought to a motion. It is customary to say, "I move that we etc., etc." The expression, "I make a motion" is not considered in good form. Another member wishing to support the motion says, "I second the motion." She does not have to address the chair or be recognized to offer a second. Then the question is said to be before the house.

Any members wishing to speak for or against the question may now do so by rising, being acknowledged by the chair, and then stating their arguments as succinctly as possible. After a reasonable amount of debate the presiding officer asks, "Are you ready for the question?" The members answer, "Question" and the presiding officer reads the motion and calls for a vote. If the motion is passed, she so declares it, if it is lost, she announces it lost.

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THE SECRETARY in her minutes must record the exact wording of the motion and the name of the person who offered it. It is not necessary to record the name of the person seconding the motion unless the by laws of the organization specifically call for it. All motions, carried or lost, must be recorded by the secretary. The reason for not having to write, "Seconded by Mary Jones" is obvious if the motion had not been seconded it would never have been brought to a vote.

Incidentally many authorities feel that the expression, "Respectfully submitted" at the end of the secretary's report should have departed the American scene simultaneously with the bustle. In the interest of streamlining it is being used less and less.

Many of the modern handbooks on parliamentary practice have a model meeting included to show just how a meeting should be conducted. If you are having doubts about your handling of meetings, I shall be glad to supply names and publishers of up to date parliamentary handbooks.

Missioners Now Technicians

New York — (RNS) — An increasing number of Protestant missionaries going to foreign fields are teachers and technicians rather than preachers or evangelists, according to a report released here by the Foreign Missions Conference of North America.

New Madonna

In this painting "Philippine Madonna," by Antonio Garcia Llamas, the Madonna is depicted in popular Filipino dress, holding the infant in the manner typical of the country. She is adorned with the classical "sampaguitas," necklace of tiny white flowers, symbol of delicacy and purity. (NC Photos)

Lawyer Urges UN Covenant To Regulate 'Divorce Mills'

Lake Success — (NC) — The United Nations has been asked to take action against international "divorce mills" by writing a world covenant to tighten regulations for obtaining divorces in foreign lands.

Delegates to the United Nations Social Commission heard Dr. James W. Ryan of the International Law Association complain that some countries were granting divorces as a kind of "local commerce subsidiary to the country's tourist and trading business."

Dr Ryan said the proposed convention was the result of 20 years of study by jurists and legal scholars throughout the world.

"THE MATTER is of especial importance to children whose parents are recognized in one country as divorced and in another country as not divorced," he declared. "Under the present condition of inconsistency with makeshift rules being applied, the children involved are often used as pawns."

The convention would not encroach on the rights of nations to decide the grounds for divorce or to refuse to grant divorce at all on religious grounds. Dr Ryan pointed out. It merely would establish rules for judging the validity of divorces granted by foreign courts.

Youth Parade

The Gripes That Bloom in Spring

By MARY SULLIVAN

If Dale Carnegie can publish a best selling handbook on how to win friends and influence people certainly we ought to be able to corral the potentialities of this column into a brief lesson on "How Not to Crack Up when Spring and the Weight of School Work Invite You To."

Mary Sullivan

It's true isn't it as soon as spring springs and the first crocus croaks, we all get the urge to throw aside the reins and run away from everything that has anything to do with work or restraint. We're fed up with every little thing. People get on our nerves and school becomes a drudgery. Everyone even the most straight laced of us, at some time or other feels a strong temptation to succumb to this violent form of spring fever and let everything go to the dogs.

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THE SYMPTOMS of our malady are almost like those of the measles. We're hot under the collar and sometimes the heat creeps up to our tongues from which come snappy mean words for people who only meant to be helpful. Our faces aren't speckled but they might just as well be for the ghastly frowns we wear.

As far as the chances for contagion are concerned "blah" (which we have decided says everything where the process of cracking up is concerned) is just as contagious as measles ever was. As soon as one person starts moaning and complaining and blowing her stack, she sets a match to everyone else's temper and pretty soon the whole place is aglow—with trouble.

And when you have "blah" you're just as itchy as when you're tormented by the measles only more so. Petty little things that don't mean a row of pins scorch you to tears. Innocent remarks aggravate you no end. If only people would check out and leave you to your misery.

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BUT WE'VE spent enough time discussing the malady now let's get on to the remedy. The remedy, in simple English is food and sleep. And the dosage is lots. We can't skimp on breakfast and sleep all year long and then expect to run on sanctifying grace come spring. Not only is it unjust to our bodies, but it's not fair to the people who have to listen to our growls and take out insults.

When parties and fun are on, we don't put much emphasis on the value of sleep but it really is a tremendous cure-all. You know how much more chipper you feel on the morning after a good night's sleep. Well, think how terrific you could feel all day, everyday, if you'd just sleep off your gripes. And the same way with food; if we take time out to eat, we'll find it's much easier to laugh and be gay on a full stomach. Look at Lou Costello.

So you see, cracking up really isn't necessary. In fact, it's actually kind of silly and we'll laugh about it later. So hang on everybody, school's almost over and life really isn't so dismal after all. It just has to be faced with wide eyes and healthy bodies.

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Priest Publishes Alcoholism Pamphlet

Chicago — (NC) — Centering around the doctrine of St Thomas Aquinas concerning habits, a pamphlet entitled "The Way For Some Alcoholics" has been written by the Rev. Leo M Shea, O.P., of the Church of St. Pius here, where the widely known shrine of St. Dismas, the Good Thief, is located.

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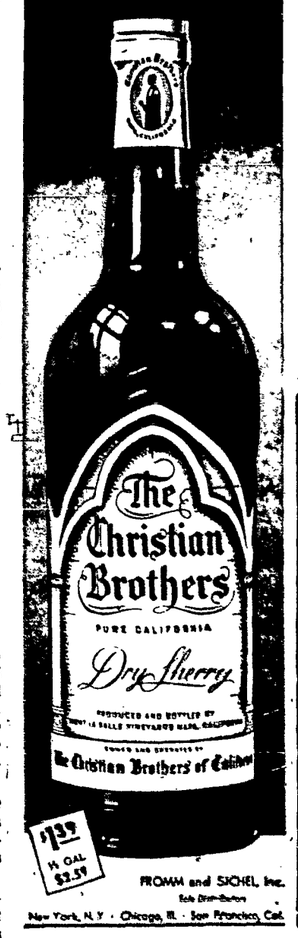

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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S

By MARY TINLEY DALY

Ever do publicity for your alumnae, your club, the parish dance? Or even live in the same house with somebody doing such publicity?

Mary Daly

If so, you'll understand the atmosphere of our house for the past few weeks, with Mama undertaking publicity for a lecture under sponsorship of our alumnae.

The vacuum cleaner and the sewing machine stood strangely silent while the typewriter clattered on and on about Clare Boothe Luce, well known author playwright and lecturer — why the phrase repeats itself fincon sciously!

• • •

IT ALL HAD seemed so simple at the beginning — then we decided to use posters — and posters don't post themselves. So Kitty Wilson and I accompanied by a patient 4 year old waiting in the car, went around planting posters.

"Waiting takes such a long time," Ginny sighed after the fourth wait outside a church. After that we took Ginny in with us. "It's fun fixing for the lecture," she said. "Let's go to another church."

And of course we did—for church vestibules were a natural, and pastors were graciously cooperative.

"Thank you very much," Kitty would say. "Yes, Father, we've brought our own thumbtacks. No tacks, you say? Certainly, Father. We've brought our own Scotch tape."

In church after church Kitty and I rearranged parish bulletin boards and Kitty's long arms got our posters into some excellent positions! Why she out reached sodality and mothers' club putter-uppers by inches so that the Clare Boothe Luce poster was the first thing that met the eye of most congregations.

Dinner table conversation at our house — as it undoubtedly was at the Wilson's and the Tamm's — was far from normal. "The lecture" crept in over and over, until the Head of the House interrupted to announce that he had no clean shirts. Guiltily I thought of the big basket of unironed clothes.

• • •

NEXT DAY "the lecture" was practically forgotten when a surprise came—a long-contemplated electric ironing machine! Could there be a hint in this gift? It was wonderful — but how do you use the thing?

"There's a demonstration every day at two," the Head of the House suggested subtly.

Promptly at two next day Ginny and I presented ourselves at the ironing demonstration—the most peaceful day of the past two weeks, watching someone else work. Nonchantly, the young lady ironed sheets and tablecloths, worked her way up to shorts and little girls' dresses and finally reached the climax: a man's shirt.

"This is the real test," she announced — and we all leaned forward to catch the nuances. Deftly she fed the shirt into the iron mouth before her. Why this looked like fun! With a flourish and a proud smile the young lady displayed a perfectly ironed shirt and we all applauded, inspired to go home and do likewise — or attempt to!

At dinner that evening, the Head of the House asked what we had done with our day. "Still getting the town plastered?" he inquired. "With posters, I mean," he hastened to explain.

No, indeed, we've turned domestic," I said. "Wet to the Electric Company and . . ."

"And we heard the lecture," Ginny broke in impressively. "And guess what, Daddy — Clare Boothe Luce showed us how to iron a shirt!"

Our Ironing Machine Interrupts a Lecture

Congress Hears Work of Sisters

Washington — (NC) — The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of St. Ann was called to the attention of the U. S. House of Representatives here in a tribute by Representative Philip J. Philbin of Massachusetts.

The legislator related that the motherhouse of the nuns is in Lachine, Canada, and the headquarters in the United States is in Marlboro, Mass.

"A nation is rich indeed," Representative Philbin said, "that shelters and protects within its borders groups like the zealous Sisters of St. Ann whose superb faith in God, whose unselfish labors for the poor, the weak and the fatherless, whose unceasing works of mercy, charity and love reflect an ever-present light of inspiration and hope to lift up and give heart and strength to despairing humanity."

Shakespearian Scholar

San Francisco — (NC) — Professor Hereward T. Price, noted Shakespearian scholar and author, has been appointed to the faculty of the English Department of the University of San Francisco, university officials announced. He formerly taught at the University of Michigan for 17 years.

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