

MADAME NGO DINH NHU DISCUSSES ELECTION WITH
MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

V.P. Aug 11 '59 (eve)

Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu answered criticisms about the National Assembly and discussed the role of women in the forthcoming election of the National Assembly before a large gathering of members of women's organizations including delegates from the Women Civil Servants' Organization and from various girls' schools at the City Hall this morning.

Reviewing "the most repeated, if not the most pertinent criticisms regarding the management and conduct of the National Assembly whose mandate has just expired" Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu asserted :

"All of the criticisms are, in general, based on a false conception of the constitutional role of the Legislative Power. The critics seem to believe that the function of the Legislative Branch is to throw roadblocks in the way of the Executive Branch.

They appear to forget that the power to control carries with it not only the right to criticize, but also the obligation to aid and abet the reasonable and constructive measures taken by the Executive Branch," she continued adding "This is simple common sense."

Referring to "those critics who relish the subject of the salaries of the Deputies as if it were a scandalous subject," Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu said that "these salaries were established to assure decent life to the representatives and to preserve their integrity before possible temptation."

As for the "chronic critic on a habitual target," that is, "those who do not often present worthy challenges to their colleagues on the floor of the Assembly," Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu suggested "perhaps the critics forget that the assembly is not a three-ring circus where each performer has a well-defined act and a spotlight under which he must shine."

She continued : "They would be wise to consider the Assembly as a united and unanimous corps and to judge on the basis of the accomplishments of the whole body."

Role of Women

Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu also devoted time to discussing the role of women in the present development of the country and especially in regard to the forthcoming election.

"I recognize, as do you all I am sure, that the first duty, the first preoccupation, the first concern of woman must be her home" she asserted, then added:

"Let us then be realistic enough to recognize once and for all this great truth: the place of woman is, before all else, in her home; But to confine herself there, seeing and doing nothing else in the outside world, is surely to risk losing all which she cherishes most. We must not forget that the home is like one's country, one's stronghold. The wish to defend it carries with it, above all, the obligation to vigilance.

"Let us begin by fully comprehending that the ballot, which we now have the right to cast is not a scrap of paper without a soul," she emphasized, adding: "It is especially with it, and thanks to it, that we are able to show what we are, to gain respect and even fear."

Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu concluded her address by advocating that Vietnamese women use their vote wisely. She then invited her audience to ask questions.

Several people voiced their approval of Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu's address and Mrs. Nguyen Van La submitted a motion inviting Vietnamese women to take part in the election of the second National Assembly. The resolution was unanimously endorsed.