

Forgotten Woman

Praise is due to President Kennedy's emphasis on the role of the American woman in today's space age. At the same time I cannot help feeling puzzled and uneasy.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk is at Geneva to discuss East-West tensions, with the arms race as "background music." There are competent men present at the conference table, experts in diplomacy and in technical sciences. But . . . there is no woman present, no mother to speak for her child, no specialist in human compassion to consider the children of the world. Why?

A noted anthropologist and mother, Dr. Margaret Mead, says: "Perhaps it is because so many of the battles fought by crusading women of the past appear to be won that we have so few crusaders now. Such a situation reflects dangerous ethnocentric complacency. The intrinsic cherishing role of women for children is needed now as never before. For now we cannot even protect our own children unless we find a way of protecting the children of the enemy also. If we do not, there will be no children to cherish." (Quotation from "Return of the Cave Woman," *Saturday Evening Post*, March 3.)

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