

Ladies, you have been thrust upon the horns of a dilemma by those who would project your image throughout the nation and the world. Your role has been limited to shrew or siren, either of whom upon marriage must become a saint. To fail to conform to the latter will automatically place you in the category of the former — and this is an unhappy and unjust and unreal place to be.

Yet while we may revel in the awkward poses in which the makers and perpetrators of image have cast you, we cannot deny that what people think of things, institutions and each other is often more pertinent to the affairs of men than truth itself. Our world is governed by feelings and ideas and seldom, if ever, by certain knowledge.

Let us explore this subject of image with particular attention to the image of our nation and that of the Republican Party.

Traditionally, the American people have been cast in the image of frontiersmen facing a natural adversary, but today we are individuals in search of ourselves in a world becoming inhumanly industrialized, organized and computerized.

It is not the underabundance of material affluence which challenges us but the complexities of coping with overabundance — great densities of population and enormous prosperity confuse and frighten us.

The bread and circuses of the Great Society, like those of the once-great Roman Republic, seem to drain the vigor from our spirit, making us appear lazy, timid, effete, dependent and even apathetic. The evidence mounts daily that it is not the historic inevitability of Communism which will defeat us but the philosophic disability of Democracy that could destroy us.

The hue and cry over America's direction in recent years has been heard from conservative critics in general and the Republican Party in particular. But the most outspoken and most eloquent voice of disapproval has been that from what we may call the Liberal Establishment. It is not Ronald Reagan but Arthur Schlesinger who sees an America become, in his words, "like one big company town with the bland leading the bland." He bemoans a society which has lost sight of itself, whose symptomatic drug is the tranquilizer and which marches into the brave new world under the banner of togetherness. "Conformity is the greater danger not when it is coerced but when it is sought," says Schlesinger, and he leaves no doubt as to the choice contemporary America has determined for itself. Where is the spontaneity our society once knew? he asks. Why must the bright child be sacrificed at the altar of mass education? Have the bold impre-