

I'm Just a Short-Order Cook

I feel now that I've missed my calling. I should be out working as a short-order cook at a diner with all the experience I've gained from "hashing" for this family.

Who else can take and prepare orders for hamburgers as rapidly as I can "Three without onions, four with, one with cheese, two hold the relish . . ." I must also remember who prefers them broiled or grilled as well as who takes mustard, catsup or both (yes, both).

I get as many as eight different "calls" at breakfast, too. Although this may mean nothing more than setting out seven different kinds of cereal and perhaps preparing the Blue Plate special, a cou-

ple of orders of eggs—or, as we say in the trade, cackle-fruit—with a stack of wheat, a side order of bacon and a cup of Java.

I must admit, however, that it doesn't make much difference how the eggs are ordered — sunny side up, easy-over or any other way—my creations seem to come out the same way, a form of semi-scrambled eggs which have a habit of sticking to the pan. So I don't think I'm Doggy Diner's answer to Julia Child and the Cordon Bleu cooking school.

What I've never been able to figure out is why children in the same family have such a wide variety of tastes. What

happens in the families that subsist on a diet of hominy grits? That's what I want to know.

Maybe we shouldn't feel sorry for the millions of Chinese who must live solely on rice, either. Although I'm willing to bet that my kids would find 18 different ways for me to fix it.

Thus, my problem is trying to satisfy the majority at each meal, without offering everybody a menu as long as the one at the Tour d'Argent.

About the only thing they can agree on is that they all dislike peas, green beans, broccoli, squash, asparagus, and

just about any other vegetable you can name except corn-on-the-cob, preferably out-of-season.

You'd think that they could agree on such a universal favorite as ice cream and enjoy all kinds, but here again, each one has a different choice. Sometimes we don't select a compromise flavor until the 37th ballot.

On the positive side, they all seem to rate market steaks high on the list. But let's see now, who wants it rare, medium, well-done and who would just as soon eat the pound of hot dogs I also bought, hoping somebody didn't like steak . . . ?

Jones Urges Support For Chamber Program

"This is a time of exceptional opportunity and unprecedented need" for business leaders to serve in public affairs, Bruce Jones, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, declared in urging support for the "Keep Pace With Opportunity Program" launched last week.

Jones called for business leaders and the entire citizenry "to act promptly and cooperate fully with the Chamber of Commerce in seeing that our efforts are directed toward creating a well-planned city, a well-balanced community, and a dynamic area in which private enterprise can flourish and people can continue to live in pleasant, prosperous surroundings."

He pointed out that the "somewhat unique" coopera-

tion between business and government in Torrance during the past few years had created an unusually favorable reputation and resulted in effective solutions to many of the community's problems.

"I AM SURE the reputation we have apparently achieved is one of the strongest endorsements that can be used to create a favorable climate to retain and attract new business in our area," he said.

He also emphasized that as communities become more complex, there will be an increased call on the skills, knowledge, and public spirit of business and professional people.

In particular, Jones said business leaders should be

able to aid a community toward good financial judgment, sound planning and effective organization and administration.

AND HE warned that unless community problems are solved at the local level, "there is only one way out, and that is the federal way."

On the other hand, he said business participation in public affairs will enhance public esteem for business, and broaden the markets that business hopes to serve in the years to come.

While lauding the coordinated efforts of business and government, Mr. Jones suggested that much more efficiency, effectiveness and progress might be accomplished by having a strong Chamber of Commerce.

"MANY already existing organizations — and, certainly, every civic minded citizen — might consider using the Chamber as a central clearinghouse, a coordinating agency for citizen participation," Jones said.



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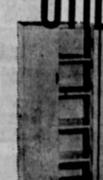


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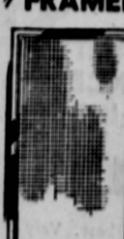
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