

# Family council slates meeting

The annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations will be Oct. 31 through Nov. 4 in the Portland Hilton Hotel.

Workshops will include discussions on family counseling, problems of youth today, sex education, marriage counseling and marital therapy.

Dr. James E. Leiberman, director of family therapy at Hillcrest Children's Center in Washington, D.C., and Dr. Murray Straus, professor of sociology at the University of New Hampshire, are among those who will take part.

# Sociologist tells housewife concept

By CHARLOTTE GRAYDON

of The Oregonian staff

The one characteristic that determines the lifestyle of a woman in American society is education, according to Dr. Helena Lopata.

She is author of "Occupation Housewife" and "Widowhood in an American City," the latter to be published in January.

In Portland for the meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Dr. Lopata spoke on her studies at Portland State University Thursday. The Poland-born sociologist, whose visit here was sponsored by the Institute on Aging, is past chairman of the department of sociology at Loyola University, Chicago, and is now director of post-doctoral training for the Midwest Council for Social Research on Aging. She earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees at University of Illinois and her Ph.D. at University of Chicago.

"The more educated a woman is, the more her life becomes disorganized when she becomes a widow," Dr. Lopata said.

"Simultaneously, the more resources she has to reorganize after the period of grief and disorganization."

The lower the class, the more segregated become the man's world and the woman's world.

"Her construction of reality is simpler and fuzzier and less identified with the hus-



DR. HELENA LOPATA

band," Dr. Lopata has found.

In marriage, the non-educated woman sees herself influencing her husband by feeding him and nagging him; the higher educated woman identifies with his source of work, she filters out people from his work and becomes friends with them, she identifies with her husband even when he is not at home.

In widowhood, she must "reconstitute her relations," and what she has for rebuilding her life are her own resources.

While Dr. Lopata has talked to newly widowed women who told her their lives haven't changed—"We never did anything anyway"—she has found that widows later say they have become more independent, more competent. They do not necessarily want to re-marry.

There is no significant connection between loneliness and competence.

A woman may feel lonely, yet still feel she has a full life and will not want to get married.

Dr. Lopata began her studies at a time when what was

written about women was "just horrible."

She cited "Generation of Vipers," Helen Deutsch's "The Psychology of Women."

"I was married, had a baby and earned my Ph.D. at the same time, moved to the suburbs, forsook the academy, and lived in a ticky tacky house.

"I found the people around me were competent, creative, and I wondered why."

The Chicago Tribune financed her first study on housewifery. She later did four or five different studies upon which her book is based.

What she found was a gap, a contrast between actual behavior and ideology.

Women are being "creative, competent, flexible in their behavior while being very derogatory about the

activities they are engaged in.

"They see work as a means of furnishing benefits back home. The image of the housewife and home is very limited, almost a peasant image."

In contrast, she described the woman's role in 17th century European manor life. At that time, the home was the place through which the life of society went, the place where business came.

Both the man and the woman were highly trained, both ran the home, "there was a great deal of inter-flow."

As society became more industrialized and urbanized, the home gradually became a place to return to for peace and quiet from the busy, dangerous world out there.

"It was seen as a place where society shouldn't be. The home then was seen as a very restricted place."

This restricted view is reflected in women's attitudes toward the roles they value.

Dr. Lopata did a study in which American women ranked roles in order of importance, one to thirteen in a list she provided.

The results shocked Europeans when she presented a paper in Moscow in April.

Mother generally ranked first, wife second, and "the lower educated the woman, the more mother appeared."

Lowest ranking on the list was "a self expressive goal, such as a writer."

Very few listed obligation to the community as a role, though Dr. Lopata found the more educated the woman, the more likely she is to recognize an obligation to the community.

"Obligation to society is very, very important to Europeans."

# Simplicity Return Foreseen

Has American society reached a post-industrial point where everything is so complex that a revolutionary change to simplicity has been touched off?

Dr. Irving Tallman, University of Minnesota professor, speculates that if we haven't already reached this point, we may reach it soon.

**THE OPENING** speaker at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Meeting at the Portland Hilton Wednesday, Dr. Tallman said there are already many indications of change involving more than radical notions, such as occur historically.

He cited small segments of the population that have turned towards simplified living; other segments that are suggesting a number of ways of stopping production; those who are advocating a participating democracy or a simpler political state; an increase in mysticism and a return towards simple religion.

"Are these indications real, or are they simply indications of what always has gone on in a small minority of the society?" Dr. Tallman asked. He said he believes that the movements are stronger — even evident in changes towards sex and morality.

Dr. F. Ivan Nye, Washington State University sociology professor, another participant in the program, disagreed with Dr. Tallman.

**HE SAID** he does not believe we are in a post-industrial society because the wants of the people are insatiable.

"Labor unions want more money. Professors want more money. Only a few millionaires are in the category of having enough, and they are turning to politics and other things," Dr. Nye declared.



ELEANORE LUCKEY

## Session due on 'family'

Problems of power in the family will be examined at one session when the National Council on Family Relations holds its annual meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 4 at the Hilton Hotel.

Dr. Jay Haley, director of family research at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic, will speak on the conference theme, "Politics, Power, and the Family."

Emphasis will be on inevitable difficulties which arise in an organization because of hierarchy.

Dr. Eleanore B. Luckey, professor of child development and family relations at the University of Connecticut, is president of the Council, which is an inter-professional forum for members of those disciplines interested in family life.

Mrs. Roberta Frasier Anderson, Oregon State extension service family life specialist, is president of the Oregon affiliate of the organization. Dr. Helen T. Hartness is local arrangements chairman for the annual meeting.

# Psychologist bares need for parent nucleus



ELEANORE LUCKEY

## By MILLY WOHLER

of The Oregonian staff

"Society has supported the family as the place to establish loving relationships and it's hard to learn to love another person outside the family circle. It can be done but it's not easy. It's not even easy in the family," according to Mrs. Eleanore Braun Luckey.

Mrs. Luckey is president of the National Council on Family Relations which began its annual meeting Tuesday at the Hilton Hotel with approximately 800 persons in attendance.

"It's a real handicap if a youngster grows up in a family where there isn't love and

where he isn't loved. He is sometimes so crippled he can't give or accept love in adult life."

The national president, a psychologist, is professor and head of the department of child development and family relations at University of Connecticut.

Even determining what a family is, or should be, is not simple, according to Mrs. Luckey.

"The nuclear family as we know it today is a fairly new institution. Before that we had the extended family or groups of families living together.

The nuclear family has some things that no other form has. For instance the intimacy and commitment over a long period of time which permits us to build intimate relationships and grow personally. It also permits a stable environment in which to rear children.

"But this form of family needs many supports and it isn't getting the kind of help it needs from other institutions."

Most students of the family believe there will be modifications of the nuclear unit.

"I anticipate we will see some kind of coming together of families into groups for living and planning. There will be the nucleus of a parenting group but there will be others on which to build the supports that we need.

"Communes have been an experiment in this kind of living. They have not worked out well for parenting, however, because the turnover of adults is too great."

The psychologist predicts even greater changes later.

"We are at a point in man's evolution where we have to be concerned primarily with survival and this means an emphasis on humanity and social relationships so that we have a chance to catch up with our technology.

"Before very long the technological advances will make us decide who will and who won't have children. This will undoubtedly be decided, in some measure, on worth or ability to become parents. There may be professional parents who will be given the job of raising children."

Mrs. Luckey also had counsel for those involved in the family as participants

# ed for parent nucleus

and not professionals.

"It's important to care for each other and to communicate straight. One of the things that causes trouble in families is you can't talk about feelings. We don't share with our children adequately in terms of our own emotional experiences and half the time we hide from ourselves.

"I think we have to be careful that we don't involve our children in solving our own problems. To 'use' them, for example. To say, 'I'm a good mother because my child is bright, has his hair cut and doesn't use drugs.'

"A lot of the time we don't really realize that we're more concerned about what the neighbors will say about us than the way in which the child is growing."

Mrs. Luckey, whose educational and professional qualifications fill a single-spaced typewritten page, was studying for her doctorate at University of Minnesota when her husband died almost 20 years ago.

As a working mother who raised two sons, the Connecticut educator believes that the most important thing is a woman's attitude, both toward her motherhood and working.

"Some are better mothers because they work. And some mothers should stay home because this is what they want to do and what they do best."

The NCFR, which Mrs. Luckey heads, has recently rewritten its constitution in

order to be a more effective social action group.

"We're not in any way a pressure or lobbying group but we hope, through education and getting out information on pros and cons, to guide people to make the kind of decisions necessary for the welfare of the fami-

ly."

Council membership includes professionals involved in some sort of primary family interest—sociologists, psychologists, educators, social workers, doctors, lawyers and ministers.

"Our social institutions are

really not giving the kind of help that is needed. This is one of the main functions of NCFR—to translate loud and clear to society what kinds of supports the family needs and what it must have.

"Someone has to speak for the family."

# Know Why You're Dying, MD Urges

In matters of paying taxes, going to war and having abortions, people should know what they are getting into before they agree to do it, says Dr. James E. Lieberman, a psychiatrist and one of the planners of the National Council on Family Relations meeting at the Portland Hilton Hotel through Saturday.

Bereaved relatives of Americans who died in Vietnam constitute a new minority group, Dr. Lieberman said. These people have to deal with grief for their loved ones when they don't have patriotic feelings about the war.

**THEY TELL** themselves the war must be a good cause because their sons, brothers, or husbands died for it."

Dr. Lieberman said he is trying to empower people not to die without informed consent.

"Potential soliders should know what they are getting into. Taxpayers should be able to have their tax dollars spent in categories other than the war," he said.

**"THIS KIND** of free selection would make lives more meaningful," Dr. Lieberman added.

He said informed consent should carry over into other areas." It is imperative to better family relations that teen-agers be better informed about childbearing."

Dr. Lieberman, a psychiatrist for the American Public Health Association in Washington, D.C., and a professor of sex and marriage at Howard University, said, "The

fantastic demand for abortions is evidence of failure to give young people enough information about birth control."

**BIRTH CONTROL** information for teen-agers is sporadic and sparse according to Dr. Lieberman. "Health education in public schools, families and churches is not up to the job," he contends.

Parents should be barred from discussing their sex lives with their children. They can discuss premarital sex and stop short of confessing their own sex history to the kids," Dr. Lieberman suggested.

At Howard University, Lieberman teaches sex education to third-year medical students. Doctors have been played up as knowing all about sex, but until recently courses in sex technique and therapy were not taught in medical schools, he said.

Dr. Lieberman is writing a sex education manual for teen-agers. He said sex manuals in general are franker and a better teaching source than before.

**ABORTION** practices in Washington, D.C. call for counseling before the abortion is performed, Dr. Lieberman said.

Married women are not required to have the consent of their husbands.

"We believe the mother should be prepared and give informed consent.

"Sometimes a woman has a more maternal feeling when she has an abortion," he said.



# 'Mate Sharing' Topic For Council

Mate sharing will be one of the discussion topics when the National Council on Family Relations holds its annual meeting Tuesday through Nov. 4 at the Hilton Hotel.

More than 600 psychiatrists, teachers, marriage counselors, public health nurses, religious leaders and others are expected to attend.

Graham Spanier of Northwestern University and Charles Cole of Denison University will lead the discussion on "Comarital Sexual Mate Sharing: Some Problematic Issues for Marital Cohesion and Familial Solidarity."

In charge of convention arrangements, including a salmon bake Nov. 4 in Gearhart, is Dr. Helen Hartness,

Lewis and Clark College professor of child development.

Among convention discussion topics, in addition to mate sharing, will be abortion, sexual instruction of the blind and deaf, psychological aspects of vasectomy counseling, the impact of sex education on premarital sexual behavior, the "revolution" in divorce law and "The Ethical Family: An Alternative Life Style."

Speaker at the dinner session Nov. 3 will be the council president, Dr. Eleanore Luckey, University of Connecticut professor of child development and family relations.

The president of the Oregon affiliate of the council is Roberta Frasier Anderson, Oregon State Extension Service family life specialist.