

Mrs. Celebrezze:

“Our lives are centered around the mayor’s office”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

cause I felt that it would take him away from the family, but it was up to him and when he did decide I found it fascinating to go along. Now I was waiting for the day when he would finish his term in Columbus and go back to law practice and be home.

I don’t think that the possibility of his running for mayor was mentioned again until the following May, after the close of the Senate sessions. But the wheels already were turning and, of course, the day I had hoped against did come. He ran for mayor and was elected, and it’s been a tremendous experience for us all.

It definitely has kept him busier than I like, but as I look back I’m not sure his being mayor has taken him away from his family any more than any other responsible position would have done. And after eight years it’s more difficult than ever to say in clear-cut lines that our home life is different, or what it’s different from.

I do know this—that our lives are centered around the mayor’s office. We’ve be-

come so used to meeting civic obligations that I’ve almost forgotten what our social pattern was before.

I THINK that perhaps the few times when I’ve subconsciously wished we weren’t in public life were when I would see how much it drains my husband’s energy. Aside from his daytime duties at City Hall, he’s out attending meetings and civic functions on an average of five nights a week. And most of Sunday—that’s the day of the installations, church dinners, dedications, things of that sort.

I’ve never gone out quite as much because of the children. They have priority. I limit myself, depending on how much I feel I’m needed at home. But in addition to the things I do attend with the mayor, there are several weeks when I will have four luncheons and several board meetings, which come mornings, afternoons or evenings.

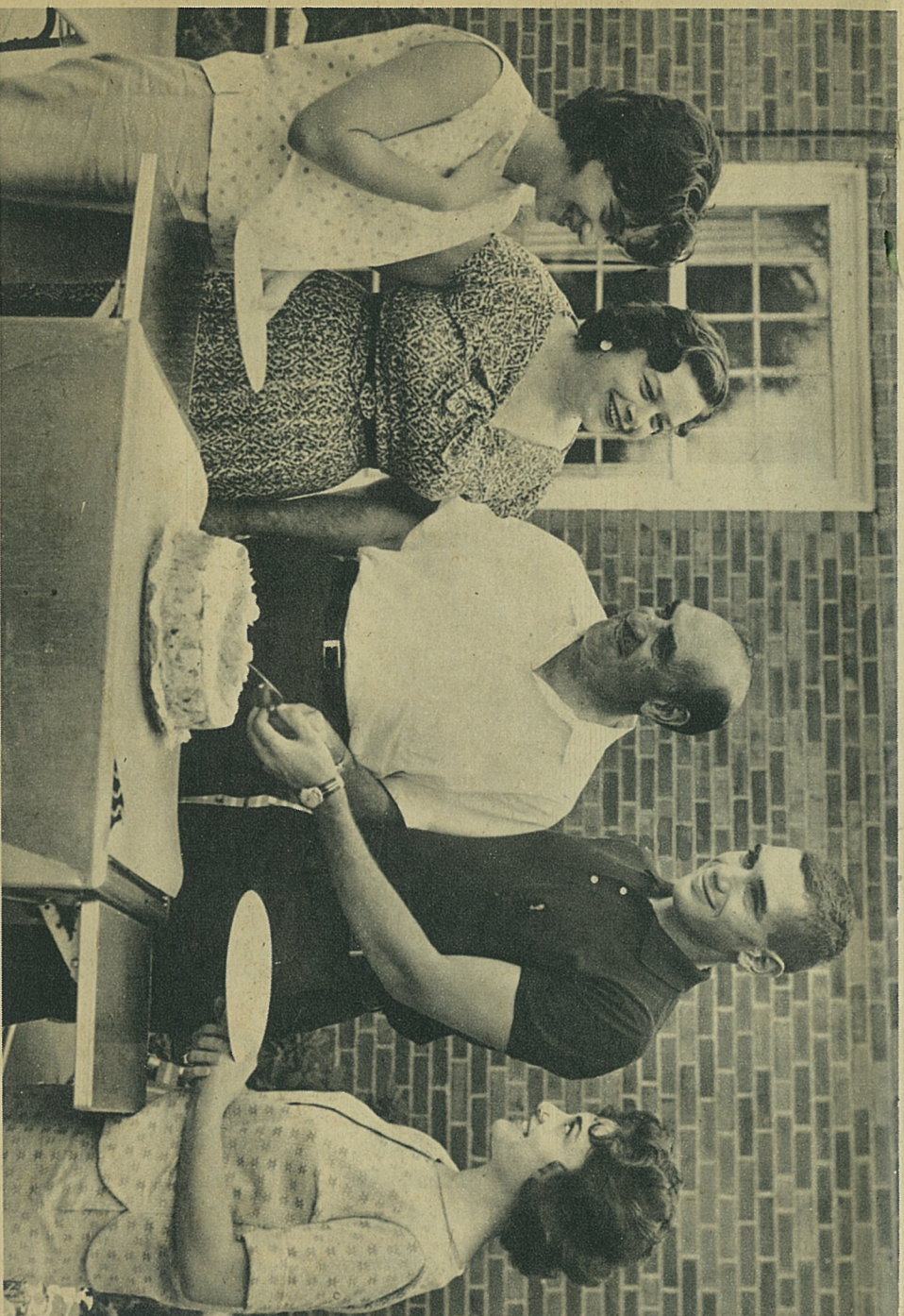
Most of these are community welfare activities and they are the same type of

thing that I did—to a much lesser degree—before my husband went into office. So I can’t say it all has been thrust upon me. I find tremendous enjoyment in working with people for the good of the city.

On the other hand, I do miss the purely social things we’ve had to delete from our schedule. We can’t, of course, entertain very much or plan to go to the symphonies and art galleries, and we’ve reached a point where our personal friends say, “Tell us when in the next six months we can invite you to dinner.”

Family gatherings used to be a rule with us; now they’re all but gone. Vacations, except for very brief periods, are almost impossible to plan, too. One thinks of the civic year as beginning in September and ending in June, but it’s not that way at all. It goes on through July and into August.

Probably what I’ve missed most is having people just drop in on us. I’ve always enjoyed that, and we find more and more that friends don’t feel free to stop. They assume



Sept. 5, 1961. A Celebration. Anthony Celebrezze Jr., 20, was home on leave from the U. S. Naval Academy to help celebrate his father’s 51st birthday. At the extreme left, Susan, at far right, Jean.



Some hat, same occasion, different years. Mrs. Celebrezze at the City Club show in May 1960 (top) and in the same hat at the club’s 1961 show.

