

# Mrs. Lakritz Undismayed At 'Uprooting' Prospects

By ALPHA ARNOLD  
Women's Editor

The prospect of uprooting a family of four sons aged 5-12, and moving to Washington, D.C., should her husband win his bid for a write-in victory as congressman from the 12th district brings no feelings of misgivings for Mrs. Simon Lakritz, she said in an interview with The Sentinel.

Due to the non-partisan nature of her employment as a social worker, Mrs. Lakritz has been keeping in the background, leaving the campaigning to her husband.

"While our political philosophies are not exactly the same, they are very close; especially in the area of human rights," she added.

Mrs. Lakritz admitted she was not surprised when her husband decided to make the run for political office since politics have been a continuing interest in the Lakritz household, but "was surprised he decided to do it this year."

Mrs. Lakritz says she has no qualms about coping with the role of "wife of a congressman" since she "grew up in Milwaukee, which is formal, and Washington is formal." Also she likes to entertain and anticipates no difficulty in this area. "The boys are excited at the prospect of going," she added.

A DAUGHTER of Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Lyon of Altadena, the Hanford woman received her schooling in Stephens College, the University of Arizona, and earned her BA at Fresno State College.

The Lakritz family moved to Hanford 11 years ago and she has worked for a total of about six years, "between children."

The boys are Andy, 12; Jeff, 9; Brad, 8, and Tom, 5, who attend Woodrow Wilson and Monroe Schools.

The then-Mary E. "Mimi" Lyon was living with her parents in Arizona at the time she met Lakritz who had moved from his native Detroit to Tucson at the age of seven. Both were students at the University of Arizona.

Married in 1953 in Monterey when he was stationed at Ft. Ord with the U.S. Army, she then followed him to Germany for a year's tour there.

Lakritz, who came here as a Hanford High School teacher, has been director for federal projects for the past two years.

Mrs. Lakritz has been active in the B'nai B'rith, American Association of University Women, social workers organization, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and belongs to



MRS. SIMON LAKRITZ

the alumni groups of FSC and U of A.

Other interests she listed are "music, art, reading, and my children."

LIFE has been a little hectic since her husband began his write-in campaign, she added with a twinkle, between piano lessons, the boys' various interests which include painting for budding artist Andy and his electricity projects which "scare me to death," frequent trips to the library, and various strategy and committee meetings at home "where my role is to serve refreshments rather than being actively involved."

The restrictions of non-participation are somewhat frustrating, the candidate's wife admitted, when queried about her role in the campaign.

"We haven't had time to play bridge lately," she added with a chuckle when asked about the amount of time required for campaigning.

"I keep the home fires burning, and Si does the traveling," Mrs. Lakritz said. "It's hard to be gone every day (at work) and then weekends, too." She and son Jeff did go to hear a political speech by Lakritz for Jeff's birthday celebration, she said. The boys are all excited about the campaign, the people like Eugene McCarthy and Alan Cranston whom their dad is meeting. All four boys have been busy helping make campaign posters.

SOMEWHAT wan looking from a bout with the flu bug, Mrs. Lakritz displayed a suggestion of a dimple when she laughed, and was able to laugh good humoredly at herself during the interview. She seemed a little awed yet at the "public image" materializing as a candidate's wife, but willing and ready to tackle whatever is involved.

Asked about the one most outstanding quality she finds in her husband, the Hanford woman pointed to "his conviction—he holds true to what he feels and in his concern for other people."

And, win or lose, Mrs. Lakritz left no doubt she is sure of the rightness of her husband's adhering to his convictions.