

## Earlene White

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*The Evening Star, February 23, 1961, p. A-10*

### **Miss Earlene White, Women's Leader, Dies**

Miss Earlene White, 76, president of Business and Professional Women from 1937 until 1939 and a champion of woman's progress in business, died last Friday at her home, 126 C street N.E., of a heart attack.



MISS EARLENE WHITE

A native of Meridian, Miss., she was educated in Mississippi schools and began her business career there with a small job, on which she had said she learned a worthwhile lesson -- "to take undeserved blame right along with undeserved praise and not get too upset over one or too cock over the other."

Before coming to Washington in 1933, Miss White had been a bank clerk, business manager of a newspaper, promoter of the citrus fruit industry in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and publisher of her own weekly newspaper. At one time she ran a publicity bureau through which she organized several campaigns for raising endowment funds for colleges in Mississippi.

#### *Active as a Democrat*

An active Democrat, she was appointed to the staff of the Senate post office in 1933. She served until 1947, and again from 1949 until 1954.

As president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Miss White traveled extensively, speaking on the role of American women in business and their place in the world of the time.

At the Third International Congress of Business and Professional Women in 1938 in Budapest, she noted that lack of technical training kept many women from holding top positions in business and the professions.

"Man has long dominated the world," she warned, "and woman, to have equal opportunities with men, must be twice as good."

She also said, before the District Women's Committee of the American Institute of Banking in 1939, "Women are not trying to compete with men," adding that "Furthermore, they do not wish to walk behind them, but beside them."

#### *Urged Active Participation*

She favored the test of "efficiency and ability" for women in elective and appointive offices "Women should be ready and willing," she had said, "to take their place in actual participation in local, State and national affairs."

After her retirement in 1954, Miss White devoted most of her time to helping the Children's Hospital, the Home for Incurables and the D.C. Village.

She leaves three nieces and two nephews.

A memorial service for her is scheduled at 4 pm. Sunday at the S.H. Hines Funeral Home, 3901 Fourteenth street N.W. Burial will be private.

The family asks that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the Children's Hospital and the Foundation of the National Business and Professional Women's Clubs, 2012 Massachusetts avenue N.W.