

The Reaction Here Is Anger, Shock and Dismay

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By JUDY KLEMESRUD

Public reaction here to Mrs. John F. Kennedy's engagement to Aristotle Onassis, the Greek shipping magnate, was generally a combination of anger, shock and dismay with the emphasis on dismay.

Very few of those questioned in Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Central Park and on Fifth Avenue seemed to think that Mrs. Kennedy's engagement was her own business.

Miss Ann Farber, 70 years old, of the Bronx, a retired bookkeeper who was watching the skaters in Rockefeller Center, said:

"I'm terribly disappointed. She could have done better. To us she was royalty, a princess, and I think she should have married a prince. Or at least someone who looked like a prince."

Peter Moraites, 45, manager of the Pantheon, a Greek restaurant at 689 Eighth Avenue, was one of the few who seemed overjoyed at the news.

"As far as I'm concerned, this is the greatest thing that ever happened," he said. "everyone in the Greek community is enthused. Onassis ate here in 1952, and I think he's a great man. As far as religion is concerned, this is a step in combining Catholicism with the Greek Orthodox religion."

Rubin Gralla, 55, of Brooklyn, who has been a cab driver for 33 years, said:

"There's an image about Jackie. I think of her as a lady, a lady. You know what I mean, somebody who's above the other people. Now that she's marrying this fellow, I think she's going to lose some of the shine. She's no longer on her pedestal. You wouldn't have had this uproar if she had married Lord Harlech. But I think this Aristotle is going to be a good husband. He has the maturity. He'll count to 100 before he loses his temper."

"Everyone in my office is shocked," Miss Gloria Saunders, a 38-year-old secretary from Brooklyn, said as she came out of Saks Fifth Avenue. "That's all we talked about today. She should have married an American businessman or someone connected with the arts. She certainly doesn't need the money."

Capt. Charles Brown, 32, of

Few Interviewed in Street View Mrs. Kennedy's Plans as Just Her Own Business

New Orleans, an Air Force pilot who was vacationing in New York, said he had another man in mind for Mrs. Kennedy.

"I was pulling for the Prime Minister of Canada [Pierre Elliot Trudeau]," he said. "He's single, and it would have given her the chance to be a First Lady again."

Several long-haired teen-agers sitting around the Bethesda Fountain in Central Park indicated favor of the marriage.

"It's Jackie's life, and she should do what she wants to with it," said Lorelle Heacock, 16, of Manhattan.

Another, Amel Rush, 17, of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., didn't say much. He just played "The Wedding March" on his harmon-

Many in Europe Shocked

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Oct. 18—The dominant reaction in Europe to Mrs. John F. Kennedy's plan for re-

marriage was put bluntly in a headline this afternoon in "Jackie—How Can You?"

Everywhere on the Continent there was intense public interest in the news, with heavy press and broadcast coverage. And there was a widespread sense of shock and disappointment at Mrs. Kennedy's choice of Aristotle Onassis on her second husband.

Only in the Soviet Union did the news go unreported.

The reaction was perhaps strongest in France, where a correspondent said the news had hit the people like a national tragedy.

In Paris, groups, mostly women, stood around newsstands in a way they had not since the Arab-Israel war of June, 1967. Early this morning, in a St. Germain-des-Près brasserie, every table buzzed with comment, all of it critical.

Le Monde, France's leading serious newspaper, published a negative comment by its distinguished foreign editor, André Fontaine. He said Mr. Onassis was "the antithesis" of President Kennedy's dream of "a less cruel world."

Onassis Is Disparaged

Mr. Onassis "is concerned more with dominating this world than with reforming it," Le Monde said. "Is it this appetite for power, with all that it reveals of a quasi-animal energy, that charmed the widow of John Kennedy?"

"Her decision, and the motives of that decision, are nobody's business but hers. But it is to be feared that the second Mrs. Aristotle Onassis will cause to be forgotten the radiant Snow White who contributed so much to the popularity of her husband."

If Le Monde saw Mrs. Kennedy as a fairy-tale character, the West German Bild-Zeitung treated her image as holy. The banner headline in the four-million-circulation tabloid read: "America Has Lost a Saint."

There was disappointment in Mrs. Kennedy's choice. A student, Annemarie Kusten, said:

"I first thought it was a cheap joke, the goddess of American multimillionaire. I think this will be shattering news for idealists the world over."



Associated Press

SOME YEARS AGO: Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Onassis chatting with Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. aboard the yacht Christina during a Mediterranean cruise. Man at left is a waiter.