

SFChronicle JUN 30 1975

Stonewall It, Mrs. Gandhi



Arthur Hoppe

"REALLY, DICK, now that you have your health back you shouldn't sit around like that, just staring out the window."

"I know, Pat. But I keep thinking back over the whole thing. Where did I go wrong? What should I have done instead?"

"Please, dear, you must stop dwelling on the past. You don't even read the newspaper. And you used to have such a lively interest in world affairs."

"That's when they were my affairs. But then I . . . Darn! I don't know how I could have handled the situation differently."

"Here, dear. At least look at the headlines. They're about your old friend, Mrs. Gandhi."

"Ah, yes. As a Quaker, I've always admired her Gandhian principles. Especially after she clobbered Pakistan. Maybe if I'd clobbered Pakistan . . ."

"I'm afraid she's in trouble. She's accused of corrupt practices and they're threatening to impeach her if she doesn't resign."

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"GOOD HEAVENS! I'll write her a letter. At all costs she must maintain the doctrine of executive privilege for prime ministers yet to come and not give up the tapes."

"I don't think there are any tapes, dear. But her opponents have been mak-

ing fiery speeches accusing her of all sorts of things."

"I know how she feels. I'll tell her to stonewall it. Perhaps she should fire a couple aides to appease her critics and then say simply, 'I am not a crook!' Of course, she could draw up an Enemies List for future reference. But she'll have to just ignore these vicious attacks by her opponents, right?"

"Not exactly, dear. She had them all arrested instead."

"Arrested? What kind of a game plan is that? The newspapers will crucify her!"

"They can't, dear. She's imposed total censorship. All stories must be cleared with her before publication."

"Even Woodward's and Bernstein's? She'll never get away with that. Personally, I've always been opposed to press censorship, except, of course, in a national emergency. Say! She didn't . . ."

"Yes, dear. She declared a national emergency. Oh, it's so nice to see you taking an interest in world affairs again."

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"YOU MEAN that when she was threatened with impeachment, she declared a national emergency, assumed autocratic powers, jailed all her enemies and silenced the press?"

"That's right, dear. Isn't it awful? Aren't you glad we live in a country where things like that have never happened, Dick? Dick? Dick? Really, Dick, you shouldn't sit around like that, just staring out the window."