



SPEAKER—Mrs. Melissa F. Wells, economic officer at the United States Embassy in London, talks with Joe Healy, president of Palm Springs Rotary Club,

and vice president Leo Priest after she spoke on the foreign service to the club at its weekly luncheon at the Howard Manor Wednesday.

U.S. Foreign Service Officers Help Project American Image

By DOUG BROWN

A State Department official, on leave from her post as economic officer at the United States Embassy in London, told Palm Springs Rotarians Tuesday about the Foreign Service organization and its work overseas.

Mrs. Melissa F. Wells, one of the eight per cent of United States female Foreign Service officers, described her work as "a constant challenge."

Speaking to Rotarians at their weekly luncheon at the Howard Manor, Mrs. Wells said that world events today have focused attention more than ever on the activities of the Foreign Service.

"There are 3,700 foreign service officers representing the United States throughout the world, but the question is often asked: What do they do? Do they spend most of their time at those cocktail parties you read about?"

"Well, there are cocktail par-

ties, of course," the slim, blond-haired speaker smiled. "And many such gatherings enable contacts to be established and naturally an exchange of views and establishment of better relationships among people."

Foreign Service operations overseas are divided into four categories, she said. They were political, government work, consular work and administrative work.

"The foreign service officers are expected to jump from one field to the other; at the moment there is a controversy as to whether or not officers should specialize," she said.

The economic section involves promotion of American exports and investments in the United States.

"This is all very detailed day-to-day work, and involves talking to an endless number of businessmen," she said.

Consular work, she said, involves routine operations, but

also the handling of emergencies, answering many questions about the United States, and helping those Americans "unfortunate enough to be put in jail or who have lost passports or have no money."

"But whatever the work, there is always something happening that is interesting," Mrs. Wells added.

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