

A. C. W. W. Presidents Speak

Excerpts From Address by Mrs. Sayre and Mrs. Berry at the A.C.W.W. Conference

Mrs. Sayre

AT THE Opening Ceremony of the conference, Mrs. Sayre, retiring President of the A.C.W.W., said:

"The theme of this Seventh Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World is stated as a question—"How can I as an individual, and through my society, contribute to better international relations?" The answer is not easy. We live in the midst of a world divided. The ideology of the supreme importance of the individual struggles with the ideology of the supreme importance of the state. Freedom struggles with dictatorship. A rising tide of nationalism, with its deep feelings of national pride, tends to divide rather than unite us.

"The compelling need of our time is to bring some sense of unity to a chaotic world; to build spillways of understanding that channel emotions and feelings into constructive paths . . . The attributes of unity are patience and a willingness to see the viewpoint of others, sympathy and respect for people other than 'our own.' Knowledge alone cannot secure unity. Personal contacts alone will not guarantee it.

"To bring peace to the world is also a matter of dealing with problems that have 'bread and butter' meaning. It has become axiomatic that hunger and starvation are among the underlying causes of the misery and unrest which breed war. To produce food is to help produce peace. But to feed the people of the world is no small task. The increase in population in the world is now about 30 million annually. This means that 80,000 more people sit down to the world's dinner table every month.

"Last year FAO called upon all of its member nations to increase food production 1 to 2 per cent to meet the world's growing need for food. FAO has recently announced that the world's food supply is now rising faster than its population. Agricultural production is increasing at a rate of just over 2% while population increase is now 1.4 per cent. Increased mechanization, new research and the application of improved practices in agriculture are now bearing fruit. For the first time in mankind's long struggle for enough food to exist we have begun to find ways for meeting the problem of hunger.

"Our present difficulty lies in the fact that the increase in agricultural production is not evenly distributed . . . The basic, permanent

solution to world food needs is the increasing application of science to all agricultural production, particularly in the great undeveloped areas of the world where hunger is always imminent. There is no area in these regions where production could not be raised appreciably through simple improvements in agricultural methods and equipment—a lighter plow, a hoe with a handle, a better strain of seeds.

"Organized technical assistance is one of the truly great ideas of our time . . . In every country you are important to the United Nations in this programme. You can influence your own national governments to support adequate national contributions for United Nations Technical Assistance. Your own governments, not the United Nations itself, are the ones who determine what FAO and Technical Assistance do. You can assist Technical Assistance work with voluntary contributions through such projects as the UNESCO Gift Coupon Plan.

"You can help to create a durable peace in the contribution you can make in the field of international trade. Someone has said that 'if goods and services do not move across boundaries, sooner or later soldiers will.'—The support of sound foreign trade programs is one of the important opportunities open to country women to contribute to a healthy and peaceful and expanding world economy.

There are those who would say these economic problems are too difficult for country women. I know there are women who want to be "Peter Pans" and never grow up. But life has taught the country woman to be practical and realistic. It has taught her to undertake hard and difficult tasks. I do not think you will be found wanting now. Having 'put your hand to the plow' and 'will not turn back.'"

Mrs. Berry

From the inaugural address of the newly elected President, Mrs. Alice Berry of Australia, we quote these extracts:

"In our organization we are diverse, each planning and working according to our needs, but the underlying principles are the same: friendship, understanding, tolerance and a love of humanity. We ask ourselves then, how can we engender these ideals? As the mother of the nations, we start right in our homes. We must