

"The Challenge of Tomorrow"

By Ilda Holder

CHALLENGES, which ranged from the confines of home to the uttermost parts of the world, could not fail to give the more than three hundred delegates and visitors to the Second National Convention of the Women's Institutes of Canada a broader vision of what they, as members of the largest women's organization in the world, could accomplish by united effort.

In a very colorful opening of the Convention at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, on June 19th, 1961, Mrs. E. J. Roylance, National President, urged the delegates to remove Provincial boundaries from their minds, and to remember that in all deliberations, decisions had to be made nationally. "We must share alike with all people in the world our abundance, our friendship and our love, but can we learn to do this quickly and sincerely enough to help the world today?" she asked.

In his address of welcome, Dr. John Friesen, Director of Extension of the University of British Columbia, outlined the work done for students from foreign lands, describing his province as the show window of the Pacific.

He said that all women's organizations are influenced by the Women's Institutes, and expressed the conviction that this convention would bring forth an abundant harvest of ideas and programmes for rural people. Among the many greetings received were those from Queen Elizabeth II, Rt. Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker, Rt. Hon. George Pearkes, Senator Cairine Wilson, Hon. Alvin Hamilton, Hon. Walter Dinsdale, Hon. W. A. C. Bennett, and from the City of Vancouver. Goodwill messages were also received from numerous organizations in Canada and the United States, and from the Associated Country Women of the World.

Following the opening session, the delegates and visitors were taken on a bus tour of Greater Vancouver, by courtesy of the British Columbia Women's Institutes. One full day was also devoted to a tour of Vancouver Island, and this proved to be a very refreshing and memorable experience for those who were seeing the Pacific Coast for the first time. Some of the points of interest visited included the Saanich Experimental Farm, the beautiful Butchart Gardens, the City of Victoria and the lovely Malahat Drive.

The Government of British Columbia entertained at an evening banquet, with Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. W. MacGillivray, as Master of Ceremonies. The speaker was Hon. Frank Richter, B. C. Minister of Agriculture, who stressed the fact that education holds the key to eventual success in overcoming the obstacles of fear, prejudice, suspicion and greed, and Women's Institutes can disseminate this type of training through their program. "No one has yet acquired stooped shoulders from carrying the load of education, and much of the future course of the history of the world will be influenced by women's groups such as yours," he stated.

Challenge in the West Indies

Mr. Lewis Perinbam, Associate Secretary Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, developed the same thought in his address, "The Emerging Nations: A Challenge to the West." The most significant event of the present century is the rise of the Asian and African countries to their present stature, he said, and the problems which arise are explosive. We on



Mrs. Roylance presents a cheque for \$6,700 from the Women's Institutes of Canada for UNESCO Gift Coupon No. 400 project (for adult education in the West Indies) to Mr. Lewis Perinbam, Associate Secretary, Canadian National Commission for UNESCO.