

Home Economics Service

man is an island." So citizenship in today's world brings great responsibilities and there is a place for women in the scheme of things—a place in the home of course but also in her community, her country and the world at large. Mrs. Lymburner felt that we could all learn something from the teenaged girl in the United States who, responding to President Kennedy's radio challenge to Americans to "ask not what this country can do for you but rather what you can do for your country," said that she could apply herself to her lessons and develop her mind so that she would be able to analyze situations and make a plan for action as a thoughtful and useful citizen when the time came for her to assume real responsibility. She would try to see the good in other people's opinions and to live with the members of her family and others in such a way that there would always be an exchange of ideas but these would be resolved so that there would be harmony for the whole group.

The speaker suggested that as women we might ask ourselves how well we measure up to this teenager's standard. Are we free from prejudices? Do we keep on studying, broadening our horizons so that we do not become insular in our attitudes? For the possibilities of making that time of our lives between youth and old age happy and useful were never so great as they are today. We need to identify ourselves with the fine things of life, and to inform ourselves so that we have a realistic approach to the problems that arise in our personal lives, our community and around the world.

The president said that the Women's Institute with its affiliations with 140 working groups in the Associated Country Women of the World can be made a tool to be used for great things: building bridges of friendship around the world, concerning itself with such problems as the education of youth at home. "Surely," she said, "we must see our duty and do it in this significant moment of history . . . The crying need today is for a rejuvenation of our spiritual values and wider recognition of our individual responsibilities."

"Your theme this year is a good one," said Miss Helen McKercher, Director Home Economics Service, "especially the last two lines, 'Follow and honor what the past has gained and forward still that more may be attained.' That is what we are trying to do in Home Economics Service."

Miss McKercher said that we hear a great deal about changes on the farm; there are also changes in the home. Equipment has changed tremendously in the last few years and we have trouble with it because we don't follow directions. Sometimes it seems that you don't really believe in home economics, "the speaker suggested," Most women today know that vitamins and a high protein diet are important for children; but many don't seem to understand that it is a mother's job to see that they get it in milk and cod liver oil.

"We are now in a machine made world, so hand-made clothes are distinctive — that is why you like to make hats," the director said; and explained that the extension service teaches sewing not to save money but to help women and girls acquire skills. Good finishes are stressed to give home sewing a professional look.

The director expressed her appreciation of the way the women of the province had supported the extension program, providing audiences as well as ideas for courses. This year in the senior program there had been 503 short courses and workshops with an enrolment of 8,682; and 71 local leader training schools with 610 groups represented and 5,506 women taking the projects. In girls' 4-H Homemaking Clubs there were 169 schools for local leaders, 1,686 clubs and 15,972 members. The trend is toward more local leader projects in the women's work, probably dropping some of the short courses, doing a little more radio work and some television. The number of Home Management Workshops will be increased because consumer problems are constantly becoming more complicated. Consumers are being urged to buy more than they need and they should learn more about advertising, attitudes, packages, credit, insurance.



Discussion group leaders. Left to right: Front row: Mrs. G. W. Smith, Mrs. I. B. Sharpe, Mrs. Alex Watson, Chairman; Mrs. Ford Sudden, Mrs. Harvey Wales. Back row: Mrs. Thurtell, Mrs. Stanley Bride, Mrs. Austin Zoeller, Mrs. J. Sherman, Mrs. R. M. Starkey, Mrs. J. Hermansen, Mrs. Verne O'Hare.