

Left to right: Lady De-Soysa, India; Mrs. van Beekhoff, President A.C.W.W.; Mrs. Bolte, wife of the Premier of the state of Victoria, Australia; Mrs. D. M. McGrigor, retiring Treasurer of A.C.W.W.



### This International World

Professor Zelman Cowan, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne delivered a comprehensive address entitled "This International World" dealing with problems related to United Nations, the British Commonwealth, Britain's relation to the Common Market, aid to developing countries including the Colombo plan which was first suggested by Australia, nuclear war and disarmament. In this address, Prof. Cowan quoted from a magazine article by Barbara Ward, Lady Jackson:

"In the world of the sixties we in the West shall form a small wealthy elite in the vast poverty stricken society of mankind. A society shot through with revolutionary prospects and desires. Confronted with this fact we have only two choices. We can follow the fatal road of other wealthy elites and close our hearts until the unfolding of a wider destiny engulfs us all. Or we can use our wealth to redeem the promise of our free society and extend its working to our fellowmen who everywhere labor and look for change and growth with minds divided between penury and hope. The sixties will compel the taking of this decision. On it in great measure our future in freedom depends."

Professor Cowan's address closed with this appeal: "I believe the problems of the developing countries are the problems which are most urgent and the problems about which we can do most.

"And we cannot do it with pious platitudes, but only by drawing in our own belts, making a real commitment which must to some extent affect us. We are not being asked for charity. We are being asked in the most profound sense for an appreciation of our own self-interest and that, I think, is the point which Barbara Ward so eloquently made. We live in a world of paradoxes, a world of universal association, and yet a world riven by differences; a world with all sorts of technical

amenities and advantages which can bring us so quickly together; a world full of technical devices which can destroy us all. We live in a world which is symbolized in a sense by the Berlin war. And we ask ourselves as individuals—what can we do?

"I think none of us, no single one, can give the answers to all the great problems that divide us; but we must not give up. We must not retire into our own comfortable shells and say 'we are ineffective.' I think the lesson that we draw from the sort of world in which we live is that we must be committed to it; we must be committed to its problems—municipal, statewise, national and international. If we take the view that it is not for us as little individuals to do things because we are impotent, then I think we are going to allow ourselves to drift into irreparable danger and doom. And so I say it is for us to be interested, to raise our voices, to be committed to do what we can, where we can, to bring pressures to bear where we can bring pressures to bear to see that the right is done; and I am sure that a group like this, committed to the ideals to which you are committed, will be responsive to this suggestion."

### Varied Activities and Interests

What interests did the women represent? What were some of the activities reported from the member countries?

Mrs. Aroti Dutt, vice president for Asia, comes from India and her territory ranges from Lebanon to the Philippines. She is a graduate of Calcutta University, daughter of an Indian Member of Parliament and daughter-in-law of the woman who founded the country women's organization in Calcutta. This group runs a teachers' training college and a central training institute as well as women's schools in the villages. The village schools teach child care, nutrition and handicrafts.

Mrs. Bessie van Herden, leader of the South African delegation is a farmer's wife