

A Seminar for the N.W.T.

"For Home and Country," the motto of all members of Women's Institutes around the world, was echoed again on Tuesday afternoon, July 22, at the official opening of the seminar for members of Northern Canada's Women's Institutes.

Twenty-four delegates were there from Institutes in Coppermine, Aklavik, Fort Providence, Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Norman, Fort Good Hope, Haines Junction, Destruction Bay, Teslin and Carmacks. Observers were also present from Hay River and Yellowknife. They met at Akaitcho Hall, Yellowknife, for ten days to question, discuss and propose action for the problems in their communities.

Mrs. J. Philip Matheson of Prince Edward Island, Area Vice-President for Canada of A.C.W.W., presided at the formal opening. She expressed the hope that all delegates would benefit from the discussion at the seminar, and later share with fellow members at home what they had learned and enjoyed while in Yellowknife.

Mrs. George Clarke of Newfoundland, President of F.W.I.C., brought greetings from the Provinces by placing a spray of yellow mums in a large vase, one from each province. Greetings also came from the Farm Union Women of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and sprays of flowers were placed for them as well.

Mr. John Parker, Deputy Commissioner of the N.W.T., welcomed the delegates and stressed the importance of women meeting and working together to help raise the standard of homemaking and community living.

Mayor Fred Henne brought a special welcome on behalf of the Council of Yellowknife. He pointed to the special contribution that women can make in the development of Northern Canada, which has great promise of hidden natural resources.

Further greetings and welcomes were expressed by Mr. A. J. Boxer, Superintendent of Akaitcho Hall, Dr. Echo R. Lidster, on behalf of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Lady Crowe, wife of the British High Commissioner to Canada, on behalf of Women's Institutes of England.

Telegrams and letters of congratulations, and wishes for a successful seminar came from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Patron of F.W.I.C.; Rt. Hon. Roland Michener, Governor General of Canada; Rt. Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; Hon. Jean Chretien, Minister of Indian Affairs and

Northern Development; A.C.W.W. Central Office, London, Eng.; Mrs. Graham Spry, A.C.W.W. Deputy President; and Mr. James Smith, Commissioner of Yukon.

A further highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of a cash prize and certificate, signed by the A.C.W.W. President, Mrs. Aroti Dutt, India, to Fort Providence W.I., as second place winners of a world wide needlework competition. The work was a picture done in moose hair embroidery, a craft unique among Northern native women.

Following the formal opening, tea was served and delegates and visitors had an opportunity to see and admire the handicraft items on display from each of the Women's Institutes represented.

The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship

"From the South Pacific to the Arctic Circle." This phrase aptly reflects the wide ranging scope of the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship of the Associated Country Women of the World. Training schemes for village women in East Pakistan, Kenya, African women in Rhodesia; scholarships for qualified and voluntary women from such lands as Uganda, Fiji, Zambia, to acquire further training in the fields of home economics and rural community welfare; are all part of what is going on under this plan.

The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship was established when the A.C.W.W. met for its Ninth Triennial Conference in Edinburgh 1959. It was designed as a practical support for the F.A.O.'s newly launched Freedom From Hunger Campaign and was fittingly named after Lady Aberdeen, Hon. President of A.C.W.W. for the first ten years of its life. The L.A.S. has been built up by voluntary contributions from A.C.W.W. constituent societies around the world. By the date of the eleventh Triennial Conference in Dublin in 1965, the permanent fund was closed with double the minimum target reached. The interest on this fund, with any current donations, provide the expendable fund for the Scholarships.

In 1969 it was Canada's turn to benefit from the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship. In cooperation with the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada some support was given from the funds to the Seminar which took place at Yellowknife, North West Territories on July 21-31.