

# *The Federated Women's Institute Convention*

*Winnipeg, August 24-28, 1970*

## *Communication: Keystone For Progress*

"I urge that throughout this convention you keep the thought in the forefront to emphasize communications with others, and that we especially seek out and make friends with the Women's Institute members from provinces other than our own," said Mrs. George Clarke, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada when she addressed the delegates at the Fifth F.W.I.C. Convention held in Winnipeg, Manitoba August 24-28, 1970.

The sessions held on the campus of the University of Manitoba opened with a group of 4H Girls' Homemaking Club members carrying the flags of provinces to the platform. Music by the official music conductor Mrs. Elma Gislason accompanied by Mrs. E. R. James provided a background for the presentation of the flags.

With Mrs. Clarke presiding, the formal sessions were opened by singing O Canada, repeating the Mary Stewart Collect and a moment of silence for Women's Institute members no longer living. A message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth patron of the Women's Institutes was read.

Greetings were read from the Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, who said in part "Participation in the work of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada encourages women to take part in public affairs."

Other greetings had come from the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, who said that he was impressed by the work of the Women's Institutes in Northern Canada.

Other greetings and welcomes came from the Honourable H. A. Olsen, Federal Minister of Agriculture; Assistant Deputy Minister Dr. Austin representing the Honourable Edward Schreyer, Premier of Manitoba; Winnipeg Mayor Stephen Juba; Fort Garry Mayor R. A. Wankling; Dr. H. H. Saunderson President of the University of Manitoba and Mrs. A. J. Poole, President of Manitoba Women's Institutes.

The feature of the Monday evening program was a spirited presentation of the progress of Women's Institute work in each of the provinces and the Northwest Territories. Representatives from each unit were dressed in costumes typical of the 1919 period in which F.W.I.C. had its beginning.

Part II of the presentation showed the unit representatives in costumes that we may expect to see in the future. One costume portrayed what the "with it" lady of the future may wear, a creation of black net dotted with gold spangles over black leotards. An antenna spiralling from the top of the head will presumably keep the wearer in constant touch with transpiring events.

Each participant made a prediction for the future.

### **Conveners Speak Out**

Standing conveners' reports were presented in the form of a panel with Mrs. John McLean of Nova Scotia as Moderator.

In her report of the work of the Agriculture and Canadian Industries Committee, Convener Mrs. Marchbank of Nova Scotia made the recommendations — that the Women's Institute Branches continue to study Conservation and Pollution; that they continue to support the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund as our help in the Freedom From Hunger Campaign; that housewives make themselves more price conscious in the marketing of food commodities; that housewives participate in adult study groups dealing with agriculture, record keeping, typing, etc.; that the Women's Institutes endeavour to promote better public relations between rural and urban people.

Mrs. R. C. Palmer of British Columbia reporting for her Committee on Cultural Activities said, "In most of the accounts, I have detected increasing emphasis on member participation in continuing adult education, and in many I note a new concern for "Cultural Programs."