

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Women's Institute Officers' Conference



Discussion Group Leaders at the 1972 Officers' Conference. Back row from left, Mrs. Emerson Emke, Mrs. Edward Urstadt, Mrs. John Rumble, Mrs. John Hermanson, Mrs. Donald MacLachlan, Mrs. Clifford Barber, Mrs. D. McIntosh, Mrs. Clarence Diamond. Centre row — Mrs. John Bell, Mrs. Austin Zoeller, Mrs. Sam Cawker, Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, president; Mrs. R. C. Walker, Mrs. C. L. Murray, Mrs. H. Blasing, Mrs. Willard Miles. Front row — Mrs. Jack Sparling, Mrs. John Craig, Mrs. Verne O'Hare, Mrs. Hugh McMillan, Mrs. Irvine Ford, Mrs. Roy Westlake.

On Tuesday evening, May 2, Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, and Mrs. E. V. Fulton, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, welcomed over 700 Women's Institute members as they arrived at Lambton Hall at the University of Guelph for the annual F.W.I.O. Officers' Conference.

Formal sessions opened Wednesday morning with Mrs. Noblitt presiding. Referring to the theme, "Members see — Officers foresee" the president said, "You are here because you are officers, or preparing yourselves to be officers, and as such you are leaders. William Penn once said that a good leader possesses these qualities — ability, clean hands, dispatch, patience and impartiality. I would add enthusiasm and ambition sparked by a sense of humour."

Speaking of the qualities of a leader, Mrs. Noblitt reminded the delegates that the effective leader will find that good manners smooth the way to understanding and that gentleness,

kindliness and good will contribute to a happy membership. Impartiality, which Penn recommended, is the ability to be fair to all members of her organization, to keep an open mind to their ideas no matter how they may differ from hers. To be unprejudiced as to race, colour or creed provides a great earmark of leadership.

Dispatch, the delegates were told, is the ability to research, plan, organize and then execute. Mrs. Noblitt paid tribute to Mrs. Zoeller, Past President F.W.I.O., for the wonderful leadership she gave at the time of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary.

The President warned, "If we lack enthusiasm and ambition we won't get far. Ambition implies that we must have an objective; we must know where we are going. Enthusiasm provides the perseverance that overcomes obstacles; and a sense of humour is the oil that smooths the squeaky wheels of progress. Many a heated situation can be turned by a hearty laugh or a wry comment."