

They had considered that their government was their business. Athens meant freedom and civilization. Her citizens were devoted to her and devoted loyalty does not demand payment for services. Now citizens were demanding a government that would provide a comfortable life and so self reliance and freely given service to the community disappeared. The greater demands for services required heavier and heavier taxes. So Athenians insisted on being free from the burden of a self dependent life and responsibility for the common good and in this way their freedom was lost forever."

"Are we, the citizens of the twentieth century, too, relinquishing our responsibilities for the structured living and comforts of this age," asked the President. "Are we, as did the 4th century B.C. Athenians, demanding more and more while disregarding and evading our responsibilities?"

Mrs. Noblitt concluded her address with a message outlining some duties and responsibilities of Women's Institute members.

### **GREETINGS FROM THE HOME ECONOMICS BRANCH**

**Miss Helen McKercher, Director**

Presenting greetings Miss McKercher said, "May I extend to you, on behalf of the Home Economics Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, very best wishes on this your 25th Anniversary of the institution of the Annual Officers' Conference."

Referring to that first Conference, Miss McKercher welcomed Mrs. John McCulloch of Brampton, who was F.W.I.O. Secretary in 1948 and expressed regret that Mrs. J. R. Fitcher, President in that year could not attend the 1973 Conference. "I was at that Conference too," the Director said, "and I have been at the last seventeen conferences; now I want to say a special 'Thank you' for the support and interest that you have always shown in the Home Economics Branch program, and for your cooperation with the County and District Home Economists."

Miss McKercher urged the Conference delegates to maintain their Contributing Memberships in the Associated Countrywomen of the World, (and to take this message home to their branches), saying that if A.C.W.W. is to carry out the obligations that they have assumed, continued support is necessary.

Mentioning the Erland Lee Home, Miss McKercher said that she hoped the visit to the Home had deepened the pride of ownership in each member. "Every member of every branch has a responsibility to this Home. Talk about it and come with your friends by busloads to show it off," she said.

Congratulations were extended to the Women's Institutes for being an organization that supports Homes and Families by the Director. She said, "If Canada is to survive as a leader in today's world when values are being challenged by persons who deny the social need for, and validity of any restraints, all pro family forces must take a strong stand.

"It has been said that the people between thirty-five and fifty-five are the 'caught generation' — They are caught between the demands of youth on the one hand and, on the other the expectations of the elderly. They are caught in financing institutions for these two segments of our population, since neither group is a contributor to the economic framework.

"A universal function of the family, such as nurturing the young and the fulfilment of economic and emotional needs among family members, cannot change because men and women must have them to survive. Family life only fails because humans fail. Fostering rich family life is an important and necessary part of the work of Women's Institute members.

"Youth must still be taught to love and respect themselves, for only then can they love and esteem their neighbours and commit their lives to all they deem worthwhile. No life is great until it is focused, dedicated and disciplined. Freedom, honesty, loyalty, fidelity, honour, self control, sacrifice, obedience, faith, respect for self and fellow man, reverence for life, these are values that must not be allowed to go out of style. Our challenge in the Women's Institutes and in the Home Economics Branch is to find a way of helping to make every home the most nourishing possible place."

### **THE DISCUSSION GROUPS**

The Discussion Groups are Designed to give expert up-to-date information, and to provide opportunities for discussion and an exchange of ideas, the Discussion Groups are an important part of the Conference Program. Guest Chairmen were — Secretary Treasurers — Mrs. William G. Miller; Citizenship and World Affairs Conveners — Mrs. John Hermanson; Members at Large — Mrs. Edward Urstad. Discussion Group Leaders were — Mrs. R. C. Alexander, Mrs. Orval Bell, Mrs. Calvin Carmichael, Mrs. John Rumble, Mrs. Jack Sparling, Mrs. Carl Strike, Mrs. Charles Wallace, Mrs. Stewart Anderson, Mrs. George Durnford, Mrs. Emerson Emke, Mrs. Rebecca Johnson, Mrs. Percy Clarke, Mrs. Edgar Ellenor, Mrs. Gordon Gow, Mrs. Clair Lunn, Mrs. Gordon Mallion, Mrs. Shirley Bird.