

Convener's Report

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

I am curious to know — "how interested are you in your convenership?" Last year I pointed out to you (Branch, District and Area Conveners) that you have a challenge to meet. That statement is still directed to YOU and ME.

Since my election as your provincial convener, I have become more interested in the Cultural Activities of the convenership. Because of this segment, I am more aware of history, drama, crafts, literature, art, music, libraries and museums. Each time we read, listen to, or watch television, we should accept the fact that we are learning and being educated. I have not forgotten the Education part of the Conventionship, as education is foremost in learning.

I have been scanning the newspapers and magazines for articles pertaining to this convenership and many times the scissors are brought into the act and many clippings are being preserved for my scrapbook. Have you a scrapbook for clippings that you can refer to when necessary?

I cannot stress enough that programs be presented concerning our own organization. What do you know about the origin of your Branch, District, or Area? When was the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario organized? What are the objectives of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada? Did you know the Associated Country Women of the World has eight million members? Do you read your Home and Country, the Federated News and the Country Woman?

I have a favour to ask. Will each Convener at Branch, District, and Area write to me telling "why you accepted the Conventionship of Education and Cultural Activities"? Also, what have you done to create more interest in this convenership? Do you have any special project and what are your future plans? May I have your letter by April, 1, 1974. Please designate whether Branch, District or Area, as well as your complete address.

Convener — Mrs. Lowell Eller

RESOLUTIONS

ACTION IS OUR CHALLENGE

Resolutions — one of the first Conventionships in the Women's Institutes — still has a place in today's program.

Are you content with your efforts as a Resolution Convener?

Let's try to have a Resolution meeting which will be both interesting and meaningful. How can this be achieved?

The Handbook should be our guide; after the mechanics, good basic programs about present day concerns. All programs may not result in Resolutions, however, all programs should give us a wider knowledge and broader understanding of the topic.

Suggested topics for study:

Canada Pension Plan (where does the farmer's wife fit in), Marketing Boards, Land Use Plans, Regional Government, Day Care Centres, Immigration, A Guaranteed Income.

Convener—Mrs. Austin S. Zoeller

AGRICULTURE & CANADIAN INDUSTRIES

There is no lack of program material available for this convenership.

Some suggestions, Outlook '73 (a follow-up to the Canadian Agricultural Outlook Conference '72); What effect did the rail strike have on Agricultural Products?; Find your good food buys; Snack foods versus nutrition; What goes into a cookie?; Where is the furniture industry going?;

Don't forget — a program and then a discussion.
Convener—Mrs. Fred Watty

CITIZENSHIP AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Suggestions for study:

Women and the Law; Human Rights; Commonwealth of Nations; Australia, the next place for the A.C.W.W. Conference; Drugs; Abortions; United Nations and World Health; Save Sight; Amendments to (a) Canada Labor Code covering discrimination on the grounds of sex, age and marital status, (b) the Public Service Superannuation Act to improve pensions and insurance plans for women, (c) Housewives in the Canada Pension Plan; Work of DREE, Department of Regional Expansion, Social and Human Analysis Branch; C.I.D.A. — Canadian International Development Agency, Canada's Aid to Developing Countries — once called "Foreign Aid" now "Developmental Co-operation"; Struggle for freedom in the new African Nations; Sky-Lab; and the changing lives of the Indian and Eskimo.

Convener, Mrs. John Hermansen

NUTRITION CANADA

report expected in 1974

The study started in 1969, is to provide information on the nutritional well-being of Canadians. This survey conducted by the Food and Drug Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare is now nearing completion. The results will tell us about Canada's true nutrition picture.

The need for the study was triggered by medical reports indicating that Canadians are not as well fed as had been assumed. It has been said, that certain malnutrition exists — can this be true of Canadians? We will have to wait for the results.

Surveys have been taken geographically among Indian, Eskimo and the white population. Sampling of the population is based on age, sex, family income level, with everyone in these groups having an equal chance to be included in the sample.

Two teams conducted the study across Canada. An advance group visits the family first to explain the survey and enlist their cooperation. Survey centres are set up in local schools and churches. Participants receive medical and dental examinations and are interviewed by a nutritionist.

Many people do not eat what are considered necessary amounts of foods. Food habits are changing. No longer do people eat three meals a day together as a family. More people are increasing the amounts of calories consumed as snack foods, and less basic dietary staples.

On the positive side, this study will show how we can all do better. It will help aid people who are ill. It will help the food industry develop its products and the government to provide the guidance necessary to further the cause of good nutritional health for all.