

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

6th National Convention

June 18-22, 1973

"For Home & Country"

Mrs. Harvey Houston, Public Relations Officer

The sixth National convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was held in the beautiful setting of Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, June 18-22nd, 1973. It was interesting to experience, three seasons in one day, three inches of snow, rain and bright sunshine. For many it was their first sight of the majestic Rocky Mountains.

The Official opening was in the spacious Eric Harvie Theatre, when the president, Mrs. E. V. Fulton, Manitoba, presided for many of the sessions. Greetings were brought from the Honourable Eugene Whelan, Canada Minister of Agriculture; the Honourable Dr. Hugh Horner, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Alberta. Mr. S. M. Hodgson, Commissioner for North West Territories; Dr. Irene Spry, Deputy President for ACWW. She also brought a written greeting from Mrs. Farquharson, ACWW President, England; Mrs. J. P. Matheson, Area Vice President for Canada, ACWW. Welcomes were extended by Dr. David Leighton, Director of the Banff Centre, and Mrs. C. L. Alexander, president of the Alberta Women's Institutes, our hostess for the convention. Mrs. John McLean, Nova Scotia, 1st vice president, FWIC replied.

President's Address:

Mrs. E. V. Fulton, speaking on the theme of the convention "For Home & Country" related how Laura Rose Stephen penned the four words for our Motto "For Home and Country". This suggestion met with the approval of the judges, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Miss Urie Watson, Dean of MacDonald Institute. Speaking at a later date, Mrs. Stephens said, "Do not stray too far from the first phrase of our motto, "For Home" and devote too much time to the second phrase, "and Country". The first is the foundation on which the second is built." Adelaide Hoodless said "A nation cannot rise above the level of its homes. Therefore we women must work and study together, to raise our homes to the highest level." This statement was made in 1897 and it still is true today.

A home should be a place that has love, understanding, encouragement, and discipline, with honest toil and devotion to duty (to prepare children to go out into the world; to have freedom, as well as co-operation). Home life can be compared to gardening. The house is the soil in which young human life is planted and the parents are the gardeners.

As a voluntary group, we can bring about many kinds of changes which help a nation to grow in strength.

1. Encourage people's sense of understanding, responsibility and co-operation through adult education.
2. Have educational, health and cultural programs in rural and urban areas.
3. Study and understand laws, old and new.
4. Help in institutions which are vital, but are struggling to exist — hospitals, schools, museums, and libraries.

We have three gifts to offer to our communities and our country, Time, Energy and Ability.

**Mrs. Edna Clarke — Policy and Liaison Secretariat
Alberta Department of Agriculture**

Developments in Home Economics — Nothing is more important than the voice of Women's Institutes through program planning. Members have the ideas, imagination and good sense to evaluate and identify problems and then proceed to determine the vital ingredients for on-going programs.

If we want to develop grace of human beings we must take a stand for humanity. You can't program people like you might a computer. Skill is essential to evaluate money management, and human development. Nutrition and education play a crucial part in our development. An educated consumer can have a good clout and manufacturers are willing to listen. Consumer education begins between our own two ears. There is no legislation to protect the ignorant consumer. Continuing Mrs. Clarke stated, schools can't do everything, parents, church leaders, voluntary organization must all fit together for the good of the whole. What the country needs more than anything else is family education in schools.

**Mrs. Freida Paltiel — Canada's first co-ordinator,
Status of Women. "Rural Women's Concern, Some
Government Responses".**

If you care about your children your opinion is important. Day Care Centres are equally important in rural communities and it is important for the wives in the rural areas to know the up to date rulings and legislation for these Centres. Miss Paltiel said, in this credit card age, such cards should be issued in the woman's own name and she disliked the vast number of questions asked at the time of application. She stressed we should press for legislation of maternity leave to be covered by all pension plans.

Referring to the Status of Women report, she told how this group has been working against the dis-