

CITIZENSHIP AND WORLD AFFAIRS
Mrs. John Hermansen, Convener
UNITED NATIONS



This is World Population Year — 1974. World Population Year activities are the vital beginning of a continuing effort to achieve world-wide awareness of population matters and to find a rational, workable balance between people and resources so that the quality of human life everywhere could be improved through better knowledge, in-

formed policy and action.

A world-wide program has been set up by United Nations to accomplish the following objectives.

- a. Improve knowledge of and information on the facts concerning population trends and prospects.
- b. Sharpen awareness and heightened appreciation of population problems and their implications by individual governments, non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions and the media.
- c. Provide effective education on population, family life, and reproductive functions through formal and other educational systems.
- d. Stimulate discussion and thinking on alternate policies.
- e. Expand international co-operation in population fields and supply increased suitable technical assistance to countries desiring it.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is carrying out several action projects relevant to the objectives of World Population Year. Its research programs include: (a) the health aspects of family planning; (b) studies on relative effectiveness, safety and acceptability of a variety of fertility regulation methods; (c) systems in family planning; (d) studies of mortality trends; (e) studies on the interrelationship between health, population and economic development; (f) studies on information systems for collection of health statistics.

Mrs. Helvi Sipila of Finland was recently appointed to an Assistant Secretary-General's post handling social development and humanitarian affairs for the United Nations. She recently chaired an international forum on the role of women in population and development held in New York city. Only women in leadership posts from each UN member state were invited. She also spoke in Santo Domingo on the "Status of Women in Family Planning". This is one of many such seminars that will be held in various UN states to examine the links between family planning, family size, and the promotion of equality between men and women.

In one area, women's suffrage, Mrs. Sipila sees great progress. At the start of the Second World War, she says, there were only 32 countries where women could vote. Now there are only 5 where women can't — Liechtenstein, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

International Women's Year will be held in 1975.

A new University for the world, of the world, and by the world, has been proclaimed by acclamation at the United Nations and been granted a charter. It will

be called the UN University, and under its umbrella some of the best intellects in the world will attempt to find solutions to some of the pressing problems of human survival.

"STATUS OF WOMEN"

The advisory Council on the Status of Women consisting of 26 women and 2 men are currently studying the following topics:

Human rights, and the appointment of women (more) to the Human Rights Commission, head the list of priorities. They also want to make sure that a limitation clause eliminating insurance coverage in certain cases, is removed from the proposed amendment to the Labour Code which would prohibit discrimination on sex or marital status.

The Council requests action on the recommendation to include housewives in the Canada Pension Plan, also changes implemented in the Divorce Act, especially reducing the waiting period to one year, and a more equitable distribution of property rights.

Also on the council's list of priorities are amendments to the Citizenship Act to remove sex discrimination. These include the resumption of citizenship for Canadian women who lost their citizenship on marriage to an alien before changes to the Act in 1947.

The council also proposes to explore and make recommendations on child care facilities in the country, on women's aid services, which members said are still not available to women who need them most, and on the possibility of using class action as a tool to affect changes in human rights.

Let us study well these timely questions, in order that our opinions may be counted.



Allentford W.I. — 70th Anniversary celebrations. Two oldest members cut cake (L) Mrs. Harry Aiken and Mrs. T. K. Newman.