

dio and other means of communication on such subjects as family life including family planning and citizenship and to give training in economic activities including cottage and home industries, farming, rural development and co-operatives.

The impact of women's status and participation on the population issue has been recognized. Studies have been shown there is an inter-relationship between the educational, economic, legal, social and political status of women and their capacity to freely and responsibly exercise their right to decide on the number and spacing of their children, and so effect the population policy. The world population Plan of Action asks that family responsibilities be fully shared by both partners. It also places strong emphasis on maternal and child care, and requests a minimum age for marriage, recommends a diversified education for girls and stresses women's crucial role in bearing and rearing children.

Mrs. Sipila called for concerted effort at every level to implement the goals and objectives of International Women's Year:

- (a) the achievement of equality of men and women
- (b) the integration of women in decision making in community life at all levels
- (c) the promotion of world peace

A highlight of the year will be the U.N. Conference in Bogota, Colombia, June 23 to July 4, 1975, where a World Plan of Action is in preparation on the aims and objectives of I.W.Y. Here involvement by men is encouraged as much as that of women. I.W.Y. will benefit women and their children directly and all society. There must be an inter-relationship between both sexes in society where both share equally in its numbers, in participation and benefits.

National Day

"National Day" was Australia's formal welcome to us all. Fortunately it was a beautiful spring day with a slight breeze, bright sun and blue skies. We were all taken to King's Park — a highland overlooking the sparkling waters of the estuary. During the arrival of the buses, a band played and accompanied the massed choir of the Countrywomen of Australia. This beautiful choir of women from all over Australia was to share the gift of song with us many times during the

Conference. Then, during the afternoon, we walked from one entertainment to another all around the park. We listened to a team of Bell Ringers; saw a presentation by South Australia of the mosaic of nationalities that came to populate Australia; heard a record of bird calls of New South Wales; saw West Australia's presentation of aborigines' playing the didgeridoo; heard songs around a campfire by Victoria; a story of New South Wales; a folk singing group from Queensland and a tableaux by the W.A.B. of South Australia.

Opening Day

By Opening Day, delegates from 51 countries of the world had arrived and swelled our numbers to nearly 1,500. We all crowded into the Conference Hall in the evening for that very important "Opening Ceremony".

Following the singing of the National Anthem, the flags of all member countries of A.C.W.W. were paraded and later formed an arch at the back of the stage. It was a proud moment when the Canadian flag was dipped at the front of the stage and later took its place with the others.

The Honourable, Sir Charles Court, Premier of West Australia, in welcoming us paid great tribute to the pioneer women of Australia who had played such an important part in the development of their land. The remote places into which they had gone with their husbands were now the locations of the best farms, most productive mines and best industrial areas.

Mrs. Farquharson, A.C.W.W. President, responded to the addresses by saying that the Conference had a golden opportunity to shape the course of tomorrow just as so much of what had been done in the past by our members enriched the present for us. She mentioned that the pressures which tend to divide us today can, with the co-operation of all, be bridged by positive recognition of the things that *unite* us. Even now the partnerships which already exist manifest themselves through an atmosphere of friendship and understanding in the way experienced societies help the newly emergent groups. One unique advantage we have is in our organization being the only international organization of countrywomen and homemakers. Today the greatest challenge to development



Ontario Women's Institute members attending Conference. FWIO official delegates front row (L) Mrs. Donald MacLachlan, Mrs. G. E. McCaffrey, Mrs. H. L. Noblitt, President, Mrs. Wm. G. Miller, Secretary Treasurer, Mrs. Effie Ellerback, Mrs. Della Fletcher, F.W.I.O.'s second council member.