



L-r — Miss Helen McKercher, Director Home Economics Branch; Mrs. Herbert Maluske, President FWIO; and FWIC President, Mrs. John McLean.

National President Speaks

Mrs. John A. McLean, President, Federated Women's Institutes of Canada made her official visit to Ontario during Officers' Conference.

Rural women, who still comprise the majority of W.I. members, hold as their first concern their families, then their communities and last of all, themselves, she said.

She described the W.I. member as a link in a chain of women who are joined together at the community level, and that chain extends around Ontario, across Canada, and then around the world in the international organization known as the Associated Countrywomen of the World. It now has more than eight million members.

The individual W.I. member, the one who works in her own community, is the true strength of the organization, she said.

"More than ever before the importance of the family unit is being proved. There is nothing and no one as yet who can as effectively do for children what the family unit can do."

But, Mrs. McLean added, "I am not sure that we as women are accepting our full responsibility in achieving what the family should be in the '70s."

"Far too many of us are shirking our responsibilities and some of the blame for the ills rests with us."

Referring to International Women's Year, she said reaction is very mixed as to the worth, the necessity and what will be achieved.

"There is a danger that thousands of taxpayers' dollars could be literally going down the drain. We could wind up with an IWY that is purely a public relations job with Why Not? slogans and extensive advertising through the media.

"We have been doing a lot of thinking about goals . . . but what we need is more action on achieving them."

In the W.I., she said, "every year is Women's Year, or if it isn't it should be. Since its organization, the WI has had as its objective a concern for women as mothers, as workers, as participants in and contributors to, the development of our communities.

In the 78 years the W.I. has been operating it has encouraged such participation, but it hasn't been very successful. "If we had there would be no need for an IWY."

Discussions Groups

The delegates were divided into twenty groups, either Secretary-Treasurers, Agriculture and Canadian Industries or Members at Large. It didn't take long for the delegates to begin asking questions, airing their problems and seeking advice. Some of the leaders used visuals to emphasize special points. Handbooks were the order of the day with delegates eager to learn more about the office they represented.



Members At Large Discussion Group leaders. L-r Mrs. James Coyne; Mrs. Sam Koski; Mrs. Lorne Grey; Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, Chairman; Mrs. W. E. Doerr; Mrs. Clarence Diamond; Mrs. Jack Sparling.



Secretary Treasurers Discussion Group leaders. L-r — Mrs. Brock Suddaby; Mrs. Neil Cleary; Mrs. John Rumble; Mrs. Earl Morden, Chairman; Mrs. Fred McBride; Mrs. Cecil Hollands, Mrs. R. J. Penney.



Agriculture and Canadian Industries Discussion Group leaders. L-r — Mrs. Allan Orr; Mrs. Ted Baker; Mrs. John A. King, Chairman; Mrs. Abner B. Martin; Mrs. R. W. Payne; Mrs. Kenneth Spence.