

HOME AND FAMILY

A priest from the interior of Australia led off with a few introductory words. He stated that when a crack comes in the family, a nation deteriorates. Today the family is under attack. He lamented that we have no formal training for the important role of parenthood.

Mrs. McLean, F.W.I.C. President, spoke saying that we have a sense of urgency to protect the family unit as a place of security because of the stresses in our society — the moral breakdown, emphasis on wealth, violence on TV, promiscuity, change in the family structure, change in community living and so on.

In Papua, New Guinea, we learned, there is a community type of life not dependent on money. The situation in some parts of Africa and in Sarawak seem more critical where economics and changes in life style are breaking up families and the idea of helping one another is deteriorating. Loneliness is common in rural areas. The W.I. from Zambia reported helping here by meeting every newcomer to the community.

A Dutch member told us that in her country women and girls are being offered education but not all are taking full advantage of it and some are not prepared to accept the changing role as yet.

In summary, it was stated that what mothers teach in the home is all important. Children must be able to discriminate between right and wrong and an open line of communication must be kept to attack the present day diseases of drug addiction, drunkenness and immorality.

MAN AND NATURE

Dr. T. L. Riggert from the Department of Fisheries and Fauna in Australia spoke of the need to do research into the ecology of their wetland habitats and the wildlife dependent upon them, with a view to developing conservation programs. From the study groups in this session it was evident that the problems of pollution, conservation and energy were common to many countries. In trying to answer the question of, "What can we do?", the following were some of the suggestions: make the public more aware; make children more aware in schools; pressure for pollution projects; plant trees and encourage research into toxic sprays.

COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING

These sessions were interspersed in unique ways throughout the days' programs. One was on the wireless method used in Australia for holding W.I. meetings, and one on music interpretation by people of different races and cultures. A third came as part of the afternoon devoted to A.C.W.W. and its work with and through United Nations. It was here that Dr. Irene Spry, who had been A.C.W.W.'s representative to the United Nations meeting on World Population Year in Bucharest, Rumania, spoke. Many of the delegates to that conference were women she said. Much emphasis was put on the role of women in proportion to the population and steps to revitalize rural areas and introduce new areas there were agreed upon. She felt that non-governmental organizations were important in carrying out these objectives.

Conclusion

It is difficult to share with you in a few pages what took place in ten days of Conference and of course I have touched only on the highlights. It was an impressive experience and I wish to express my gratitude again for the opportunity and honour of representing you as F.W.I.O. President.

With The FWIO Branches

Shedden W.I. sponsored a meeting for members as well as men and women of the community, to publicize the annual Cancer campaign and Cancer month. Films were shown, and a special speaker telling about the campaign was a guest.

Springford W.I. are spearheading a fire fund for a burned out family. The parents along with their four boys lost all their possessions, excepting an adding machine, a power saw and some coats. The Secretary Treasurer of the Branch is accepting donations.

Langton W.I. were responsible for a Women's Institute plaque to be placed at the entrance to the village.

Central Yarmouth W.I. learned about "History of Bread" from the Convener of Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Mrs. E. Griffiths. She told the story of bread dating from Roman times to the present.

Men learned to live on a new diet — the grains, and in the process made a new life. Grain cultivation is an achievement of man which profoundly affected his way of life and directly started him on the road to civilization. Windmill power came in effect 1000 years after mill stones. With the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885, Canada was able to contribute her share of grain to the world market, as well as supply the growing population in the East. Canada has the largest flour mills in the world at Thunder Bay.



Delaware W.I. celebrate 60th. L-R Mrs. Joseph Lommen, President and Mrs. Chas. Tilden, Curator with one volume of their Tweedsmuir History book.