

For thirty-two years Mrs. Bielish has been an active Women's Institute member. During that time she served on the executive at local district and provincial level including four years as president.

She represented Alberta on the National Board as Junior and Senior Board Director, served as member at large as well as third and second vice president, and was acclaimed President at the National Convention in June. She has attended FWIC conventions since 1957, as well as the last four ACWW Conferences.

A wide variety of interests have given Mrs. Bielish the opportunity to serve over the years on the Provincial boards of the Red Cross, Cancer Society, Council on Aging; Human Rights Association, CAC. Also her interest in native people lead to a close liaison with the Voice of Alberta Native Women's Society. She served as an elected trustee on her local school board, and was on the Citizens Advisory Board on the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

Presently she serves as Chairperson of the County Further Education Council and on the Advisory Board on adjustment of immigrants to Canada Manpower and Immigration Council.

Mrs. Bielish received an International Women's Year Award in 1975.

Warmest congratulations and good wishes for a successful tenure of office as President of FWIC.

RESOLUTIONS SUSTAINED

Requesting the Federal Government to pass legislation making the Maple Leaf Tartan the official tartan of Canada.

Requesting ACWW to separate resolutions from recommendations and that each group be discussed separately at an ACWW Conference.

Requesting only sustained resolutions passed by the Resolutions Committee be brought forward for discussion at the plenary session of an ACWW Conference.

Support the establishment of rape centres to aid victims of sexual assaults; and changes in legislation dealing with rape victims and rapists.

Also a recommendation was passed that resolutions be accompanied by concrete research and supportive material.

That FWIC lend support to the proposed bill and amendments to the Broadcasting Act proposed by James McGrath MP requesting CRTC to set out clear and acceptable guidelines governing the portrayal of sex and violence in programming.

NUTRITION AND THE MONTREAL DIET DISPENSARY

Mrs. Agnes Higgins, Director Montreal Diet Dispensary spoke on "Nutrition of the Fetus" dealing specifically with nutrition during pregnancy.

Throughout her speech she stressed the importance of a balanced nutritional diet at all times but especially for the pregnant. Mrs. Higgins told about her work with mothers living in slums and at poverty level and the effects of malnutrition on the mother during pregnancy as well as the effects on the child at birth and on through life. Children often have disabilities when born which could have been prevented if more nutritious and well balanced meals had been eaten by the mother.

Slides, graphs, and comparisons were presented on various phases of nutrition during pregnancy according to USA research. This research showed that 75% of long term disabilities were due to poor eating habits. Mrs. Higgins concluded that the most important food for the baby is milk, now statistics show milk is important for brain development before birth. Those babies starved before birth in some cases only have 40% of their brain cells developed. It was her contention that bigger, brighter, better babies will result when mothers have a well-balanced diet.

THE HOUSE OF NUTRITION

To the background music Bless This House, the standing conveners presented their reports under the theme "This is the house of nutrition that FWIC built". The conveners used statistics from their printed reports which were compiled from information sent from each provincial convener.

Agriculture and Canadian Industries were depicted by the walls, representing the strength and need for Agriculture. Cultural Activities built the roof and chimney, depicting both necessity and enjoyment. Citizenship and Education represented the doors, through which WI members can express their thoughts and expand their thinking. The windows were built by United Nations and International Exchange for all to see beyond our own borders. The hearth, the centre of the home was represented by the convenership of Home Economics and Health, expressing the thought that good basic nutritional needs are essential.

The fitting climax to the presentation was the thought that it was only through the study of nutrition at branch level through all convenerships that a House of Nutrition could be built.

OUR CANADIAN CHALLENGE

The delegates were divided into seven workshops to discuss current issues and concerns.

Land Use—discussion centred around the use or misuse of agricultural land, the extent of government intervention and foreign ownership.

Strengthening the Family Unit—women should become more involved in policy making and participate in studies and surveys.

Our Heritage—the group discussed three categories, geographical, preservation of history and visual presentation.

Role of Women—career, volunteers, homemakers. The consensus was that women should have choices and be free to make the choice that interested them most, without jeopardizing the strength of the family unit.

Rural Urban Communications—if rural and urban people would try to understand the problems of the "other side" by listening, talking, reading, each would become better informed. Communicating means understanding the situation oneself, then getting the message across correctly.

Man and Resources—energy consumption has doubled within a decade, new methods of creating energy were discussed and how we could contribute.

New Directions—discussions centred around how FWIC members could better promote the work of the organization to keep it in tune with the times.