

Officers' Conference

"When planning for a year, sow corn;
When planning for a decade, plant trees;
When planning for life, train and educate people"

Kwan Tsu

The 29th Officers' Conference, May 3-5 held at the University of Waterloo attracted 510 Conveners of Citizenship and World Affairs, Education and Cultural Activities and Family and Consumer Affairs.

"Let's Sing" sessions were again in charge of Mrs. Hugh Baird and Mrs. Wm. Stone both of Sunderland.

Dr. Matthews

The University President Dr. Burt Matthews welcomed the delegates to the campus stating that "the WI has been known to me from the days of my youth growing up on a farm near Kerward."

Briefly he told the history of the University of Waterloo which is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. In 1957 there were 75 engineering students enrolled now there are 18,000 across Ontario in such programmes as engineering, human kinetics, optometry, physics etc. There are 38 buildings on the 1000 acre site, 250 of which are developed, the remainder rented. The co-op programme plays an important role, (half the students are in this programme) four months alternating work experience allowing students the opportunity to work and attend classes alternately.

Dr. Matthews said "Education is our business", there never has been a time when education is more important, to know ourselves and know our country and how our country will continue to remain a great nation.

Director Speaks

Miss Molly McGhee, attended the Conference making her first appearance as the newly appointed Director of the Home Economics Branch she paid tribute to the leaders who support the programme. It was of interest to note that the total number of participants taking part increased over 8%.

New appointments announced were, Lorraine Holding, Home Economist in Halton and Peel to Regional Supervisor in Guelph and Heather Barnett, Clothing Specialist, Toronto to Kingston. Vacancies in some counties will be filled as quickly as possible.

Excellent planning over the past 80 years has resulted in the training and education of many members. The membership has made a great contribution, and will be called upon to play a much greater role in the future, assisting the rural population especially, to cope with the problems and changes that will affect life from now until the 100th anniversary.

Along with the problems we may see many improvements and new methods of growing crops, using minimum tillage to prevent soil erosion, the control of weeds with bio-degradable chemicals, upgrading of protein content in cereal grains and the hybridizing of additional crops.

World-wide, we may anticipate the advancing of food technology, particularly the modification of plant protein, so as to provide meat analogues to the many millions who cannot afford palatable and nutritious meats, milk and eggs.



Miss Molly McGhee Director, Home Economics Branch Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food delivering keynote address to delegates.

Hopefully family planning techniques will improve and there will be greater public acceptance of the smaller family, so that mankind may move out from under the malthusian shadow. It was T. R. Malthus who said the population tends to increase at a faster rate than its means of subsistence, and that widespread poverty and degradation of the lower classes inevitably result, unless population growth is checked by moral restraint or through disease, famine or war.

At home, we are already experiencing changes in agriculture and family life, these will continue. Agriculture will lose its uniqueness, the future demise of the family farm. Cash receipts are declining and production costs increasing, resulting in a substantial drop in total net farm income. The family farmer will reluctantly give up his historical role of supplying all the factors of production—land, labour, capital, management. The production of crops will require larger farm enterprises, so that a single person will be unlikely to supply them all.

World markets, oil prices, and energy shortages will continue to determine whether we become increasingly vulnerable to continued inflation rates, with their consequent, increases in unemployment rates.

All of these changes will affect family life. Many believe that there is no such thing as the family today.

This may be very distressing to members of FWIO whose motto is "For Home and Country". However Miss McGhee said we must be realistic in 1977 and recognize that there are many types of families, apart from the nuclear family; communal, unmarried females with children, unmarried couples living together, and divorced, separated or single parents with