



BETWEEN THE LINES

Mrs. Clarence
Diamond
President
Federated
Women's Institutes of
Ontario

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

That magic moment of ushering in the Baby New Year 1979 has been sent in many ways. Time has no divisions to mark its passage but we mortals celebrate as each New Year takes its first faltering steps along that 12-month trek to maturity. In that eternal quest for new beginnings and new resolves may you realize your ambitions.

Boelif Loneland has said, "Whatever the year may do, give us the courage to see it through." That is the optimistic approach to a rewarding year. The ritual of each day's birth and setting sun is all too often marred by cynicism of those who fail to remember that not everyone believes the world is headed for disaster in a hand basket; that there are countless kindnesses bestowed although it is the bad news that gets the blackest ink; that work is a challenge; that our greatest reward is our family blessings; and that if we set our sights higher we will find a balance of blessings.

I hope that one of those blessings will be the satisfaction of your membership in our Women's Institutes. The years have only added to the great sum of knowledge gleaned, leadership developed, and the myriad thoughtful acts that a more humane world may be closer. And so I would ask you to "SOUND THE TRUMPET FOR OUR W.I. in 1979."

Let us first sound a note of "OPTIMISM", not just a ting-a-ling but a resounding note to be heard far and wide. As W.I. members we have stepped out in progressive times because we have a ship that is on the move and thus can be steered. We could add a companion note of "Attitude". The WI has made women into more understanding citizens ready to meet responsibilities. But with an optimistic attitude we can move into still higher gear, be vigorously and intellectually alive as we help women emerge and see the urgent need to develop their special abilities. It is not the good organizer, the efficient chairman, or the dynamic speaker at a meeting that counts the most but rather the attitudes created, the quality of graciousness of members, and the warmth of atmosphere as we try to build people up to do the best they can.

May a high note of "CONCERN" remain a top priority. With the distinction of being the only organization organized for the good of the family, and still building on that foundation, we take pride in our

achievements. A Minister of the Provincial Legislature recently said "the family is still the fundamental social unit of Canada," and although modern society is in a flux we are encouraged. Progressive living, introduced 82 years ago for the good of the family, means every individual, every person in the community and as horizons have broadened, in the whole world. In this year's concern for study on the rights of the child, as an idol or a gift, may we look for ways to help others have a purpose in life and enjoy the freedoms, beauties, and advantages we do have.

The last dainty creature to fly out of Pandora's box was 'hope' or a note of "FAITH", the axle of the universe. During war years our WI's worked in tangible and intangible ways believing there could be a better day. In later years we have studied the working of United Nations and agencies involved in trying to find causes and prevent repeat performances. As in Kipling's "Explorer" our WI pioneers had faith and we accept that torch and pass it along.

To some a note of "INDIVIDUALITY" may be low key. They may like readymade programs provided for them but then they fail to use their ideas and ingenuity. Individuality gives greater strength to our programs and develops people. If we can encourage a healthy inquiring curiosity or awareness of affairs no matter what the phase of study, then we can create a realistic approach to the problems of the day and a keen interest in being better informed.

Over the years the WI has sounded many notes of "CHANGE" by enthusiastically seeking improvements. Social evolution is a river flowing swifter with each passing year and our flexible programing has played a part in controlling its direction. Examples could be when we sought and won medical inspection and music training in public schools, to the rights of education for handicapped and yes, to today's removal of junk foods in some schools. The WI has not been a 'looker-on' but a participator in change.

All of the improvisations in this scale can be summed up with a big note of "CONTINUING ACTION." Innovations have been introduced, wrongs righted through resolutions, members have proven their leadership in places of note, and more. I was thrilled by the scope of up-to-date thinking and programing in your Area reports. Thus as individuals in that friendship chain of A C W W we have and will assist in hopes and ideas of all women and their families, no matter what their cultural background, economic status, occupation, beliefs or way of life.

New heights of pathfinding in human endeavours are still before us. Edison said "there is lots of room at the top but the elevator is not running". We will continue to be challenged by those heights and as Columbus told his sailors, "Sail on." You are helping to build a better civilization.

Florence Diamond