

Officers' Conference

The annual training forum sponsored by FWIO to which one delegate from each Branch and District throughout the Province is afforded the opportunity to attend, drew five hundred and fifty-five Branch District Directors or Members-at-large and District Federation Representatives. Payment of the registration fee of \$75.00 is the responsibility of the branch or district, this goes into a pooling fund and regardless of the location of the branch in Ontario there is no further expense. This method has worked well over the years.

The delegates have the opportunity to come and discuss Women's Institute procedures and learn more about programming.

The delegates are divided into workshop groups, later meeting together in plenary sessions. The aim is to instruct and develop leaders and create an atmosphere to develop the leadership abilities to their greatest potential.

The official visit of the National President, Mrs. Emmie Oddie, afforded all time to chat with her. Mrs. Clarence Diamond, Past President FWIO, officially introduced the President, Mrs. Keith Hiepleh to the delegates.

Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School choral singing group and band, both concert and jazz, under the direction of Mr. David Spence drew raves and applause from the audience. An added treat was the performance of a PEI school band visiting WO School on an exchange visit.

Registration was again under the direction of the Bloomingdale WI, Waterloo North District. This group have manned the registration desk and typewriters ever since the Conference moved to Waterloo.

New Dundee WI assisted PRO, Mrs. John Brown and FWIO treasurer Mrs. Clifford Ritchie on the sales table.

Mrs. Wm. G. Miller, Chairman of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home Committee and Mrs. Geo. Reist showed a slide presentation of activities at the Lee and sold supplies.

WELCOME

Dr. B.C. Matthews, President of the University of Waterloo, welcomed all the delegates to the campus for the last time. Another President has been appointed. Considerable progress has been made at the University, especially in providing a real service to young people. Ten years ago, enrolment was about 12,000, to-day about 21,000 students are taking courses.



SIMCOE AREA MEMBERS stop to chat. L-r Mrs. Howard Campbell, pianist; Mrs. Allan Orr, song leader; Mrs. John Brown, Provincial PRO.

FWIO PRESIDENT

Mrs. Hiepleh welcomed all to the thirty-third annual Conference. Paying tribute to Mrs. J. R. Fitcher, whose initial idea it was to hold a Conference, she went on to tell of the success the Conference has experienced over the years. The President brought the delegates up to date regarding the Board meeting, explaining about the Year of the Disabled, our attitudes and the encouragement we as an organization need to give in our own local communities. She referred to the theme of the Conference, "The Great Human Heart", explaining that the goal of WI members is to meet the needs of women in the community. Breaking down the words of the theme, showing how to expand our thinking.

G — gracious; **R** — respect; **E** — effort; **A** — attitude; **T** — trust

H — home; **U** — understanding; **M** — manner; **A** — acceptance; **N** — nations;

H — humble; **E** — enjoyment; **A** — appreciate; **R** — rejoice; **T** — thoughtful.

If we can apply all these to both our programming and attitudes we will be much more able to relate to one another. Mrs. Hiepleh concluded that hopefully the next two days would stimulate enthusiastic discussion and develop leadership abilities, and more importantly send delegates home with many new ideas.

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT

Mr. Ron McNeil, MPP, extended greetings on behalf of both the Minister of Agriculture and Food, The Hon. G. C. Henderson and the Ministry.

He congratulated the women on their achievements, especially their significant contribution and support to the local communities. Referring to the world food situation, Mr. McNeil encouraged support of World Food Day, October 16. The aim is to create public awareness of the long-term world food problem and strengthen the resolve to end hunger, malnutrition and poverty throughout the world.

The world food situation is both a problem and an opportunity, for food producing areas like Ontario, the challenge is to meet the needs of the world's hungry. It is true to say, that there is a market for every last bit of food we can produce. As one of the world's few food exporting nations, Canada and Ontario have a responsibility.

People don't always think of Ontario as a major agricultural area. Their eyes are distracted by vistas of factories and cities, but Ontario is Canada's prime agricultural area. No other province produces the amount or the variety of food that Ontario produces.

Mr. McNeil reviewed some of the government programs. He referred especially to the 3½ million acres of farmland in the province benefiting from improved drainage, and the funding to agricultural research, with Ontario's 950 research funding projects.

Statistics were presented, that of 42 countries studied, Canada was second lowest on spending for food. While Canadians use 15.3% to buy food, people in England spend 19.3%, in West Germany 22%; in Italy 30.6% and in India 59.3%.