

with politicians in the case of critical public issues. You bring your Briefs to governments, with your resolutions covering the whole waterfront of great and noble ideas, and governments know there is no fight behind any of them, for the most part.

And very little action of consequence ever ensues. I say this with reservations because on some issues your support and your voice has been very useful to governments in doing what they had to do.

I am also very apprehensive on this next point, because I do not really know anything about your membership, or about the strength of your organization, but I believe that if you are to remain a vital organization serving the interests of "home and community" well and effectively, you must be able to continue recruiting young, dynamic new members to carry on your work. But I believe young women in agriculture, and in rural life generally, have a new and stronger range of concerns than those which have traditionally preoccupied W.I. branches, and with which you have been identified.

Your problem may be one of small groups everywhere, with your members working 100 hour weeks, and trying to cover a variety of voluntary activities in your home communities, and possibly seeking a night's relief from pressure when you go to your meetings. Possibly W.I. is meant to be primarily recreational with some good works thrown in, and if that is the case, well and good. Simple socialization is also necessary for survival, especially when there may not be much of it at home.

But if you aspire to serious leadership, then I think both your image and your program must change. You need to consolidate your energy, and concentrate on fewer issues, which are within the capacity of your members to handle. You need to tightly focus on the key survival issues of your rural communities, and indeed of your farms. You need to assess the strength and capabilities of your members, and commit yourselves to no more than they can carry effectively. And you must insist on being heard, and taken seriously by those who make decisions in our communities, and whose decisions affect our social well-being and our economic livelihood.

Winning, in social or political confrontations requires three things: a winnable issue, strong organizational

FWIC Convention

Competitions Awards

Tweedsmuir Competitions 1979-1982

Handicraft – Hooked Rug (12 entries): First, Harrop & District WI, Nelson B.C.; second, Twillingate, Nfld.

Cultural Project – Essay: "Adelaide Hoodless – Is The Vision As Bright Today?" (15 entries):

First, Alice Sloan, Creston, B.C.; second, Mary Bowen, Coldstream Branch, Vernon, B.C.; third, Frances Laracy, Conception Harbour Branch, Conception, Nfld.

Community History Kit (4 entries):

First, Leckie's Corners, Ont.; second, Springford WI, Ont.

Senator Cairine Wilson Trophy

Citizenship Project – Poem: "A Humorous Pioneer Incident" (17 entries). Winner: Marjory McCallum, Albany, PEI – "The School That Vanished". Honourable Mentions: C. Milley Johnson, Little Catalina, Nfld.; Beatrice M. Dunlop, McDonalds Corners, Ont.

Hazel Stiles Scholarship

Winner, \$500 Scholarship: Edna Jennings McTaggart, Sask., a member of the West Weyburn WI.

Inez Derby Memorial Award

Winner, \$100 Award: Frances Bogner, Irvin, Alta.

support, and an element of passion – a powerful commitment that will stay with you until you achieve a resolution of the issue. Other things must be added, like information and advocacy techniques, and so on, but the primary things must be in place first.

It is up to your organization to decide whether you have those qualities, but I believe you must become profoundly impressed by the need to attract young women with something along these lines alive and relevant to the great women's issues of our day. □

85th Anniversary (continued)

that a sufficient food supply is available throughout the world, world peace may be threatened.

The World President concluded: "Thank God for these 85 years. What

has been possible in 85 years in Canada, must be possible to accomplish in the whole world. The world is in danger. Let us pull together, so that the world may say after so many years: there has risen a mighty force whose influence knows no bounds!"

Mrs. Hiepleh presented Mrs. Westebring-Muller with a book depicting pictorially a cross-section of Ontario life.

A symbolic cake, made by Mrs. Jean Gingerich, a member from Baden, was the centre of a candle lighting ceremony. Candles were lit by a long-standing member of the charter branch at Stoney Creek, Mrs. Nita Roderick, and the Provincial, National and World Presidents.

A skit, organized by two immediate past presidents, Mrs. Clarence Diamond and Mrs. Herbert Maluske, highlighting the history of the Women's Institutes, ended the luncheon celebrations. □