

# National Convention Report

## FWIC President

Mrs. Emmie Oddie, President, FWIC has made a beginning in producing an FWIC policy book that contains position papers, statements and resolutions. In putting this material together she was reminded of past FWIC leadership, of the wisdom and the courage of dedicated women who did not fear to take a position.

The national educational project to promote Producer-Consumer understanding has met with success.

No new overseas charitable projects were started in this triennium because of the knowledge that members would be asked to make contributions toward mounting the ACWW Conference in Vancouver.

She also stated that this is a significant national organization. Though we be different, one from another, we unite to do good works for home, for family and for country.

## Women's Issues

Convention guest speaker J. E. Green, senior consultant with DPA Consultants, Prince Edward Island, gave a vigorous and thought-provoking address on women's issues. It is reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

## ACWW Evening

Highlight of the ACWW evening was guest speaker Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller, President, ACWW. A

soft spoken, gracious and charming person, who began her association with ACWW in Michigan in 1967, she kept her audience spellbound by telling of personal experiences since becoming world president. At present, ACWW is involved in over 200 projects around the world.

Children from Park Street School, Fredericton North, provided entertainment by singing songs. ACWW representatives from Constituent societies told of contributions their societies are making to ACWW. At the conclusion of the evening delegates gave a voluntary collection for Pennies for Friendship which amounted to \$408.60.

## Workshop Sessions

Monday afternoon the workshops commenced and on Tuesday afternoon the topics were again covered in two more workshops. Leaders were chosen from the FWIC Board of Directors. A recording secretary summarized the findings of each workshop and a leader presented a summary to the delegates during the final business session.

Workshop topics were as follows: Human Rights of the Physically Disabled – Breaking Down the Myths and Misconceptions; Communicating Our Purpose; Energy-Conserving Retrofit of Existing Residences; A Discussion of Rights and Responsibilities of Canadian Health Consumers – How WI Can Respond to the Challenge; and Women and Chemical Dependency.

More workshop topics were: Interspousal Violence – Battering and Its Effects; A Look at Bill C53 and the Proposed Amendments to the Criminal Code; U.N. Decade of Water and Sanitation; Women's Costumes Through the Ages; Adolescence and Changing Lifestyles; Women and Economic Development; and Women and Pensions.

## Women and Pensions

Today women want pensions that will provide for their own personal security, their needs and their desires upon retirement, stated Monica Townson, author of "Canadian Women's Guide to Money". She pointed out four main problems in today's pension system:

- Coverage – only 75% of working women have access to private pensions
  - Mobility – women tend to change jobs more often than men, because of child-bearing
  - Different work patterns – 23% work part-time and thus are not eligible for private plans
  - Method of payment – pensions are based on earnings and therefore equal pay for equal work is essential
- The answer lies not in private plans but in the expansion of the public system, and C.P.P. is the most suitable means of adequate coverage, concluded Monica Townson.



Ontario Delegation – FWIC National Convention with ACWW President Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller