

Replies received on all issues

At the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Annual Board Meeting, November 1983, 20 resolutions including one emergency resolution were presented to the provincial board for their consideration.

The following Resolutions were forwarded as directed and the replies are recorded for your information:—

Resolution 1. Re — Arms control and the search for global security

This resolution was forwarded to the Government of Canada and the Secretary of the United Nations.

The reply from the Office of the Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Pierre Trudeau, was written by Edward Gorecki, Correspondence Assistant. Referring to the Prime Minister's recent peace initiative, he wrote, "It is hoped that Mr. Trudeau's undertaking will lead to progress in arms control and disarmament negotiations between the superpowers. Canada presently has several priorities in this area, among which are: to support negotiations leading to reductions in nuclear and conventional weapons; to help establish a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty; and to work for the complete prohibition of chemical weapons for use in outer space". Mr. Trudeau asked Mr. Gorecki to thank FWIO for taking time to send him our comments.

The reply from the UN came from the Department for Disarmament Affairs and was written by Prvoslav Davinie, Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General, who acknowledged on behalf of the Secretary-General the Resolution and its accompanying letter from FWIO. Several fact sheets on disarmament were enclosed.

Resolution 2. Re — Request to allow use of heroin in Canada for terminal ill patients

This resolution was directed to The Honourable Monique Begin, Minister of National Health and Welfare. In her reply to the Resolution, Mrs. Begin stated the following — "I appreciate knowing the position of your Institute regarding the management of pain in terminally ill

cancer patients, as expressed in your resolution on the medical use of heroin. The concern of your members in this regard is easy to understand, and I can assure you that I am committed to doing everything possible to alleviate the suffering and restore the dignity of those afflicted with the disease.

It is my hope that the report of the Advisory Committee that I have appointed to consider the role of drugs, including heroin, in the management of severe pain, will result as soon as possible, in the alleviation of much suffering." Mrs. Begin concluded by thanking FWIO for drawing the Resolution to her attention and for giving her the opportunity to respond to the Board's concerns in this important health area.

Resolution 3. Re — Request for larger grants for Research into the cause of Schizophrenia; and improve post hospital care for Schizophrenia patients

This resolution was directed to The Honourable Monique Begin, Minister of National Health and Welfare. Mrs. Begin replied that the government provides a significant amount of money to support research in the biomedical area. \$153 million will be allocated to the Medical Research Council of Canada in fiscal year 1984-85 to sustain the further development of a sound health research effort and system across Canada.

These funds are not allocated to any specific disease category but are intended to cover a wide range of research activities from fundamental to applied and clinical research including, through clinical trials, methodologies for the evaluation of disease prevention and treatment. Unfortunately, there have not been many requests for support of research directly related to schizophrenia in the recent past. She assured us that the Medical Research Council would welcome additional good applications from investigators working in this field.

In response to the second part of the Resolution, Mrs. Begin replied

that improved after-care services for the mentally-ill is of great concern to her and her officials. She enclosed a quarterly journal, "Canada's Mental Health" which focussed specifically on community care. She concluded by thanking FWIO for the Resolution and assuring us that her Department will continue to pursue the objective of better post-hospital care for schizophrenic and other mentally ill patients.

Resolution 4. Re — Request giving priority in the allocations of Crown Timber to independent loggers

This resolution was forwarded to The Honourable Alan W. Pope, Minister of Natural Resources. Mr. Pope replied that forest management objectives and prescriptions are detailed in management plans prepared for each forest management unit. Allocations of Crown timber in each plan are made to provide a continuing supply of timber for existing forest industries.

In the development of forest management plans priority is given to maintaining commitments to established timber licensees. If these licensees include independent logging contractors their needs will be met to the degree permitted by the annual allowable cut. Licences are issued on Crown management units to independent logging contractors under a variety of circumstances, but generally there are conditions in these licences directing timber harvested to a specific mill or mills.

The concluding paragraph from Mr. Pope's reply is as follows:

"Your resolution suggests timber allocations to large companies are being expanded at the expense of smaller licensees. I am confident a careful review of timber allocations in forest management plans will not support your contention. I would agree to increased allocations to independent logging contractors only when the level of commitments to existing mills can be maintained. I do not intend to put people out of work at existing mills".

Resolution 5. Re — Request to increase campaigns to educate students