

# W.I GROUP SEARCHING FOR PEACE . . . NOT WAR

The conflict in the Persian Gulf has been on the minds of all Canadians, including the 20,000 members of The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, the largest rural women's organization in the province. On their behalf, on January 14th, while Parliament was debating the topic, the President of FWIO, Peggy Knapp sent the following letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, to Joe Clark and to the Minister of National Defence.

The twenty thousand members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have been following events in the Persian Gulf throughout this serious crisis and commend our government for pursuing diplomatic channels in search of solutions.

May we urge you to continue to search out all possibilities for peace, and with the other members of the United Nations coalition, extend the sanctions against Saddam Hussein's Iraq, so the terrors of full-fledge war may not set loose the force of arms again in our world.

As an organization founded in 1897, FWIO has experienced the effects of war on its own communities. During the first World War, the WI members not only increased their work on the farm but they also found the time and money to support the needs of others. They raised over \$4,000,000 which was used to finance a hospital ship, field kitchens as well as overseas relief. Not content with money they knitted socks, sweaters and mitts as well as sewn articles.

During the second World War the Women's Institute members made over one and a half million knitted articles for the Forces as well as hundreds of quilts. Other activities included a furnished recreation room at Camp Borden, tons of jam made by the WI members and sent overseas, as well as raising over \$1,000,000.

After the Korean War, WI members helped purchase hand looms and sewing machines for the refugees.

FWIO cares for its members and their concerns, as well as

their local communities and the world wide community, through its membership in the Associated Country Women of the World.



Shown are guests at the reunion, including on the left and partially hidden, Luella Taylor, who was a Charter

Member in 1947 and still an active member; Alma Wilcan, Owen Sound, who joined in 1950 and is still a member to-

day; Janette Carney, Parry Sound, and Evelyn Blackwell, Walkerton.



Guests included, Lenora Eldt, Brucelea Haven, and Evelyn Wilson, Walkerton. Morrison, Owen Sound; Annie

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