

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1974

Career woman at Rideau Hall

Canada's first lady publicly aligned herself with the housewives of the nation last night.

"Rideau Hall has not changed *one* thing which is fundamental to my very existence — my career," Mrs. Jules Leger told those attending the Eastern Ontario Women's Institute conference at the Talisman Motor Inn. "And my career, in case anyone

is still wondering, is that of housewife. If one accepts the notion that a home properly managed can be creative and exciting, a vocation which can leave you with a profound sense of satisfaction, a job through which one derives self respect from service to those dearest to you, then I think one can accept the notion that the home is a career."

In her first formal address since her husband became governor-general, Mrs. Leger noted the role of the women's movement "in promoting the notion of equal opportunities," then added: "But if freedom of choice is starting to become reality, I suspect that there are many women who will continue to opt for a career centred on the home."

"I may be a bit biased because, quite frankly, all my training and upbringing stressed domestic values. I have always been a housewife. I have always enjoyed it and, honestly, I have never felt a desire to do anything else."

Being a housewife does not, however, necessitate isolation from community or creative activities, Mrs. Leger noted.

"As Nellie McClung once allegedly said: 'The hand that rocks the cradle can also rock the boat.'"

"I think that women, regardless of what they do, have a duty to rock the boat by creating awareness of problems and getting out in their communities and taking action which will end those problems."



Housewife Gaby Leger

—Citizen photo