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Pigott knocks apathy

We are ignorant of and indifferent to life in parts of Canada not our own and we'll have to get to know each other better if the country is going to stay together, a member of Parliament said Tuesday.

"The ignorance about Quebec is tragic and the anti-French bigotry is stupid," Jean Pigott (PC—Ottawa-Carleton) told members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, Eastern Ontario division. "And equally distressing is the ignorance in Quebec about the rest of the country: our Maritime provinces sitting beside the great food and mineral wealth of the 20th century, the exciting multiculturalism of Toronto, the great economic thrust of the west and the opening of our last frontier—the north."

Pigott suggested that lower travel fares are part of the solution.

"We must immediately change our concept and the subsidies of travel. Railways built Canada and railways can help bind us together again. Cheap, good travel by rail, air and bus must happen."

But, she cautioned, "We must move on to constructive thinking instead of blaming, criticizing and squabbling. This will achieve the standard of living that all Canadians believe they are meant to have."

Instead of worrying about two official languages, Pigott said she thought Canadian children should be learning several languages to help prepare Canada for a role as one of the world's major trading countries.

Women's Institute ^{The Citizen} Crafts and concerns stressed: president ^{Fri. Oct. 10/75}

Quilting, baking bread, and all the older, more homely crafts still have a legitimate place in the life of the modern homemaker—but not to the exclusion of studying serious social issues, says the provincial president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

In Ottawa to attend the 60th annual convention of the Eastern Ontario Women's Institute, Verna Maluske said Thursday

the 30,554 Women's Institute members in Ontario still believe in keeping alive the "lost arts" of the home, while at the same time involving themselves in activities ranging from nutritional training workshops and support of community groups to discussion of controversial topics ranging from immigration law and family property provisions to abortion and rape.

Thursday evening, for

example, following the handicrafts bazaar, Dr. Janet M. Wardlaw, dean of family and consumer studies at Guelph, addressed members.

Not only older women

Despite the public's perception of institute members as older women, Mrs. Maluske, whose mother was a member before her, said many young, rural women have joined because of the group's broad range of interests. She hopes her two daughters will join in years to come.

In recent years, she points out, the status of the homemaker has dropped, and many people today view the housewife with open disdain.

"They're brainwashing many of our young women telling them women should get out of the home and all go out to work," said Mrs. Maluske. "And it's discouraging for our young women to know what to do. If you want to be at home, then you should do it."

"There are some people who are just no good at home, though. I've known women that do much better at a job working than staying at home. But no group should criticize people for doing what they want."

"We like to uphold the standard of homemaking. It's a wonderful profession which has been downgraded."



Verna Maluske (left), Ontario president; speaker Janet Wardlaw, University of Guelph