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## NORTH SHORE WOMEN ATTEND P. T. A. MEET

National Congress in Oakland,  
Cal., Attracts Leaders from  
All States

Five basic policies affecting the American social future and serving as a working program for the organization were outlined and discussed at the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, which held its thirty-first annual convention at Oakland, Cal., from May 21 to May 28. About 2,000 delegates from forty-seven states were in attendance. Among the ten representatives from Illinois were Mrs. B. F. Langworthy of Winnetka, who is the national chairman of the committee on Parent-Teacher associations in high schools; Mrs. James M. Sheldon, president of the P. T. A. of Glencoe; Mrs. J. E. Kimball of Evanston, social director of the National Kindergarten college; Mrs. Walter T. Buhlig of Chicago, the Illinois state president; Mrs. Mark Mears of Chicago, first vice-president of the Woman's City club; Mrs. Orville T. Bright of Homewood, honorary vice-president of the National Congress; and Miss A. R. Merrill, of the Associated Library Institute, Illinois, which is second only to California in membership, carried off national honors by winning the silver cup given to the state having the most subscriptions to the Child Welfare magazine, sponsored by the National Congress.

### Five Major Policies

The five major policies with which the convention was primarily concerned, were: organization of schools for parents in which mothers and fathers may learn more of the science of child welfare, of mental and physical hygiene for children; higher wages for teachers

in elementary schools; more scientific and healthy facing of the problem of sex hygiene; higher standards of training in the grade schools of America; and national registration of children of pre-school age, with the object of bringing these children into the first grade as nearly free from physical and mental handicaps as possible.

Mrs. A. H. Reeve, national president, said the organization may be defined in one sense as a great school for parents and teachers, with one major object, to know the child. She also stressed the need for securing the highest type of teachers, not always possible because of the low compensation. Since the bulk of the American population depends for its school education upon the elementary schools, Mrs. Reeves pointed out, and since nearly eighty-five percent of the boys and girls of America never enter a high school, neither intelligence, energy nor money should be spared in making the elementary schools as fine and broad in scope as possible.

### Study Social Hygiene

Newell W. Edson, chairman of the social hygiene committee, advocated franker dealing with the question of sex. "The importance of a clean, healthy attitude toward this subject among children is tremendous," he said. "Most parents need information for the task of giving information about sex developments and of guiding the range of sex relationships." The committee on social hygiene reported that many study groups had been formed during the year to give more intelligent consideration to this subject.

In trying to give the handicapped child a better chance in life, national registration of children of pre-school age is urged. Parents of children in any way handicapped are being asked to co-operate with the organization. Many states require that every child be examined during the summer before he enters school, in order to protect him from the handicaps that may arise later if he is obliged to miss some of the school days because of ill health. Illinois is especially recommending this medical examination in its program.

### Conducts Round Table

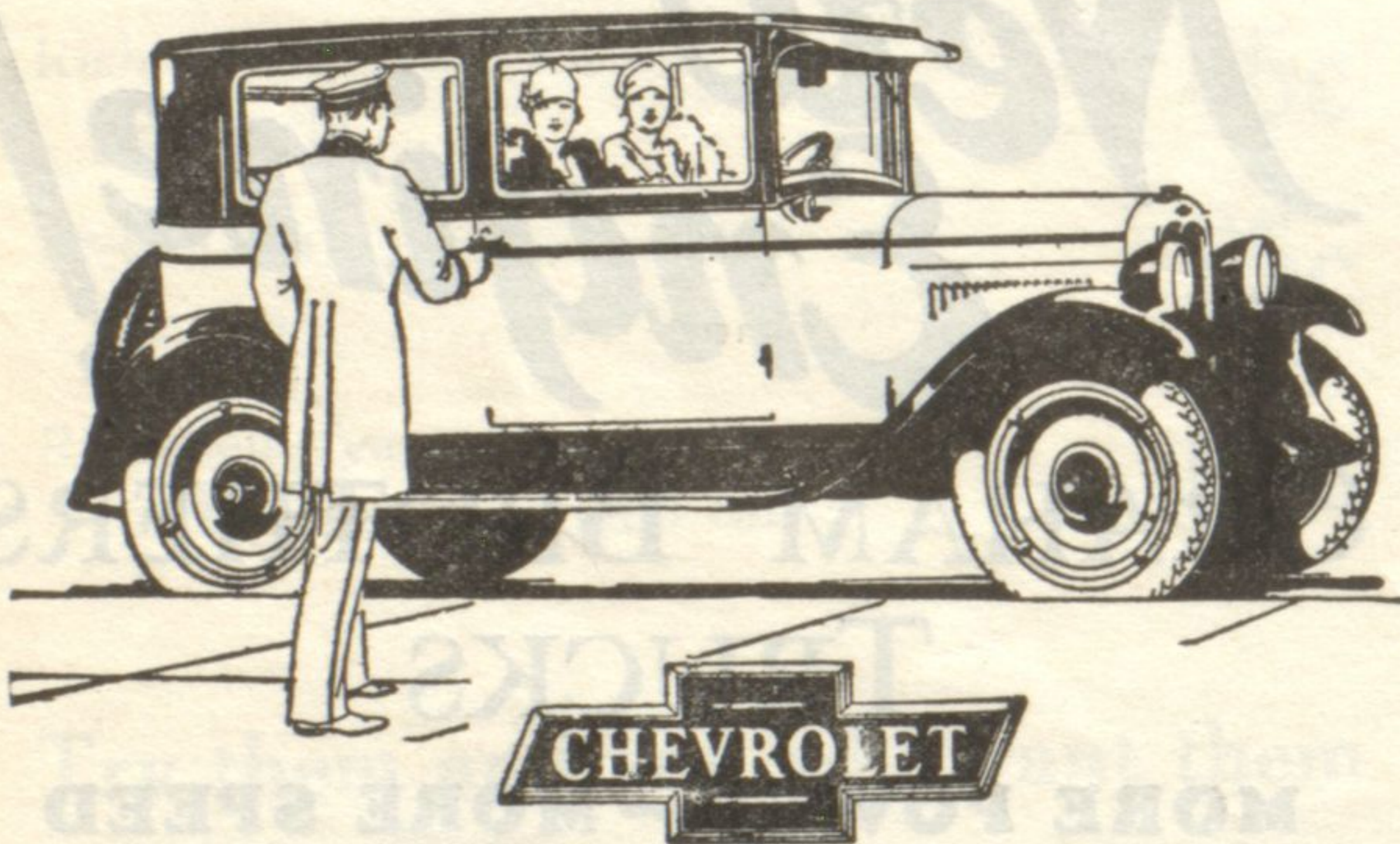
Mrs. Langworthy conducted a Round Table at one of the luncheons, on "High School Adolescent Problems." Experts in many fields, among them Dr. William Palmer Lucas and Dr. Lewis Turman of the University of California, and Dr. Ernest R. Groves of Boston university, gave valuable talks to the mothers and teachers attending the convention, stimulating them in the lines of activity to be carried out in Parent-Teacher associations throughout the country.

Dr. Groves made a plea for an all-round training of the young in preparation for their potentialities. In stressing the need for greater manual occupation for children, he said that cheap movies, sensational novels and magazines supply opiates, but the adequate compensation is a skill in manual arts, in wood, metal, basketry, clay, weaving, and also in music, vocal and instrumental. "These things must be started in schools and maintained throughout life as a means of making society light-hearted, because of sharing a little in the business of creation. That is the only thing that makes people happy in any permanent manner," he said.

### Character, "Bundle of Habits"

Will C. Wood, former superintendent of the public instruction in California, in speaking on "Useful Citizenship," said that citizenship is character functioning in civic affairs. Character consists very largely of a bundle of habits and life attitudes most of which are determined during pre-school years. He said that parents are brought to realize their responsibilities in forming the character of the child, through parent-teacher organizations and through parent education courses. By

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