

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

Francis Thompson.

High Lights of the Ninth Session of the Status of Women Commission

By Jean Daly

The eighteen members of the Status of Women Commission, as the functional commission of ECOSOC, were all present for the Ninth Session held in New York this year from March 14th to April 1st.

I was aware of a change since my previous appearance there, when Australia was last a member of this Commission in 1951, for now it was a completely unified group and not only a gathering of the representatives of different countries. It had worked through to this with increasing personal acquaintance of representatives and also with its continuing studies of different items of the agenda, such as the Nationality of Married Women, Status of Women in Private Law, Educational and Economic Opportunities for Women, etc. The documentation prepared by the Secretariate was as usual excellent. By far the most important work of this session was the agreement reached on a draft Convention for the Nationality of Married Women, which has now gone to the parent body, ECOSOC, for consideration and, we trust, approval. This Convention had been discussed at several previous sessions and suggested terms had been sent forward to governments for their comments. It was in the light of these comments that the representative of Cuba sponsored a draft text for the consideration of the Ninth Session. This item of the agenda was discussed at six meetings of the Commission and U.S.A. introduced amendments during this discussion which would make the Convention, if adopted, one for married persons and not for married women. The representative of the United Kingdom also introduced amendments which were in the actual drafting of the Convention and also to include a new text for the reservations clause. After a lengthy debate on all these points and also on an amendment introduced by Australia which was finally included in the draft text of her Convention, by Cuba, the U.S.A. amendments were defeated and the three operative clauses of the draft Convention adopted by the Commission, whilst the machinery clauses were sent forward to ECOSOC together with suggested amendments for their consideration.

Finally the Cuban draft Convention was adopted as a whole by a roll call vote of fifteen in favour, one against and two abstentions.

Other important items on the agenda included the status of women in private law together with educational and economic opportunities for women. There were also reports of the measures for implementing the Convention for Political Rights for Women and also Equal Pay for Equal Work. Although the question of participation of women in the work of the United Nations had been removed from the agenda previously, it was restored this session and representation on the Social Commission and the Commission of Human Rights of a representative of the Status of Women was also included on the agenda.

Considering the advances made towards the full implementation of the Convention on Political Rights, it was noted that several more countries had made progress towards such implementation. It was believed that the discussion would not be prolonged about the Convention on Political Rights for Women but it took nearly seven meetings to come to a decision about the resolutions brought forward.

The first of these draft resolutions concerning a request to the Secretary General to continue to seek for further information from the Non-Governmental Organisations caused a long debate because of the proposed draft amendments brought forward by the representative of Yugoslavia, who sought to include information about Women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, and of Poland who wanted organisations consulted whether they possessed consultative status or not. Both these amendments were finally defeated or withdrawn but much time was used up in the debate. The original draft resolution with some amendments introduced by the sponsors was finally adopted unanimously.

The second and final resolution on this item of the agenda requested the Secretary General to continue his report on laws relating to the political rights of women in States Members of the United Nations and also to include information about reservations made to the Convention.

Once more, the debate was lengthened by the introduction of a proposed amendment by the representative of the U.S.S.R., who wanted such information secured from all states whether members of the United Nations or not. This amendment was finally defeated and the resolution adopted by twelve for, none against with four abstentions.

The debate on the other Convention already in existence, for equal pay, was equally long. After giving information on the progress towards implementation and also on the methods in use by persons and non-governmental organisations to promote a favourable climate of opinion towards such implementation, some speakers gave a description of the factual position of women in this matter in their own countries. Three resolutions were introduced under this item, one to ask the Secretary General to report on methods found useful in this campaign, another requesting ECOSOC to adopt a resolution urging governments to take steps to implement this Convention and the third noted particularly that economic difficulties were being experienced by countries who had so implemented this Convention and urged that other countries should also adopt it with the idea of removing the difference in economic effect for those countries who now stood alone in such implementation. The first of these resolutions was adopted unanimously. Finally the two last resolutions were blended into one, with the economic effects clause removed and with other verbal amendments; this resolution was adopted by fourteen in favour, none against and four abstentions. During the discussion of the Status of Women in Private Law, a resolution was adopted asking that the Secretary General print a booklet giving all information available on this matter. Two more resolutions were adopted, one concerning equal rights of parents concerning their children and another on the question of residence and domicile of married women.

Educational opportunities for women were discussed at eight meetings of the Commission and the UNESCO report on educational opportunities for higher education for girls was considered. Two draft resolutions were brought forward, both directed towards helping the women of under-privileged areas. Finally a conjoint text was adopted by the Commission. Under this item also a report on the access of women to apprenticeship was considered but the debate had been so long on the first portion of the item that this report was discussed very shortly and it did not receive the serious consideration that such a matter deserved. It was suggested during this debate that it might be possible and perhaps desirable to postpone the debate on this subject and these resolutions until the Tenth Session but the suggestion did not meet with any support.

Economic opportunities for women were discussed at five meetings of the Commission and after receiving a report from the ILO on part-time employment and also on the employment of older women workers, and after a very full debate, the representative of Byelorussia introduced a draft resolution which recommended to ECOSOC that they suggest to Governments the removing of all discrimination against women in this field. After some verbal amendments this draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

A report from the ILO on cottage industries and handicrafts was also discussed and two draft resolutions introduced by the representative of Pakistan were, with some verbal amendments, adopted unanimously.

The Commission gave consideration to the technical assistance programme which directly assisted women. One resolution moved by the representative of Pakistan for help in under-developed countries was adopted and technical assistance was also mentioned in two other resolutions dealing with equal pay and another dealing with educational opportunities.

Finally a resolution was adopted requesting that the Tenth Session of the Status of Women should be held in Geneva in 1956.

The report of this Ninth Session will come before ECOSOC at its summer session in Geneva in July 1955. It is to be hoped that it will receive the same approval that the reports of the Status of Women Commission have received in the past.

GENERAL ELECTION, 1955

In accordance with our custom, Holy Mass will be offered at Westminster Cathedral, by request of the Alliance, on polling day, May 26th, to beg Divine Guidance on the electors.

While the international and national issues before the electorate are of supreme importance, the particular aims of our Alliance should be borne in mind, for these are a matter of justice.

The remaining legal and administrative discriminations against women must be swept away, and men and women as citizens must share the same responsibilities and enjoy the same rights.

As a non-party organisation, the Alliance does not wish to influence its members in favour of any party—it asks them to support, when they conscientiously can, candidates pledged to carry out its programme.

The Manifesto of the Status of Women Committee which follows gives information on these points. Members are urgently asked to bring these questions before all the candidates in their constituencies, either orally or in writing.

We beg each member to attend as many meetings in her constituency as possible and raise the matters contained in the Manifesto.

General Election, 1955

To Men and Women Voters, to the Political Parties and to all Parliamentary Candidates.*

MANIFESTO of the

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE

The Status of Women Committee, which is working to secure the full political, economic and social equality of men and women, seeks support for the following reforms which would abolish outstanding legal discriminations against women.

I. Equal Pay for Equal Work

The justice of equal pay for men and women has been accepted in principle by Parliament on a number of occasions (notably in 1920, 1936, 1944 and 1952); by the Government in signing the United Nations Charter in 1945; by the main political parties, the Trades Union Congress and many unions and professional organisations. To argue now that the principle should not be made effective immediately because the consequences of acting justly cannot be foreseen strikes at the root of all good government. Equal pay already operates in the majority of the professions and in a number of undertakings and in other countries. It is by no means an experiment and there have been ample opportunities for studying any problems likely to arise in practice.

The mere lessening of the degree of differentiation between the rates for men and women workers does not constitute equal pay. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's plea that the change from unequal pay should be made over a period of time in order to keep the cost to the Exchequer within bounds is unreasonable when increases in pay have been given which exceed by many millions the estimated cost of establishing equal pay in the public services.

Immediate steps should therefore be taken to implement in full the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women in the public services.

II. Equal Political Rights

Women peers in their own right should be entitled to sit and vote in the House of Lords on the same terms as men peers.

In any reform of the Second Chamber, men and women should have equal eligibility and voting rights.

III. Equal Moral Standard

Special laws against "common prostitutes" should be abolished. In cases of prosecution for solicitation to the annoyance of another person, evidence should be required from the person annoyed.

IV. Discrimination in Income Tax

The incomes of husband and wife should not be aggregated for purposes of taxation but should be separately assessed and taxed. There should be equal treatment of men and women with regard to assessment payment and reliefs in income tax matters.

V. Equal Opportunities in Employment

(1) A woman, married or unmarried, should have the same right as a man to contract for any employment and under the same conditions. This involves an equal right to enter (whether as apprentice or worker) any vocational, professional or industrial work, and the removal of all restrictions as to hours, conditions, overtime and nightwork which at present are imposed on a sex basis.

(2) Safeguards against bad conditions and dangerous processes should apply to all workers, men as well as women.

(3) Incapacity for work on account of maternity should be dealt with under the same regulations as apply to absences owing to illness, injury or other disability.

VI. Equality Under National Insurance.

Differences based on sex or marital status under National Insurance should be abolished. The retirement age should be the same for men and women, and married women insured in their own right should be entitled to the full rate of unemployment and sickness benefit.

VII. Domicile of Married Women

The domicile of a married woman (which determines the law applicable to nullity proceedings, divorce or separation and to the disposal of her property on death) should not automatically follow that of her husband; she should be entitled to acquire a domicile of choice in the same way as a man or single woman.

Though the long and arduous struggle in this country for women's right to vote on the same terms as men was brought to victory more than a quarter of a century ago, women have not yet achieved equality before the law.

The responsibilities of citizenship, both in national and international affairs, are constantly increasing and women are anxious to share these responsibilities in full. They therefore seek support for the reforms set out in this manifesto so that equality of men and women before the law may be assured and the United Nations Charter, which affirms faith in the equal rights of men and women, be upheld.

* Issued by the Status of Women Committee. Representing the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Association of Teachers of Domestic Subjects, British Commonwealth League, Married Women's Association, National Council of Women, National Union of Women Teachers, National Women Citizens' Association, Open Door Council, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Six Point Group, Society for the Equal Ministry of Men and Women in the Church, Society of Women Journalists, Suffragette Fellowship, Women's Freedom League, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Chairman: Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E.

Hon. Secretary: Miss B. M. Pearson, 41, Cromwell Road, London S.W.7.

* * *

St. Joan's Alliance would add two further points to the above:

- (1) Financial equality for Catholic schools in the National Scheme.
- (2) Legislation to abolish child marriage in all territories under British administration.

* * *

Copies of the Manifesto may be obtained by members, on request, from the office at 55, Berners Street, W.1.

* * *

The Alliance sends good wishes to Miss Shirley Catlin, a member of its executive committee who is standing as Labour candidate for Harwich.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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"The Catholic Citizen."

St. Joan's International Council Meeting

The thirteenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance was held in London at the Service Women's Club, April 23rd and 24th, 1955.

It opened with an evening Reception on the 22nd April given by the British Section at the Newman International Centre. The Chairman, Dr. Shattock, and the International President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., welcomed the delegates and friends. An extremely happy atmosphere prevailed and greetings were given by the delegates from their respective countries.

Holy Mass was offered for the success of the Council Meeting by the Rev. Christopher Laughton Mathews.

Those present at the Council Meeting were: The President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E.; Vice-Presidents: Madame Pesson-Depret (France); Madame Leroy-Boy (Belgium); Hon. Treasurer: Madame Marthe Gouffé; Hon. Secretary: Miss F. A. Barry. Delegates: *United Kingdom*: Mrs. Shattock, M.D., D.P.M., Miss Pauline Brandt, Dr. Isabel Powell Heath; *France*: Mademoiselle Delaval; *Brazil*: Miss Lilia Campos de Oliveira; *Victoria*: Miss Conroy, Miss Lachal; *New South Wales*: Mrs. Jean Daly; *Transvaal*: Miss Challoner (proxy); *Queensland*: Mrs. Hishon, Miss Mary Hishon; Observers: Lady Wijeyekoon (Ceylon), Mrs. de Silva (Ceylon), Mrs. McCann (United Kingdom).

The President welcomed the delegates, after which messages and apologies were read. Mrs. Tenison-Woods, Chief, Section on the Status of Women, sent warmest wishes for a successful meeting and expressed "the deep appreciation and gratitude of the Section on the Status of Women for the interest and co-operation always so graciously and readily accorded by the Alliance to the Section in its work." Greetings were received from Vice-Presidents: *Australia*, Margaret Flynn (cable); *France*, Marie Lenoël; *Germany*,

Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, who wrote: "St. Joan's is, and ever will be, the most inspiring part of my spiritual family. In my work I seek your guidance, and I find your traces in the United Nations' documents. Struggling for our aims, I want the community of the *Sorores in Unum*. I am sorry not to be with you, but, of course, I really am with you." From *U.S.A.*, Miss McEntee sent "her prayerful hope that St. Joan will do wondrous things for the organisation that bears her name." Apologies for absence and best wishes were received from Frau Brauksiepe, President of the German Section, who was engaged in the election campaign in lower Saxony, and Dr. Marga Klompé (Netherlands) who was attending Committee meetings of the Coal and Steel Assembly. Greetings were also received from a group of Catholic women in Spain.

The Secretary gave a detailed report of the work done in connection with the United Nations, particularly that concerning the "abolition of customs, ancient laws and practices affecting the human dignity of women," and the work on the Draft Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery and Servitude. Discussion took place on the question of Conventions on the Recognition and Enforcement abroad of Maintenance Obligations. Resolutions passed on these and other subjects will be found on page 38.

Mrs. Jean Daly, New South Wales, gave a first-hand report of the work of the Ninth Session of the Status of Women Commission, which she had attended at New York as delegate from Australia. Madame Leroy-Boy, Belgium, reported on the work of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva, where, on behalf of the Alliance, she had been granted a Hearing before the Committee of ECOSOC on Non-Governmental Organisations. The Hearing concerned "the abolition of customs, ancient laws and practices affecting the human dignity of women." Madame Leroy also reported on the work of the recent Conference in Geneva of N.G.O.s interested in

the eradication of prejudice and discrimination, at which she had represented the Alliance.

Heartening reports were given from the National Sections showing increased interest and vitality generally. It is hoped to publish a precis of these in future issues of *The Catholic Citizen*.

The Treasurer, Madame Marthe Gouffé, in presenting the statement of accounts made a vigorous appeal to each National Section to increase their contribution to headquarters for the necessary expenses which were all the time growing.

On behalf of Miss Spender, Editor of *The Catholic Citizen* (who was unavoidably absent), Miss Barry reported that in future, owing to the increased cost of production individual subscribers to *The Catholic Citizen* would be asked to pay 7s. 6d. per annum; bulk purchases to National Sections would be at the cost of 5s. per dozen instead of 3s. 6d. Congratulations were sent to the Australian Section on the continued success of its production *St. Joan's, Australia*. An urgent appeal was made to the French Section to publish either a monthly or a quarterly news-sheet, and this they had every hope of doing.

By way of relaxation on Saturday evening, delegates and members saw Bernard Shaw's *St. Joan* with Siobhan McKenna in the title role. On Sunday afternoon delegates were entertained to tea by the President in her flat after which they proceeded by river to the Tower of London where, after supper at the Tiger Tavern, they witnessed the age-long Ceremony of the Keys.

Members parted with regret and hoped to meet again next year, in 1956, the Silver Jubilee year of St. Joan's International Alliance and the five hundredth anniversary of the Rehabilitation of St. Joan of Arc.

sions, there was not equal pay. She mentioned that the President of the Queensland Section had received a letter from the Apostolic Delegate expressing the congratulations, thanks and encouragement of the Holy See for the Apostolic work carried on by the Alliance especially for Asian students in Queensland.

The last speaker was Lady Wijeyekoon (Ceylon) who said that her Government was very keen on women helping in official development schemes. Women teachers and those in Government service had equal pay and married women had full control over their property. In Parliament there were two women members in the Lower House and three (one the Deputy President) in the Upper House.

Dr. Shattock, supported by Miss Guessard, thanked all the speakers for the opportunity we had had of hearing of the wonderful work being done in so many countries. **Maude McGovern**

WONDERFUL WORK

On Monday evening, 25th April, with Dame Vera Laughton Mathews in the Chair, many members and friends were at the Holy Child Convent, Cavendish Square (by kind permission of the Reverend Mother) to hear at first hand reports of their work with St. Joan's from several delegates to the International Council Meeting.

Dame Vera reminded those present of the foundation of St. Joan's International Alliance in 1931 at the time of St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations in Rouen. She referred to the work done by the Alliance at the United Nations and urged National Sections to take up with their own Governments any matters on which they wished action to be taken.

It was regretted that Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes who founded St. Joan's in Germany was prevented from being present owing to the illness of one of her daughters, and Madame Gouffé, Treasurer, had unfortunately had to fly back to Paris that morning.

Madame Pesson-Depret told us something of her work in the Abolitionist movement in France where after many years of misunderstanding the people have become aware of the need for action against the evil of State Regulation. She referred to the great step forward in Casablanca where the "reserved quarter" housing some seven hundred women had been recently closed.

In introducing Madame Leroy-Boy, Belgium, Dame Vera said how fortunate we were to have her living now in Geneva and how grateful we were to her for the work she had done for St. Joan's vis-à-vis the United Nations. Madame Leroy gave a detailed account in French of her work on behalf of St. Joan's. She underlined the fact that the Alliance was one of the non-Governmental Organisations having consultative status, on the register, and therefore able to put its views before the Commissions of the United Nations.

Miss Campos de Oliveira who was welcomed by the Chairman as a young and enthusiastic delegate from Brazil told us that, as well as enjoying equal pay, women in Brazil had, generally speaking, equal rights with men. Neither men nor women who married, can purchase properties without the signature of the other party; but a married woman must have the consent of her husband before setting up in business.

Mrs. Jean Daly, who came direct from the Status of Women Commission in New York, gave a brief review of the Ninth Session, a full account of which appears on the front page.

Miss Mary Hishon, delegate from Queensland, spoke of the changes in the employment of women in Australia over the past fifty years and said that, with certain exceptions in the profes-

(Continued in previous column)

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 13TH COUNCIL MEETING OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE, LONDON, 1955

Status of Women

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance expresses its satisfaction that Resolution 547 H (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council, initiated by the Status of Women Commission, concerning the abolition of customs, ancient laws and practices, affecting the human dignity of women, was passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 17th, 1954.

The Alliance urges all States, including States which have or assume responsibility for the Non-Self-Governing or Trust Territories, to take immediate steps to abolish customs which deprive women of the right to their physical integrity, and all other laws, customs and practices which violate the dignity of women.

Slavery

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the appointment of a committee for the purpose of preparing a text of a Draft Supplementary Convention on Slavery for submission to the Twenty-first Session of the Economic and Social Council, and looks forward to the speedy completion of the Convention.

The Alliance expresses satisfaction that the Draft Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery and Servitude submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, includes measures for the complete abolition or abandonment of those enslaving institutions and practices which still bind women in a number of countries.

The Alliance reiterates its conviction of the efficacy of the following methods of combating these institutions and practices:

- (a) The free and full consent of both spouses should be indispensable to the validity of a marriage.
- (b) No marriage contract should be made for any girl under 14 years.
- (c) An age for legal majority should be fixed for men and women, and women over this age should be free to dispose of themselves without their parents consent.
- (d) It should be laid down that payment of dowry is not necessary for a valid marriage and that no cases arising out of payment or non-payment of money or gifts may be brought before the tribunal.
- (e) Severe penalties should be laid down for those who, through violence, threats or abuse of authority, have compelled, or attempted to compel, a woman to accept or to break a marriage against her will.
- (f) The right of appeal against coercion in marriage should be publicly proclaimed and effectively enforced.
- (g) There should be no lending out of wives under any pretext.
- (h) There should be no inheritance of widows. They should be free to dispose of themselves and their children as they think fit, remain with the husband's family, go back to their own, be independent or remarry.
- (i) A Christian marriage ordinance should be established and Christian rights and obligations recognised.

Recognition and Enforcement Abroad of Maintenance Obligations

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance urges its National Sections to request their Governments to reply, as a matter of urgency, to the query of the Secretary General as to the desirability of convening a conference of plenipotentiaries to complete

the drafting of the Conventions on the Recognition and Enforcement abroad of Maintenance Obligations, and whether they are prepared to attend such a Conference.

The Alliance further urges its National Sections to recommend their Governments to use the text of the Draft Model Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement abroad of Maintenance Obligations as a guide for the preparation of bilateral treaties or uniform legislation to be enacted by individual States.

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reiterates, with slight verbal amendments, the following Resolutions passed at its previous Council Meetings:

Political Rights

St. Joan's International Alliance expresses its satisfaction that equal franchise and eligibility for men and women have been granted in so many countries. It calls upon those Governments, which have not already done so, to grant women the same political rights as men.

Marriage

St. Joan's International Alliance believes that the Sacrament of Marriage entails an indissoluble monogamous union entered into with the full consent of both parties; with a full sense of responsibility and without the intention to restrict procreation by artificial means.

It demands that those laws which still impose a measure of civil incapacity upon the wife and married mother shall be rescinded.

- (i) A married woman should have the same rights as other citizens—
 - (a) regarding nationality and domicile;
 - (b) to contract, earn and to exercise rights over her own earnings and property.
- (ii) A married woman should exercise equal rights with her husband over the children born of their marriage.
- (iii) There should be no legal bar to a married woman undertaking work outside the home.
- (iv) The economic status of the housewife should be raised. It should be legally recognised that husband and wife are partners, and each of them is entitled to share in the family income.

Equal Moral Standard

- (a) In reaffirming its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance deplores the fact that the pernicious system of State regulation of Prostitution persists in many countries. It calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ratify the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
- (b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms its belief that laws to safeguard public order shall apply equally to men and women; and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease shall be free, voluntary and confidential.

Equal Pay and Opportunities

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments and all appropriate bodies to ensure as rapidly as possible the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination based on sex.

It further urges National Sections to press for equal opportunities for education; for vocational and technical training; for employment and promotion; also to ensure that any Government requests for assistance from the United Nations and the specialised agencies should be for women equally with men.

It further urges that in all labour legislation, equal protection shall be given to men and women against

exploitation, industrial accident or disease; that all insurance and pension schemes be based on a system of equal contributions and equal benefits for men and women.

Education

(1) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms its belief that education should be based on religious and spiritual values.

(2) The Alliance urges all Governments and also Administering Authorities in Non-Self-Governing or Trust Territories to ensure that in all schemes of education, equal opportunities shall be available for boys and girls, men and women, irrespective of religion or race.

(3) The Alliance in stressing the importance of the full participation of Catholic women in public life urges the Missionary Orders to take full advantage of all opportunities for the higher education of girls.

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

The main Parliamentary event during the period was the Budget on April 19th. One of the Supply debates arising out of this was of great interest from our point of view, a debate on an amendment moved by Mr. A. S. Moody (Gateshead East) and supported by Mrs. Braddock in a most interesting and challenging speech full of facts and ideas. Miss Herbison, too, spoke very knowledgeably about the difficulties in recruiting police in Scotland. Like almost all the speakers in the debate she paid a high tribute to the women police and deplored that in Scotland, unlike England and Wales, there is a marriage bar. Mr. Stewart (Joint Under-Secretary of State for Scotland) in his answer, made it clear that the opposition to removing the marriage bar came from the Scottish Police Council.

It remained for Mr. Ede to make all the right points in exactly the right way. He said: "I hope that the women police will be granted equal pay with men police. I say that because, when the present Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation was Financial Secretary to the Treasury he told me in answer to a series of questions which I put to him that that was not the intention of the Treasury. I know that the Treasury can be flint-hearted, but I hope it will be recognised that these women can now be called upon to perform any of the operations of a constable, and that in fact, on occasion when called upon to do so, they have performed some of the most dangerous operations with conspicuous success. I well recall the first woman whom I recommended for the King's Police Medal. I was assured on those days that, after all, that was a medal which could only be given to men. My view was that if a woman rendered a service which would entitle the doer of that service to the King's Police Medal in the case of a man, it ought to go to a woman if she courageously and appropriately performed good service. It was not so many months ago that we had the case

of a woman who brought down, with a flying tackle, a person breaking the law in one of the streets of London, and handed the malefactor over to a commissioner standing by while she went off to telephone for the appropriate police van to come along and pick up the culprit. In the face of these things, one cannot feel that, if the Civil Service, the teachers and other local government officers receive equal pay, it should be denied to members of the women's police force."

Mr. Ede pursued this point with a further question at the end of the debate and Major Lloyd George answered: "The right hon. Gentleman knows that I will look into it, but I certainly do not want to deal with the question at the moment." He, too, however, paid a glowing tribute to the work of the women and said: "I want to dispel any impression there may be that women police are a substitute or second-best for men. There are many aspects of police work for which women are more suited than men; indeed they have shown beyond dispute that they play an essential and irreplaceable part in the modern police service."

On April 7th the Minister of Education (Sir D. Eccles) told Mr. Willey in answer to a question that he had informed the Burnham Committee "that I approve its recommendations for the introduction of equal pay by seven annual stages, beginning on 1st May." In answer to a further question by Mr. Awbery, he said that the cost to the Exchequer and local authorities, respectively, of implementing the principle of equal pay for women next year would be about £8½ million to the exchequer and £5.7 million to the local authorities.

On the same day, Mrs. Eirene White, commenting on the new arrangements for the Legislative Assembly in Tanganyika, which include the nomination of four non-official members from each racial group on the Government side of the House, said: "I was very pleased to see that amongst those nominated were two women. I met Mrs. Marealle when I was in Tanganyika, I have not met the other lady. As a woman member of Parliament, I should like to send them my best wishes in their new career."

On April 1st, Mr. John Hynd raised on the Adjournment the question of the right of Alien husbands of British women to reside in this country, with particular reference to the case of Mr. Devoti. There was a good deal of confused argument (with the best of motives) and irrelevant analogies, and in some respects it may be thought that the Devoti case is not the best possible one on which to base a campaign, but the crux of the matter emerged during the reply of Sir Hugh Lucas-Tooth for the Home Office when he pointed out that alien wives have the

right to become British on marriage to a Briton, whereas alien husbands do not. He said: "There is no sex discrimination here at all. The position is that where a foreign woman marries a British man she is entitled as a right to be registered as a British subject and she can then come here in any event. She has a legal right to do so." At this point Mr. Paget said: "That is sex discrimination." Sir H. Lucas-Tooth replied: "Not on the part of the Home Office. I think that the last statute dealing with the matter was passed in 1948 . . . the basis of the distinction is traditional: and the distinction here is that the woman has a right to acquire her husband's nationality, whereas the husband does not so acquire his wife's nationality." Mr. Dodds said: "Sex discrimination" to which the somewhat feeble reply was: "It is a discrimination which has existed for some time . . . and nobody has ever seriously suggested changing the position. The broad assumption is that if a British woman marries a foreigner the couple will be expected to make their home in the husband's country." Mr. Hynd immediately asked "Why." He asked a further question on the same topic on April 28th to which the Home Secretary would only reply that each case was judged on its merits. There are undoubtedly a number of serious snags involved in any attempt to apply exact parity in this matter, but equally undoubtedly no harm has been done by airing the question.

B. M. Halpern

PERSONAL

Malta. We offer our congratulations to Miss Agatha Barbara on her re-election to the Maltese Legislative Council, and her appointment as Minister of Education. We wish her all success in this important work.

* * *

We send our best wishes and congratulations to Madame Russo, President of *l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc*, on the birth of her sixth little girl in Paris, and to Mrs. Pritchard on the birth of her fourth child—Michael Stephen Francis.

* * *

We ask the prayers of our members for Mrs. Murray who died recently in Liverpool. Mrs. Murray was a founder member of the Merseyside Branch of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and one time its Hon. Treasurer. To the end of her life she took the keenest interest in the Alliance and attended meetings whenever possible.—R.I.P.

* * *

We also ask members to pray for the repose of the soul of Madame Stancioff (R.I.P.) mother of our member Lady Muir to whom we offer our sympathy.

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