

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

*Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
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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

St. Joan's International Council—Orleans, 1962

By E. D. Price

At the kind invitation of the French Section, the Nineteenth Council Meeting of the Alliance was held on May 5th and 6th in the Council Chamber of the Mairie of Châteauneuf, Orleans. The date had been chosen to coincide with the annual celebrations in Orleans of the deliverance of the city by St. Joan of Arc.

After Mass in the village church, offered on behalf of the Alliance, the morning of May 5th saw delegates gathered in the lovely old hall of the Mairie. A blazing log fire gave an air of warmth and welcome, as did the brochures, picture post-cards and stationery, thoughtfully provided for each person.

The proceedings were opened by the President, Madame Leroy-Boy, who welcomed the delegates. Those present included: Vice-Presidents—Madame Pesson-Depret and Mme Pauline Archambault (France); Miss P. C. Challoner (U.K.); Madame Gouffé, Hon. Treasurer and President of the French Section, and Miss F. A. Barry, Hon. Secretary. Delegates from Australia were Miss Inez Sexton (Victoria), Miss Margaret Dwyer (New South Wales); from Germany, Dr. Bardenhewer, Frau von Müller, Frau Müller Lutgenau; from United Kingdom, Miss Brandt, Miss Douie, Miss Spender; from Ireland came Miss Norah Fahie, from the Ivory Coast, Mrs. da Silva.

Apologies, telegrams and messages were read from Madame Grinberg-Vinaver, United Nations, Chief of the Section on the Status of Women; Soeur Marie-André du Sacré-Coeur of the White Sisters; from Vice-Presidents—Miss G. P. McEntee, Mrs. Grabinska (U.S.A.); Dame Enid Lyons, Miss Margaret Flynn (Australia); Dr. Schlüter Hermkes (Germany); the Hon. Mabel Strickland (Malta); Dr. Shattock (U.K.); also from Dr. Marga Klompé (Netherlands), Mme C. A. H. de Martinez (Argentina), Mlle Baetens and Dr. van Gorp (Belgium), Mrs. E. D. Hughes (Kenya), Mlle Archinard, Dr. Ruckstuhl (Switzerland), Miss Hope Jones (Transvaal), Miss H. C. White and Miss F. McGillicuddy (U.S.A.).

Miss Barry, the retiring Hon. Secretary, reported on the work done since the Eighteenth Council Meeting, more particularly on work in connection with the United Nations, especially with the Status of Women Commission and the Human Rights Commission. The President gave an interesting report on the Seminar held in Bucharest on the Status of Women in Family Law at which she and Madame de Martinez represented the Alliance, last year. Mme Leroy also reported on the work she had been able to accomplish in Rome in delivering to the Commission of the Apostolate of the Laity, the resolution passed by the Council Meeting in London in 1961.

Matters relating to the ILO, UNESCO and FAO were discussed. It was decided that the President and Miss Barry should visit the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris to clarify its relations with the Alliance.

Madame Gouffé followed her treasurer's report with a spirited appeal for greater financial support. It was agreed that individual subscriptions and affiliation fees for national sections should be raised. Interesting reports from the various national sections followed.

The President, Madame Leroy, in a sincere and often moving speech, began by describing how deeply she felt about St. Joan's Alliance. She spoke of its distinctive characteristics and its influence in the world, stressing the fact that its prestige was due to its truly Christian spirit, its competence and the aptness of its interventions. She outlined briefly the future work of the Alliance, especially in regard to new affiliations and approach to women in developing countries and the work of women in the Church. Explaining the methods of work of the Alliance, Madame Leroy impressed on her listeners the fact that to continue the work successfully they must never be lukewarm but be fully dedicated. The President also stressed the immediate problems of the Alliance concerning the Secretariat and the need for adequate financial support for the increasing work before the Alliance.

The appointments of representatives at the United Nations and the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations were made and warm thanks expressed to Mlle Archinard and Miss McGillicuddy who had so ably represented the Alliance at the United Nations in Geneva and the U.S.A.

In the evening, a most interesting and enjoyable visit was paid to St. Benoit-sur-Loire, where delegates saw the statue of Our Lady before which St. Joan prayed and the relics of St. Benedict in the crypt of the lovely old Benedictine Abbey.

On Sunday morning the Council re-assembled. Resolutions passed at the Eighteenth Council Meeting held in 1961 were re-affirmed. New resolutions were passed on Inheritance Laws, Slavery, and the Apostolate of the Laity. The text of the resolutions will be found on page 47.

Then came the elections of officers for the coming year. Madame Leroy-Boy was re-elected President with acclamation; and Madame Gouffé, Hon. Treasurer. Miss Challoner was elected Hon. Secretary, with Mlle Colombani, Assistant Secretary. Three new Vice-Presidents were elected: Miss F. A. Barry (U.K.), Madame C. A. H. de Martinez (Argentina) and Dr. Margarethe von Müller (Germany); Miss Challoner and Frau Wosnik both retiring.

It was proposed that the next Council Meeting should be held in September, 1963, the place to be announced later.

The meeting concluded with a most interesting talk by Dr. von Müller who described the contacts made by a group of women in Düsseldorf with the Eastern Church. The rest of the evening was devoted to a visit to the lovely château of Sully-sur-Loire.

On Monday, a coach took the delegates on a fascinating tour "in the Footsteps of St. Joan." Many beautiful châteaux were seen and several visited, one of the most interesting being that of Chinon where we were shown the room in which St. Joan recognised the Dauphin, the chapel where she prayed and the room where she slept. On the return journey, an enjoyable supper was provided by Madame Archambault at her lovely house at St. Jean-de-Braye, where, after a delightful speech by the President, a presentation was made to Miss Barry, the President and the French Section offering as their gift *un bon pour un voyage* to Rome, Lebanon, the Holy Land and Israël with which, as with the generous cheque from the other Sections, Miss Barry expressed herself as *écrasée*. She could only repeat *merci, merci et merci*. The delegates signed a beautifully illustrated book "sur les pas de Sainte Jeanne d'Arc" as a souvenir.

The day ended with a return to Orleans for the ceremony of the presentation of the Standard of St. Joan in front of the illuminated cathedral.

Tuesday saw another early start as delegates

went to Orleans Cathedral where special seats had been reserved for the High Mass in honour of St. Joan, a truly magnificent ceremony with wonderful singing and full orchestra. A most enjoyable day followed, the sun shone brilliantly and the city was gay with flowers, flags, processions of representatives of the greater part of the population, the various provinces in their picturesque costumes marching gaily to the sound of many bands. In the afternoon, the delegates went their way, some to Paris, others to their homes. The Nineteenth Council Meeting was over.

Warm thanks are due to the French Section of the Alliance who made our stay so delightful. It was indeed a most enjoyable and unforgettable experience.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Dr. Margarethe von Müller is the first woman to receive the Golden Cross of Jerusalem, which was presented to her by His Beatitude Maximus IV, Patriarch of Alexandria, Jerusalem and all the Orient—for her work for the Oriental Churches. We hope to have an article from her in a later issue of *The Catholic Citizen*.

Ghana. In a White Paper published only a year ago, the Ghana Government stated that polygamy would not be abolished; now it has boldly reversed its policy, and a draft, entitled "The Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance Bill," published in Accra, seeks to discourage, as far as possible, the practice of polygamy. Note that while the Government believes that there can only be one form of marriage, monogamy, there will be no social discrimination against children—i.e., should the husband during the continuance of a marriage have children by a woman or women, they will not be declared illegitimate as this would be "completely alien to African Society." Traditional arbitration will continue when marriage disputes arise, and only when these break down will divorce be recommended; any such divorce will be registered by the court, which will settle the question of maintenance, etc.

India. On April 30th, Mr. Menon informed Parliament that of the 5,500 slaves known to exist in 1955 in the North West Frontier Agency, almost 3,000 had now been emancipated. The Government had issued orders for the complete abolition of slavery, and would take every step to put an end to it by peaceful means. There could, however, be no question of punishing those who still kept slaves since it was a custom of the area.

Tanganyika. Bassilla Joan Renju of Kirua Vunjo, of the Mossi district is the first woman of Tanganyika to win an Oxford University Diploma in Public and Social Administration. She studied at the Catholic Workers' College, Oxford, and her special interest is the education of women.

Notes and Comments

On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, Mass was offered for the intentions of the Alliance, by the kindness of Father Dominic Young, O.S.B.

Members attended the mid-day Mass at Westminster Cathedral, after which a wreath was laid, according to tradition, on the shrine of St. Joan.

A party for Dr. Shattock, the retiring chairman, will take place on Saturday, July 7th, 3-6 p.m., at 64 North End Road, N.W.11, by kind invitation of Miss Spender. There will also be the usual Bring and Buy Sale to raise funds for *The Catholic Citizen*.

At a private business meeting of the Cambridge Union, a motion asking that women should be admitted to full membership was carried by fifty-seven votes to eighteen, the necessary three-quarters majority. However, the president, Michael Howard of Peterhouse, asked for a poll and this was upheld. It had been decided at an earlier meeting that a poll would be successful if carried by a two-thirds majority instead of three-quarters; voting took place on May 24th when 371 were for the admission of women, 220 against. Those in favour fell short by seventy votes. So the battle, which will obviously be won sooner or later, continues; the machinery is geared up, and a day will come when not even the president will be able to throw an effective spanner into the works.

From the Cambridge Union to Fisher House. In a letter to the *Times*, the Bishop of Birmingham draws attention to the fact that it stands in an area of comprehensive development and is designated as subject to compulsory acquisition by the appropriate authority. He concludes by asking: "Is it possible that the nature and unique importance of Fisher House to the whole Catholic body in the country has escaped notice?" The answer is, of course, no, but it must be regretfully borne in mind that women students are not allowed the use of the Chaplaincy.

Mrs. Barbara Castle, Labour M.P. for Blackburn, has won the first round of the Turnstile Battle. She has received a letter from the Minister of Works stating that the lavatory turnstiles in the royal parks will be removed immediately.

The National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Services (Manual Workers) has recently notified local authorities of increased wage rates. All adult male workers will receive an extra seven shillings per week; adult female workers have been awarded an increase of 85 per cent or 75 per cent, as appropriate, of the male rates. The words "as appropriate" read strangely; there is nothing "appropriate" in the perpetuation of a crying injustice.

In a recent television interview, Mrs. Jean Mann was asked whether she thought a woman would make a good Chancellor of the Exchequer. Her reply was that if a woman were Chancellor of the Exchequer, she would certainly not introduce a pay pause without controlling the rise of the cost of living. An American woman, Mrs. Ethel Stacy, who is at present on a visit to this country, has proved that women are capable of striking financial achievements. In 1959, in the town of Walsenburg which lies in an area of Colorado known as Colorado's "last outpost of bare-knuckle politics," she and a number of other women, incensed at what they called the density of male local government, formed their own party, the United Party. When the elections were held, six of their seven candidates were returned; Mrs. Stacy became Mayor, and two of her party's successful candidates were appointed to the offices of city clerk and city treasurer. They were faced with a deplorable state of affairs; their predecessors had decided on a budget of approximately £40,000 for 1960, but had already spent some £25,000 of the money needed to finance it. The position seemed desperate, but within a year, Mrs. Stacy and her colleagues had wiped off Walsenburg's deficit and had approved a 1961 budget of roughly £42,000, with assurances that the revenue would be available. Mrs. Stacy was recently re-elected Mayor for a further two-year term. Thanks to this remarkable woman, Walsenburg has, almost for the first time in its history, a soundly-balanced budget, and shows every sign of economic recovery after a long period of decline.

OBITUARY

Miss Marguerite Fedden, who died in Bristol on May 11th, at the age of 82, was a member of The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and St. Joan's Alliance from very early days and remained a faithful member until her death.

She served on the executive committee and was hon. treasurer of *The Catholic Citizen* from 1920-1935.

During her long life, she often wrote articles for *The Catholic Citizen* and many books. Her last work to be reviewed in *The Catholic Citizen* was a play on Blessed Margaret Clitherow.

She went to South Africa in 1936 and again in 1938 and did valuable propaganda for the Alliance there. She was much in demand as a lecturer and gave herself unstintingly to the woman's movement in the W.S.P.U. and St. Joan's Alliance. She came to Rouen in 1956 for the celebrations in honour of the Quincentenary Celebrations of St. Joan's Rehabilitation and her last communication with St. Joan's was in connection with the retirement of Miss Barry, whose party she was too ill to attend. May she rest in peace.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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Impressions a vol d'oiseau Orleans, Mai 1962

Châteauneuf-sur-Loire

Les restes d'un château de fière allure. (Ce Phélippeau de la Vrillière qui le construisit et dont le mausolée est encore en l'église du lieu était un grand commis du noble roi Louis quatorzième).

Un beau, très beau parc, dominant "la rivière de Loire", cette rivière de Loire que, de Gien à Orléans, et au-delà, suivit la Pucelle dans sa chevauchée victorieuse.

Une municipalité grande et généreuse. La salle même du Conseil municipal—une grande belle pièce en rotonde, avec des sièges majestueux et une haute cheminée où il fut bien agréable de voir flamber des bûches en cette matinée du samedi 5 mai où s'ouvrirent les travaux—mise à la disposition des congressistes pour leurs séances de travail.

Aux différentes tables d'hôte, une cuisine simple et saine, en tout cas typiquement française, dont toutes parlèrent gentiment, en dépit du dépaysement, pour quelques-unes certain. . . .

Mais,

un logement en pièces détachées, heureusement proches les unes des autres. Et aussi, un temps de chien pour aller visiter la célèbre abbaye de St Benoît-sur-Loire. Emerveillement devant le beau déploiement d'architecture de l'édifice, recueillement devant la chûsse des reliques, frissons sous la pluie, et . . . thé bien chaud à l'hôtel de la Madeleine. Quelques favorisées avaient pu faire d'une pierre deux coups et aller contempler les vitraux d'albâtre et la célèbre mosaïque de la carolingienne église de Germigny-des-prés.

Orléans

Une ville d'habitude austère qui, deux jours par an, se met en liesse. Une ville qui, après plus de cinq siècles, garde encore, plein de fraîcheur et d'enthousiasme, le souvenir de sa délivrance. En l'honneur de celle qui l'accomplit, les étendards vont claquer au vent (et ceux des compagnons de Jeanne décoreront la nef de la cathédrale comme les rues de la ville) et sonnent les cloches (celle du beffroi, la cloche de ville, plus fort que celles des paroisses). En son honneur aussi, les sociétés et les fanfares se prépareront, avec l'armée et les corps constitués, à défiler. Mais ce qui est admirable, c'est que, sous les inévitables alluvions du temps, voire les quelques concessions au folklore, se puisse si aisément, si clairement retrouver, intacte, l'armature de l'action de grâces traditionnelle: cette "Remise de l'étendard" du 7 mai au soir, rappelant le retour victorieux des Tourelles, cette Messe et cette "Procession" du lendemain, rééditant, sur le même itinéraire celle du 8 mai 1429.

. . . Et c'était appréciable de pouvoir contempler, de bonnes places de tribune, le déploiement de la fête, sous le clair et, ce jour-là, très chaud soleil de mai. La municipalité d'Orléans, de la gracieuseté de qui dépendent ces places, avait été elle-même grande et généreuse.

L'excursion "sur les pas de Jeanne d'Arc"

Très exactement. . . .

Voici d'abord Jargeau, quartier général de l'armée de Charles VII après la bataille d'Orléans. Puis, Meung, Beaugency, d'où, en tendant un peu l'oreille par dessus l'espace et le temps, on pourrait presque encore entendre Jeanne chevaucher à grand galop vers Patay et les plaines de Beauce.

Ensuite, les châteaux de grand nom et renom: Blois, Chaumont, Amboise, Azay-le-Rideau. . . . Il aurait fallu pouvoir s'arrêter à chacun. Chinon, le but essentiel du voyage devait toutefois permettre de s'attarder devant la haute cheminée de la salle où la Pucelle fléchit le genou devant le "gentil Dauphin" perdu dans la foule des courtisans. Et Langeais, avec son mobilier et ses tapisseries, procura une vision assez exacte de la vie seigneuriale au xvème siècle. Quant à Chambord, déployé dans toute sa majesté au soleil couchant, il devait offrir un spectacle unique.

Mais . . .

quelle randonnée . . . Il aurait fallu pouvoir la commencer aux aurores et la mener, sans souci de l'heure, jusqu'à nuit close.

Le travail

Mené, comme à l'accoutumée, de magistrale manière par la Présidente internationale, il fut, comme à l'accoutumée aussi, sérieux et dense. Il occupa la pleine journée du samedi, après la messe dite aux intentions de l'Alliance, et toute la matinée du dimanche. Regards sur l'effort de l'année écoulée. Vues sur celle qui va suivre. Il y a encore bien à faire pour que, partout, la totalité des droits humains soit sauvegardée. L'esclavage sévit encore dans certaines régions. Même dans les pays de vieille civilisation, tout n'est pas encore parfait quant aux droits successoraux, aux droits parentaux, aux régimes matrimoniaux. Les mutilations rituelles ne sont pas encore partout abolies, et les filles ne reçoivent pas encore partout une éducation égale à celle de leurs frères. L'évolution féminine n'a pas encore fini de poser des problèmes dans les pays en voie de développement ni, sur le terrain ecclésiastique, dans le cadre de l'apostolat des laïcs.

Il est donc nécessaire que l'Alliance continue sa route. D'autres organisations pourraient se charger de certains aspects de son action: il en est d'autres qu'elle seule est qualifiée pour poursuivre et compétente pour mener à

bien. En face de la pensée et des institutions marxistes, elle représente au surplus la preuve que la profession chrétienne n'est pas un obstacle à la totale promotion de la femme, qu'elle peut même constituer un de ses leviers les plus affirmés.

L'amitié

Peut-être fut-elle la grande gagnante de ce congrès "pas tout à fait comme les autres," de ce congrès aux champs. Il devait être l'adieu à Miss Barry. Chacune se sentait le coeur gonflé de reconnaissance envers la si chère Secrétaire générale qui, cette fois, nous quitte, paraît-il, définitivement . . . (Oui, bien sûr, elle nous quittera—le temps d'un voyage en Terre-Sainte . . .) Mais nous savons qu'avec la si bonne et elle-même si chère Miss Challoner, aidée de sa jeune acolyte française, ce sera encore un peu elle. Ce sera toujours elle tant qu'elle vivra et encore au-delà. Car on ne donne pas un demi-siècle de son existence à une cause sans laisser beaucoup de soi-même à cette cause, sans l'avoir imprégnée à jamais. Mais peut-être, du fait de ce départ, toutes, consciemment ou inconsciemment, sentaient-elles plus impérieuse la nécessité de se serrer les coudes. Toutes, c'est-à-dire le groupe compact des Européennes—Anglaises, Allemandes, Françaises—auxquelles, par-dessus mers et continents, la vieille Australie et la jeune Côte d'Ivoire étaient venues donner la main, tandis que Malte, le Liban, l'Argentine avaient dit être là aussi de coeur, et que Soeur Marie-André envoyait un longue lettre. De partout fusèrent les attentions, les gentilleses (et ici la section française devait se sentir spécialement comblée). Il y avait vraisemblablement un peu de fatigue au terme de ces quatre journées fort pleines, mais probablement aussi un élan renouvelé.

Pauline Archambault

REVIEWS

International Labour Review (International Labour Office, Geneva).

The March and April numbers of the International Labour Review contain a valuable synthesis of the findings of a recent I.L.O. survey on "Discrimination in Employment or Occupation on the basis of Marital Status." Information from some sixty countries revealed that there are still many factors restricting the freedom of the married woman to make her own decisions regarding the solution of the problem of combining work outside the home with her family responsibilities. On the whole, the tendency is to diminish these discriminations in legislation, and new constitutional guarantees of equal rights have helped this tendency, but women are often exposed to loss of permanent pensionable status on marriage in favour of temporary non-pensionable employment with few opportunities for promotion. Informal oral discriminatory practices are still prevalent, mainly in the sphere of private employment.

It is instructive to note that in the same March number of the review, at the end of a report of the 31st Congress of the French Confederation of Christian Workers appears the brief statement: "The Congress also adopted a number of resolutions concerning *women and young workers' problems, etc.*" (italics ours). It is in such conferences and in the national sphere that most of the work has to

be done to achieve the aim of adult status for women workers whether married or single.

There is also an article in the same issue on absenteeism amongst women workers in industry which concludes that the comparatively high proportion of women absentees at the lower levels of the occupational scale goes a long way towards explaining their frequent irregularity at work. "Highly trained women occupying responsible and skilled positions are seldom absent, even if they have several children to bring up." Where the conflict between work and home commitments is resolved, women are as responsible and regular at work as their men colleagues.

P.C.C.

Annette von Droste-Hülshoff. By K. S. Kemminghausen. (Deutscher Kunstverlag).

The life of Annette is told in pictures. She was a gifted young woman, poet, painter and musician, born in 1797, near Mainz in Westphalia. We are given only few extracts of her poems, mainly of her very early work, so that her achievement cannot be judged, but certainly many writers took note of it and we are told that she supplied to the brothers Grimm the folklore which brought fame to these authors.

The illustrations give us an insight into the life of the period, the houses and personalities among whom the young poet moved, residing with one or other of her aristocratic relatives. Not a very happy life, it seems, for the sensitive young poet who was happiest in the contemplation of nature and did not easily establish satisfactory human relations.

F.M.S.

The autumn number of *Way Forum*, organ of the World Assembly of Youth, devoted itself to "Voices from the Arab World," among them the voice of Princess Lalla Malika Cherkaoui, who, with her sister, led the movement for the emancipation of the women of Morocco. She speaks of the part played in Islamic history by outstanding women in the past and attributes the gradual restrictions placed on women to "the destructive forces freed by impulsive Mongolia and expansionist Europe" which "caused Islam to withdraw into itself."

Whatever the cause, there was great need for a feminist movement in Morocco. Fortunately, King Mohammed V encouraged the education of girls, and the two Princesses had the courage to discard their veils, an example which was followed by numbers of enthusiastic women. Women took part in politics and in the resistance movement, and when independence came in 1955, they attended the party congresses and called for the abolition of polygamy, for the right to vote and equality with men. These reforms were achieved, and are now embodied in the Constitution.

P.C.C.

The Month in Parliament

Need for Co-ordination

"That in the opinion of this House the country would be better governed and happier, and more injustices and inequalities eliminated, if we had greater co-ordination in Government Departments internally, and between Government Departments externally on both policy and administration."

Dame Irene Ward launched in this way her promised attack on Government weaknesses. She gave two examples of the lack of joint consultation: one was the case of a college of further education. The head was told that no money would be available for needed additional classrooms. Then a request was made for a hall or hut for recreational purposes. To the great surprise of all concerned, a most magnificent hall "with mahogany, plate glass and splendid curtains" was built. The other case was of a new school being built in such a place that access to it would be by a dangerous road over a hump-backed bridge. Although she loyally praised the Government party, she showed herself in disagreement with most of its policies, including the Pay Pause and the Block Grant.

Dr. Barnett Stross complained of the lack of available statistics and the failure of Departments to share information with regard to safety precautions.

The speaker who made the most definite suggestions was Mr. R. E. Prentice. He wanted the Assistance Board and the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance to be merged into a Ministry of Social Welfare, which would also deal with family allowances. Mr. C. Mayhew stressed the need for a co-ordinator of Government information services. Mr. McLeod recommended the motion to the House and promised that everything possible would be done to further it. It was accepted without a division. (May 7th)

Rights of Spouses

The Law Reform (Husband and Wife) Bill was given its Third Reading. There were no women members present. An Amendment was made to the original Bill in order to save time, expense and unnecessary publicity in cases which could be dealt with by the Married Women's Property Act. The intention of the Bill is to allow spouses to sue each other in respect of tort or civil wrong. This change in the Law was recommended by the powerful all-male Law Reform Society. Mr. Rawlinson, who presented the Bill, pointed out that as the wife is now an individual with the same status and rights as the husband, the law as it stands is unrealistic; the previous position being in the words of Blackstone, that, "The very being and legal existence of the woman is suspended during marriage." He instanced the unreality of the present law by the

following case: if a woman sustains loss or injury through the negligence of the driver of her car and of another driver, she may sue both men for damages if she happens to be the friend, sister, daughter, or mistress of one of the men, but only one of them if she is the wife of either. In such a case the second driver, or his insurance company, would have to bear the whole of the cost. As the law stands, married people have an advantage over others, and wives have some advantages over husbands.

The Solicitor-General welcomed the Bill as remedying an injustice to husbands. He added, "It is generally thought that the main principal in the earlier law was to give the husband a profitable guardianship over the wife's property and that Common Law devised the doctrine of the unity of the person in order to disguise and justify this law. But it has never been recognised in equity or in the ecclesiastical courts." He said that the Government welcomed the Bill and congratulated Mr. Rawlinson on his success in the Ballot and in having carried the Bill so far. The Bill was read the third time and passed. (May 18th)

Nurses' Pay

During the month there were many questions on Nurses' pay. In the light of the public interest that had been shown, and in view of the urgency of the matter, the subject was debated at length. Mr. Kenneth Robinson started it off on the day that the news was published of the success of the dockers in defeating the Pay Pause after the threat of strike action. Mr. Robinson asked, "What is the Minister's answer to the new pay scales that have just been announced for doctors in the three armed services?" He said that these new scales are so generous that a Service career now offers a doctor a substantially better financial reward than does General Practice, with considerably less expenditure of effort on his part. Mr. Woodburn, Mrs. Braddock, Mr. Bottomley, Mr. Tom Brown, Mr. Lubbock, Mr. McMaster and Mr. A. E. Cooper were among those who supported the nurses' cause. Sir Derek Walker-Smith pleaded the need for a Royal Commission, and Mr. Albu said that nurses needed, in addition to fair remuneration, more responsibility. He thought that there should be some recruiting of older and more mature women to the service. (May 14th)

Guardianship of Infants

Unfortunately the Guardianship of Infants Bill on which Miss Vickers has done so much work was among fourteen Private Members' Bills to whose second reading objection was raised on Friday, May 25th.

C. M. Cheke

St. Joan's International Alliance

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 19th COUNCIL MEETING, ORLEANS, 1962

Political Rights

St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon those Governments which have not yet granted equal franchise and eligibility to women with men to do so without delay.

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 in full conformity with the teaching of the Church.

- (a) It demands that those laws which still impose a measure of civil incapacity upon the wife and married mother 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 or adopted by them.
 - (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.
- (b) The Alliance trusts that the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 17th Session will accept the Draft Convention and Draft Recommendation concerning Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages. It regrets that no universal specific age of marriage is included in the Convention.

Inheritance Rights

St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ensure equality of inheritance rights of men and women by providing that men and women in the same degree of relationship shall be entitled to equal shares in the estate and shall have equal rank in the order of succession.

Ritual Mutilations

St. Joan's International Alliance expresses its satisfaction that the Commission on the Status of Women is continuing its efforts to secure the elimination of those customs which were so emphatically condemned by the African women delegates at the Seminar at Addis Ababa.

Equal Moral Standard

(a) In reaffirming its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes, St. Joan's International 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 Alliance reaffirms its belief that laws to safeguard public order should apply equally to men and women and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease should be free, voluntary and confidential.

Equal Pay and Opportunities

St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon 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 the same opportunities for education; for vocational and technical training; for employment and promotion for both sexes; also to ensure that any Government requests for assistance from the United Nations and Specialised Agencies shall 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.

The Alliance further urges its National Sections to redouble their efforts to ensure that the age of retirement and right to pension shall be the same for men and women workers.

Education

(1) St. Joan's International Alliance believes that the aim of education is the full development of the human being both as an individual and as a member of society and reaffirms its belief that education should be based on religious and spiritual values.

(2) The Alliance urges all Governments to ensure that in all schemes of education, the same opportunities shall be available for boys and girls, men and women, irrespective of religion or race.

Slavery

St. Joan's International Alliance views with concern the continuance of slavery and the trade in slaves. It urges its National Sections to press their Governments to accede to the Slavery Conventions of 1926 and 1956, without delay. Further, to support any request made to ECOSOC for setting up an Advisory Committee of Experts to investigate and to advise on the best means of implementing the 1956 Convention to combat Slavery and the Slave Trade.

Ecumenical Council

(a) In view of the growing desire for the fuller participation of the laity in the Apostolate, St. Joan's International Alliance re-affirms its belief that the dedicated work done by so many women for the Church would be more firmly based if they had some outward sign of the official support and blessing of the Church.

As a concrete suggestion St. Joan's International Alliance submits that if, in future, diaconal duties are to be entrusted to laymen as an independent ministry, this ministry be open to both men and women.

(b) Further, the Alliance respectfully requests that representatives of the laity, both men and women, be invited to attend meetings of the Ecumenical Council as observers.

(c) St. Joan's International Alliance respectfully requests that the prayers in the Nuptial Mass said over the bride and bridegroom after the Pater Noster be so worded as to apply to both spouses.

AFRICAN VISITORS

Six African women, from Northern Nigeria, Northern Rhodesia and Tanganyika, were brought to this country by the Ariel Foundation for a five-weeks visit. Three of them are Catholics. The chairman of the Alliance had the pleasure of meeting the six women on May 30th at the House of Commons, where they had been the guests at lunch of Mrs. Irene White, M.P., and had listened at Question Time to Mr. Butler's speech on his recent visit to Africa. A brief but illuminating visit to the Library of the Fawcett Society followed, by the kindness of Miss Douie.

On June 4th the African women met representatives of women's organisations at a reception at N.C.W. House, by invitation of Miss Bowie, chairman of SCESWUN, and Mrs. Joan Robins, president of the N.C.W. Each spoke on the problems of her own country. All, except the representative from Northern Nigeria, had, of course, the vote and all knew its value. In Northern Nigeria, the Muslim women are strictly in purdah and meet their Christian friends (women, of course) at gatherings in the Governor's house. The heavy work of the women in the rural areas was vividly described and the complete change in the life of women in the towns. A plea was made for the preservation of good in the old customs; the laxity of behaviour in our streets had shocked these women—as, we hastened to assure them, it does us!

We hope to keep in touch with such women, whose problems so often recall those of the woman's movement here.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "The Catholic Citizen," 15th June, 1937

No woman that I know denies the grandeur of the State's desire to ensure that mothers shall not be forced to engage in labour outside the home. But many women fear that mothers may be, by legislation directed by a clause under Article 41 (of the new Draft Constitution of Ireland) prevented from engaging in labour which both she and her husband agree is desirable for the comfort of those constituting the home. It is one thing to guarantee every married man an economic wage; it is quite another to prevent a wife or mother from taking such. Who is to be judge in each case? Is there to be a means test? house inspection? interference by some bureaucrat with the privacy of the family and the rights of the husband and wife?

If girls, by reason of their "inadequate strength" are to be kept out of factories here, where do they turn? To England or Scotland? What becomes then of the home? Can they be assured that men of adult age will or can marry them? Are alternative posts to be provided for them? What becomes of their "fundamental right to work" and their "mature judgment" as to the suitability of certain work?—*Protest in Ireland*

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

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Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 10s. per annum.

OBJECT

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of £1 which includes *The Catholic Citizen*. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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