

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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*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

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION GENEVA 1966

Dr. Marita Harper

Twenty-one nations sent representatives to Geneva, 20 women and one man (from Dominica), for the 19th session of the Status of Women Commission which opened on February 21st with a speech from last year's Chairman at Teheran, the Shah's sister, Princess Ashraf. In her address Princess Ashraf said that the 18th session achieved "a new advance towards the emancipation of women". She expressed her appreciation for the recognition by the General Assembly of the Commission's right to meet yearly. The Princess continued: "Although it is now recognised that the increasing participation of women in all aspects of public life is the best criterion of a people's degree of civilisation, equality between the sexes has not yet been achieved; on the contrary one has to refer to 'the imperialism of the so-called stronger sex'. If the saying 'God helps those who help themselves' is true, we must work to achieve our most natural rights, to obtain what we want. . . . What we want is to create the Eve of the future, a new Eve freed from the web of age-old falsehoods in which she is still imprisoned."

The main item on the Agenda was the draft Declaration on Discrimination against Women which had been discussed at Teheran and was at all costs to be completed this year. It will be remembered that at Teheran a draft based on the Polish draft was drawn up and this was studied and criticised by all the International Women's Organisations represented on the Liaison Committee, and by national bodies on the Status of Women Committee. In response to a letter from Mrs. Bruce saying that comments would be welcomed, the Status of Women Committee sent comments to the Foreign Office. St. Joan's Alliance supported the Committee and itself drew attention to certain points when writing to the Foreign Office, to Mrs. McKay and to Mrs. Bruce. The Alliance criticised the draft as being too mandatory, insufficiently concise and repetitive of Conventions to which reference could be made. Furthermore,

the inclusion of laws and conventions specifically drawn up for the 'protection' of women being included in an international instrument was deprecated. We urged that there should be an insistence on the principle of equal rights of the spouses in marriage and at its dissolution.

Various documents therefore faced the delegations when they arrived. A memorandum had been prepared by the Secretary-General containing the comments of members of the Commission relating to the Draft Declaration, and this memorandum contained a new Draft Declaration prepared by the Ghana Government. The representative of the United Kingdom mentioned that her delegation had also prepared a draft but would not submit it unless it felt that progress was not being made on the basis of texts already submitted. They were asked to produce this, and the Commission thus had three drafts under consideration.

St. Joan's Alliance was fortunate in that our consultant, Mlle Archinard, was present through the period Feb. 21-March 11, and Dr. von Müller, the German Vice-President, who had attended at Teheran, covered the first part of the Commission's work at Geneva. We have now received documents from Mlle. Archinard and a report from Dr. von Müller which includes her intervention on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance. "Mme. von Müller (Alliance Internationale Sainte Jeanne d'Arc) . . . se permet toutefois de signaler que le projet de déclaration actuellement à l'étude est trop comminatoire et devrait s'adresser davantage au grand public. Elle croit également qu'il serait préférable de ne pas parler de la protection de la femme dans un instrument international visant à éliminer toute discrimination à l'égard des femmes. Enfin, elle insiste sur le principe de l'égalité juridique du mari et de la femme."

By March 8th, after much discussion, an improved and shorter draft had been unanimously approved for presentation to ECOSOC and eventually to the General Assembly. The whole text is

printed for our readers. Mlle. Archinard reports, "At the 461st meeting of the Commission several representatives, in explanation of their vote, asked for reservations to be recorded on certain aspects of the draft resolution." In this connection it is interesting to note that unanimity of vote is apparently so highly prized at the United Nations that differences may be concealed although such differences may be the seeds of future development. It will be noted that the accepted draft states that "effective action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage" but does not suggest what this minimum should be. Reference is made to paid maternity leave and guarantee of return to former employment. The point stressed by St. Joan's Alliance in its representations to the Foreign Office, to Mrs. McKay and Mrs. Bruce, regarding the principle of equal rights of the spouses in marriage and at its dissolution, is included.

Dr. von Müller attended the reception by Princess Ashraf at the Iranian Embassy and that given by the Liaison Committee of which St. Joan's International Alliance is a constituent body.

We are glad to note that Article 3 would apparently cover the case of 'ritual mutilations' which St. Joan's Alliance has consistently urged should be kept before the Commission.

DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Teheran 1965—Geneva 1966

The General Assembly solemnly proclaims this Declaration:

Article 1. Discrimination based on sex, operating as it does, to destroy or limit equal rights between men and women, is fundamentally unjust and constitutes an offence against human dignity.

Article 2. All appropriate measures shall be taken to abolish existing laws, customs, regulations and practices which are discriminatory against women, and to establish adequate legal protection for equal rights of men and women, in particular:

- (a) the principle of equality of rights shall be embodied in the Constitution or equivalent law of each country.
- (b) the international instruments of the United Nations and the specialised agencies relating to the elimination of discrimination against women shall be ratified and fully implemented as soon as practicable.

Article 3. All appropriate measures shall be taken to educate public opinion and direct national aspirations towards the eradication of prejudice and the abolition of customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women.

Article 4. Women shall have the same rights as men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. Marriage to an alien shall not automatically affect

the nationality of the wife either by rendering her stateless or by forcing on her the nationality of her husband.

Article 5. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure to women:

- (a) the right to vote in all elections and be eligible for election to publicly elected bodies;
 - (b) the right to hold public office and to exercise all public functions on equal terms with men without discrimination.
- Such rights shall be reflected in legislation.
- Article 6.* 1. All appropriate measures, primarily by legislation, shall be taken to ensure to women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of civil law, and in particular:
- (a) the right to acquire, administer, enjoy, dispose of and inherit property, including property acquired during the marriage;
 - (b) the right to equality in legal capacity and the exercise thereof;
 - (c) the right to freedom of movement;
 - (d) the right to choose domicile and residence.

2. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure the principle of equality of status of the husband and wife and in particular:

- (a) women shall have the right to free choice of a husband and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;
- (b) women shall have equal rights with men during marriage and at its dissolution;
- (c) parents shall have equal rights and duties in matters relating to their children. In all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount.

3. Child marriage and the betrothal of young girls before puberty shall be prohibited, and effective action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

Article 7. All provisions of penal codes which constitute discrimination against women shall be repealed.

Article 8. All appropriate measures, including legislation, shall be taken to combat all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

Article 9. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure to girls and women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in education at all levels, and in particular:

- (a) equal conditions of access to and study in educational institutions of all types, including universities, vocational, technical and professional schools;
- (b) the same choice of curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality whether the institutions are co-educational or not;

(c) equal opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

(d) equal opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult literacy programmes.

Article 10. 1. All appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure to women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of economic and social life, and in particular:

- (a) the opportunity, without discrimination on grounds of marital status or any other grounds, to receive vocational training; to work; to free choice of profession and employment subject to the exceptions necessitated by the dangerous and arduous nature of the work; and to professional and vocational advancement;
- (b) the right to equal remuneration with men and to equality of treatment in respect of work of equal value;
- (c) the right to leave with pay, retirement privileges and provision for security in respect of unemployment, sickness, old age or other incapacity to work.

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on account of maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, measures shall be taken to provide paid maternity leave, with the guarantee of returning to former employment, and to provide the necessary social services, including child-care facilities.

Article 11. The principle of equality of rights of men and women demands implementation in all States in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

Governments, non-governmental organisations and individuals are urged therefore to do all in their power to promote the observance of the principles contained in this Declaration.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Australia

From the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia (affiliated to the Australian Federation of Women Voters (non-party); the British Commonwealth League, London; the International Alliance of Women (Equal Rights—Equal Responsibilities) and the League of Women Voters) in their monthly "Dawn" February Newsletter we hear that "once again cost of production and distribution threatens the continuance of this means of contact over a wide area at home and abroad."

Two outstanding pieces of news on the women's front "down-under" are announced: Senator Dame Annabelle Rankin of Queensland (Liberal) appointed as Minister for Housing by Australia's new Prime Minister, is the first woman to hold a portfolio in the Federal Government. She was previously for 15 years Government Whip in the Senate.

Secondly the Reserve Bank of Australia has announced that its women officers may remain on after marriage as permanent employees thus bringing real equality of opportunity one step nearer for Australian women working in the public services of their country. A week's wedding leave with pay is also to be granted. It is hoped, says "Dawn", that the reform which will be extended to all women working in the Commonwealth Bank divisions, and not only to those employed by the Reserve Bank, would cover a further 21,416 women. At present under the Public Service Act permanent female employees are automatically retired when they marry and may only be re-employed with temporary status, lower pay, loss of long service leave privileges and opportunities for advancement.

The Women's Service Guilds have long advocated a reform in the matter of Maintenance and Compulsory Attachment of Earnings and now are able to announce that a new Act was passed last month. In this new "Married Persons Summary Relief Act" defaulting husbands are to be compelled to contribute to the maintenance of their dependants by deduction from the pay envelopes in place of present repeated Court Orders.

Miss Beryl Young is leading a team of four in an aerial survey of the Solomon Islands, for the United Nations, with three aircraft. Recent figures from the Department of Civil Aviation show an increasing number of women pilots in the Air Register.

France

Dr. Anna Stoyka, of the Paris National Observatory, is measuring the speed of the earth's revolution. She has observed a slowing of 1/1000th seconds in three years, a feat of accurate measurement which does not seriously threaten to lengthen the 'daily' task for us!

We hear that Mademoiselle Lydie Dolcerocca, a member of L'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc has been appointed Inspector of Police.

Ivory Coast

The first Community of Ivory Coast Nuns is now installed at Moossou, near Bassam. (Informations Catholiques Internationales, April 1966.)

Jordan

Five years after Miss Coate had bought a barren piece of desert, because a Roman ruin convinced this teacher of English in Jerusalem that water must have been available there, at one time, that valley was transformed into a fruit and vegetable garden. Aided only by a water-diviner and against the advice of 'experts' she had found what her brilliant deduction had suggested. To reward her enterprise King Hussein visited and named the valley, Abdellyeh.

(Schweizer Frauenblatt, 7/4/66)

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

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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THE WAY OF ST. JOAN'S

St. Joan's International Council meetings are landmarks in the history of our Alliance. They direct its destinies and shape its public image. When, by their aid, we read our history backwards we can see clearly how present attainment is based on their gradual unfolding.

Our choice between alternatives of future activity and ways of securing our aims will be influenced by whatever past experience may have taught us, but as the Alliance grows it will be more difficult to light upon a procedure which will be acceptable to all, whenever common action is contemplated.

These reflections are suggested by expressions of opinion which have recently reached the office and which, at first sight, seem difficult to reconcile. Some members hold that the Alliance is dragging its feet in regard to our expressed wish to give the Church greater service, while others feel that our outlook is too 'advanced' and our methods precipitate.

Taking the latter objection first: one can only agree that our initiative in this field has carried the Alliance forward with an impetus and at a rate almost unbelievable—and quite unforeseeable. To bring this home it is sufficient to compare the characteristically prudent thought of Florence Barry, only about five years ago, when after the dispatch of our first petitions to the Vatican Council, she reflected: "I suppose we can now come out into the open!" Compare this reticence with the reaction evoked, in the train of the Church's aggiornamento—the warmth, the welcome, the absence of any resentment—as experienced in our Roman sojourn. We find a different atmosphere, almost a different world; the wheels of history can seldom have turned faster in peaceful revolution. If the changes appear to have been precipitate, to some, we know that the Church's own massive forward movement has been found difficult and un-

acceptable by many people; few people would agree on the optimum rate of even the most desirable changes, but it is obviously necessary to keep this reluctance in mind, when planning.

Now let us consider the objections of members who consider we are dragging our feet in this matter, that we are grateful for promise rather than solid achievement. The latter is of course true, in one sense. When dealing with social and political reforms, as St. Joan's has so often done in the past, there was never any question of being too cautious, as all must know. Is not this different approach a result of the nature of the changes we are asking for? No one really believes they can be forced on the Church or on anyone else. They can be stated clearly, as we have stated them, and we should be prepared to restate them on every possible occasion. They should be shown to be necessary, good and desirable. In those early days . . . only a very few years ago, when the Alliance had won its first scanty successes, infinitesimal but important, we knew how much preparation and planning had made them possible (witness the many articles in *The Catholic Citizen*). In the fanciful phrase of a recent orator, the birth of a great cause may require the assistance of 'the midwife of time and patience'. Its infancy may also require careful nurturing.

There is a great deal which we must do to bring the hopes the Vatican Council has encouraged to their fulfilment. As most of the encouragement we have received from official sources has come from the highest ranks of the Church's hierarchy and the Church's theologians, we may assume that the most solid part of the wall of opposition is at the level it is easiest for us to reach, using persuasion and enlightenment. Each section—and individual—must obviously judge for themselves how best to do this. There is one urgent and vital activity that awaits us all at present: we must see to it

that every one of the 60 or so members appointed to the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of Canon Law is fully acquainted with the content of our Petition. This information will be obviously most effective if conveyed by the appropriate section (or if necessary individual member) to a native member of the petitioner's country.

In conclusion, as our strength and efficiency reside in our unity, we must continue to do everything possible to safeguard it. As an international 'body' of autonomous units, it will be necessary to maintain an office, or the assured services of a section, to coordinate our common activities, to look after members in countries without national sections, and—very important—to serve as a link with our President. The sum of these activities, including publication, is becoming so onerous that no section will be able to carry the burden without further co-operation.

It is the wish of your hosts of this year's Council meeting, which will take place in London in August, that this question be fully discussed, under the guidance of our President, so that the future of the Alliance and the hopes we share may be secured.

F. M. Shattock

IN PARLIAMENT

The Parliament elected at the General Election in 1964 ended with a total of 27 women Members. The present House of Commons begins with 26. Two women Members of the former Parliament—Lady Gammans and Mrs. Slater—did not stand again, and, in the swing to Labour, two Conservative women—Dame Patricia Hornsby-Smith and Lady Tweedsmuir—regrettably lost their seats. The three newcomers are Mrs. Dunwoody, Labour, representing Exeter; Mrs. Knight, Conservative, representing Edgbaston; and Miss Lestor, Labour, representing Eton and Slough.

Though Mrs. Dunwoody was herself now elected for the first time, she has been bred to politics, for she is the wife of another M.P. and the daughter of the late Mr. Morgan Phillips, Secretary of the Labour Party, and of Baroness Phillips, who was made a Life Peeress in December, 1964, and occupies the position of Baroness-in-Waiting (Government Whip) in the Upper House. Mrs. Knight is a lecturer, writer and broadcaster, and Miss Lestor is a kindergarten teacher. She was among those taking part in the Easter CND march.

Mr. Wilson has given appointments to seven women in his new Government. Six of these held office in the last Parliament. Mrs. Barbara Castle remains Minister of Transport, and is in the Cabinet, and Miss Margaret Herbison is still Minister of Pensions and National Insurance. Miss Alice Bacon remains at the Home Office as Minister of State, and Miss Jennie Lee is still in charge of the Arts as Joint Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science. Mrs. Eirene White has broken new ground as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and is the first woman

in this country to go to the Foreign Office, though Mrs. Meir held for many years the arduous and very responsible position of Israel's Foreign Secretary. Mrs. Judith Hart has been switched from the Scottish Office to the Commonwealth Relations Office.

St. Joan's Alliance takes a very special pleasure in the appointment of their member, Mrs. Shirley Williams, as Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour. To this office she will bring her gifts of exceptional ability and a lively mind. Their good wishes go with her in her new field.

Among the 16 members of Mr. Heath's "shadow cabinet" is one woman, Miss Mervyn Pike, who will specialise in the social services. Among the other spokesmen for the Party is Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, responsible for matters relating to the Treasury and economic affairs. She is the first woman to be charged with responsibilities in this sphere, to which she brings special knowledge as an economist and an expert on the law relating to taxation.

To Dr. Shirley Summerskill fell the honour of seconding the motion in the Debate following the Gracious Speech of Her Majesty The Queen. In the course of her speech, she said: "At this point I wish to pay tribute to another small group in this Parliament—the women Members. The psephologists, all of whom seem to be male, have decreed that the swing to female candidates at the Election was greater than that to male candidates. Whatever the reasons for this may be, no hon. Member will deny that in the Government women are playing a successful part. We have come a long way from the time when militant suffragettes accosted Ministers in Downing Street and demanded the vote. But this is not the end of the journey. While the passage in the Gracious Speech concerning the Government's productivity, prices and incomes policy is a most welcome one, the exclusion of any mention of equal pay for women will not pass unnoticed. I would respectfully remind the right hon. Gentlemen in the Government that the railings around the Palace of Westminster can be used again."

Vera Douie

The Fawcett Society

The Fawcett Society is holding an Exhibition to celebrate its Centenary. It will open on June 7th, the day when Elizabeth Garrett and Emily Davies, one hundred years ago, took the first Suffrage Petition to Westminster Hall to hand it to John Stuart Hill, M.P., who had promised to present it to Parliament. A charming picture by Bertha Newcombe, of the two young women in crinolines taking the historic roll of paper from under the stall of the apple-seller, where in their shyness they had hidden it, to present it to the doughty champion of their cause, will be an exhibit that no one should miss.

St. Joan's Alliance sends congratulations and best wishes to the centenarian Society.

Kenya

Sister Mike (Sister Michael Therese) of Kenya has flown more than 500 hours flying Catholic mission doctors and nurses into areas where there are no roads. (AP)

New Guinea

St. Joan's cannot but regard as retrograde a recent well-intentioned gesture by a missionary couple at the Mt. Hagen Holy Trinity Catholic Mission. Having adopted a six-year-old native girl through the Supreme Court, they paid the father an undisclosed sum to make up for the bride price. As the father had not asked for payment, this was surely undue subservience to the native custom.

Uganda

The Uganda Association of University Women, which concerns itself with higher education, is now a full member of the Uganda Commission for Unesco. The chairman, Mrs. H. Bhatia, said they had been trying to join the Commission for over a year. (*Uganda Argus*, March 25th.)

U.S.A.

Father Haring, one of Rome's most influential moral theologians, and now visiting professor at Brown University, said there were deaconesses in early Christianity, and advocated that the office be restored. "At present, I would advise women not to make claims on the episcopacy." He added that he feels they could meet the demands of Holy Orders "as well as or better than men." On the question of the priesthood he said "I would not say yes, but I would not close the door to it."

Father Yves Congar, French Catholic theologian, took a different view, pointing out that Christ and his Apostles were men and recalling St. Paul's injunction to women to keep silent in the churches. Not certain whether limiting the office to men was based on divine revelation or not, he thought men represent Christ better than women in the public office of the priesthood.

(*Oakland, California Tribune*, 23/3/66)

Eight congresswomen complained that jury selection laws of 29 states discriminate against women. "We, as members of Congress, believe that this nation has for too long tolerated wholly arbitrary discrimination against women's participation in the jury system."

(*Oakland, California Tribune*, 3/1/66)

Memorial to Florence Barry

The Memorial Card which has only recently been issued recalls the Council Meeting at Freiburg when the resolution—so carefully worded and prepared by the United Kingdom Section—was passed by the Meeting and adopted as the policy of the Alliance.

Whatever misgivings some members may have had it seems incredible that with this card in their hands and the knowledge of her dying wish in their hearts, any should openly oppose this mild and prudent aspiration.

NOTES AND COMMENTS**St. Joan's Day**

On May 30th members of the Alliance are asked to attend the 6 o'clock Mass at Westminster Cathedral and to gather afterwards at St. Joan's shrine where the traditional wreath will be laid.

* * *

Women's Council

St. Joan's Alliance was represented at the Annual General Meeting of the Women's Council on March 28th. At the conclusion of the business meeting an absorbing talk on Jamaica was given by Mrs. Winifred Holmes, chairman of the Women's Council.

Mrs. Holmes had just returned from a six month's assignment to Jamaica, where she had been consultant on a film on Family Life and Welfare in Jamaica, run by the Jamaican Government.

* * *

The Pay Roll Tax

It is early yet to assess the likely effects of the Payroll Tax introduced by the Chancellor in his Budget proposals. We should however note the Chancellor's assessment of the value of a woman's work at half that of a man's, and of a girl's work as considerably less than that of a boy's. This appears to signify that 'Equal Pay' (for the class of worker who presumably support Labour) is not to be given more than the customary lip service.

* * *

Lay Lecturers

Ushaw College, Durham, is to have two lay lecturers for the first time, one of them a woman. Dr. Margaret Harvey, Professor of History at Durham University, is giving a series of lectures on the ecclesiastical history of the Middle Ages. (from *The Catholic Herald*)

* * *

Congratulations

To Mr. and Mrs. Anthony King of N. Delhi on the birth of a second daughter, and to M. and Mme Royer (Pat Fogarty of Queensland) on the birth of their son, Alain.

Miss Susan Jane Rowlands, 22, was the only person out of 1955 to be awarded First Class Honours in the Law Society's Qualifying Examination, Part II, held in February.

(*Daily Telegraph*, April 6th)

* * *

Jubilee

On May 23rd a very early member of the Alliance, Mother Mary of the Cross O.S.B. (Christitch) celebrates her Golden Jubilee at Tyburn Convent. Holy Mass will be at 10 a.m.

Memories of Pope John

On Easter Monday in "Ten to Eight" on the B.B.C. Home Service programme, Archbishop Cardinale the Apostolic Delegate recalled the Easter message of Pope John XXIII who, in his dying days called the world to peace by negotiation and declared the fundamental right of everyone to follow his conscience. St. Joan's remembers too his encouraging words to women for which the Alliance thanked him and recalls with special joy the precious message we received from his very death-bed—a message of blessing to "those Catholic women who are members of St. Joan's Alliance."

* * *

Invitation

Miss Joan Morris, who has just returned to London from her world tour, invites members and friends of St. Joan's Alliance to an informal At Home on Wednesday June 15th from 6.30 onwards at her flat at 27 Red Lion Street, W.C.1 (CHA 3866), when representative speakers will report on "Women Round the World". R.S.V.P.

"Miss Morris is widely experienced in fighting for equality for women—she said, 'We have already petitioned the Church authorities to change some aspects of the out-dated Canon Law.'" — ("The Star," Hong Kong)

* * *

Vatican Ceremony

"At the ceremony in the Sistine Chapel two journalists were barred from entry. They were women; and your own correspondent (presumably a man) remarks that the spiritual significance of the building was such that the Vatican authorities could not face the thought of women witnessing the event.

"I hope people in this country will take careful note of this 'mishap' and will ponder carefully the explanation offered." Sgd. K. W. Britton, Department of Philosophy, University, Newcastle.

(*The Times*, 30/3/66)

Writing in the *British Weekly*, of which she is Anglican correspondent, Mrs. Ann Cheetham said she had received an official pass to the ceremony and had been ushered to her seat. An Italian Bishop said to her, "This is for the Pope a special day. We must not allow a woman to sully the Sistine Chapel for His Holiness." He asked her to leave. (*The Catholic Herald*, 4/4/6). While making every possible allowance for errors of translation from (presumably) Italian, the incident remains regrettable, almost incredible. Mrs. Cheetham's comment, that the incident demonstrates an attitude that would prove a permanent bar to unity if it persists seems fully justified.

THE FAMILY—CULTURAL CENTRE

The youth of today firmly believes "The times they are a-changing" and all old values are under review. The challenge of our time has vigour and deserves attention.

At the Australian Conference of 1962 in Brisbane the challenge of school education proved to be a matter of public interest to a numerous and representative gathering of men and women. Many hoped—even expected—that the schools would achieve what lies beyond their power and succeed in blocking the spread of materialism. No one realised that teachers can only deal with the child as it presents itself and that angry young men are not cured of their anger by education, only made more effective in its expression.

The answer to the question of who presents the child to the teacher has up to the present been the family group, stabilised by the mother. These children had a sense of security and, more important, had initiative. They will lack these now, if there is no mother or mother substitute. Northcote Parkinson reminds us that the family alone can provide stability in modern western society, as neither its political or economic framework can offer security. There is an obvious effort, mitigated in Russia, strong in China, to substitute the State for the family. A nursery system without parental contacts is an excellent preparation for this system.

The challenge goes beyond political systems to the root of human personality and reaches the basis of the challenge of Christianity to other systems of civilisation—sacrosanct Christian rights and responsibilities of individuals as members of the Mystical Body. The preservation of individual integrity is of particular interest to women. In Apostolic times women were accepted in the minor orders; medieval women found their way into universities; they founded abbeys and took honourable places in the Guilds. All this was achieved in spite of the Fathers of the Fourth century who were nervous of the "temptress of man".

However, woman retained her dignity as mistress of the home and she emerged to gain political and professional equality and partial economic equality.

Great steps towards equality of status have been made but the desired end is not yet in sight. Why? Possibly because an attack has come from another direction and the equality of woman as a human being is denigrated: in a recent survey of "l'Angleterre des Jeunes" a sampling of personalities in the news, the men are writers, artists, photographers, performers—and the girls, photographers' models! Professor Le Clerc of the Sorbonne once advised those who wished to know their society to read the popular novels. Consider these; whether we go up or down from James Bond woman is presented as "the temptress".

St. Joan armed herself to meet the challenge of the ruthless soldiery who were despoiling her native

land. Women arming themselves with scholarship in professional and political vocations have also been successful. But the family life which Joan had defended and from which the gallant suffragettes drew their strength is threatened. The home-maker is losing her status, by the loss of dignity and living in a world of absurd sex-consciousness, a barrier to human spiritual development. In my work in adult education I have attempted to give the answer, i.e. to educate young women so that with the aid of their husbands they can handle their family as a cultural centre.

There are other visions but how do we bring them to the attention of the present-day young woman who is sometimes hardened, almost always weary, often bewildered, without serenity and living in a world of absurd sex-consciousness, a barrier to human spiritual development. In my work in adult education I have attempted to give the answer, i.e. to educate young women so that with the aid of their husbands they can handle their family as a cultural centre.

But mine is a very small voice.

Pat Fogarty

(Australia, Queensland)

Review

THE CHANGING PATTERN

Report on the Training of the Older Women—1966 (2s. 6d.)

The report of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, while being comprehensive is rather too conservative to be really encouraging to the older woman seeking re-employment or training. As it is published by the Clubs it is obviously concerned mainly with professions which need academic qualifications. This is no deterrent to women already qualified in some way, but there must be many competent older women with no training who would be daunted by the requirements.

It could be assumed that a number of older women have capital and would welcome advice in choosing and setting up a business.

One craft which was a woman's field and is again opening its doors to women is silver smithing. Women with aptitude, interest and a certain amount of capital could, after training, start a workshop of their own.

There must be other opportunities less demanding—professionally and academically, which could be covered by such a report that otherwise is useful and thorough.

P. May

The Summer Bring and Buy Sale

By the kind invitation of Miss May and Miss Lion this event will take place at 22 Hamilton Close, N.W.8 (off St. John's Wood Road), from 3 to 5.30 on Saturday, July 9th. We hope that many members and friends will come and meet the President who will be in this country, to discuss the coming Council Meeting, from July 9th to 19th (Buses 6, 10, 16, 60).

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

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OBJECT

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

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All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of £2 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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STAMPS—Please send us your used/unused stamps—Foreign, British, Colonial—any variety can be turned into money for the office. Any quantity welcomed here at 17d Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

The Catholic Citizen, 15th May, 1941

In addition to the Government proposed a long-term policy for the nursing profession, as recommended by the Earl of Athlone's Inter-Departmental Committee. It was necessary that hospital authorities in general should review the salaries now paid to their nursing staffs. Mr. Brown said he wished to stress in particular the importance of securing a larger number of women who were prepared to take up nursing as a life career and to enter as student-nurses one of the hospitals recognised as training schools (salaries at the rate of £40 a year, rising by annual increments of £5).—

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