

MT Apr. 16, 1978

Tucker, Helen  
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# 'Quiet revolt'

By NANCY ENRIGHT

International Women's Year "may well mark the most quiet but the most profound revolution of this century, if not of all time," according to Helen Tucker, secretary of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and charter Secretary of the Committee for the Equality of Women in Canada.

A Mississauga resident, Helen Tucker wrote these words in an editorial which appeared in the October, 1974 issue of Status of Women News.

Almost six months later, she feels just as confident that the aspirations and goals of IWY will be realized.

In the editorial, she stated:

"International Women's Year, 1975 will mark the beginning of an era when women will realize that they have not only the right, but the responsibility of making choices.

"The world will benefit because women will change and will lift the total level of sensitivity to human need . . . In Canada the National Action Committee is challenged with its most ambitious goal: to reach and to move to action every woman of every province and territory.

"There is a world to win within every woman — herself," she concludes.

Only four months in IWY, Mrs. Tucker sees the year a great time of acceleration in the United Nations' goals of "equality, development and peace."

"I believe this will happen," Mrs. Tucker said in an interview. "Already we can see the telescoping of women's achievements. We're in the flying, not the creeping stages."

Mrs. Tucker defines the recently-formed WAM (Women's Action Mississauga) as a grass-roots model for the development of the increasing and changing status of women in the community.

"Any woman can find a new solution to a need or problem by meeting with others with the same needs. But you also have to prepare to analyze and to discover what channels to use. This is what WAM is attempting to do in Mississauga," she says.

In her belief that harmony succeeds and destruction fails, Mrs. Tucker is telling women to accept IWY as an opportunity to work for women and for change.

"Don't fight each other, don't nag, just try to solve the problem. If you want something to be different, try to make it different."

Canadian women can initiate change and this has already been proven in Mrs. Tucker's opinion.

Again, quoting from her editorial: "That Canada hosted the UN conference on IWY/75 in Ottawa in September, 1974 was a salute to the progress of her women.

"It was the Committee for the Quality of Women in

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Mississauga resident Helen Tucker, secretary of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, says International Women's Year could mark the most profound revolution of this century.

# 'Quiet revolution'

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Canada which, in 1966, proposed the Royal Commission on the Status of Women . . . because the National Action Committee on the Status of Women in order to stand guard and demand action on the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report submitted in 1970.

"It was the NAC; which in 1972, brought together in the Strategy for Change Convention in Toronto, 500 women from all provinces and territories to discuss and choose their new directions as women supporting each other in the common cause of equality and development."

As secretary for the NAC, Mrs. Tucker's work is demanding, if not exhausting. On May 9, 10 and 11, she will attend the NAC's second annual meeting which will deal with four legislative issues: equal pay for equal employment; matrimonial home or property law; family planning and abortion; and child care.

In June, the United Nations International Women's Year Conference will be held in Mexico City and in August, Berlin will host the World Congress of Women.

Besides her involvement in these and many other international conferences, Mrs. Tucker makes time to look into problems on the local scene, to add her vital knowledge of the world-wide women's movement to various meeting and groups in Mississauga such as WAM.

"One of the pressing issues in Mississauga is child care, which should and can be changed. There are some block babysitting groups, but we need more, so that we can first liberate the housewife physically, then mentally."

She also recognizes a need for action concerning the economic plight of women on welfare in Mississauga,

family planning and counselling services and concerning the need for easy and available contraceptives.

"Teenage education is another area which is needed and is being looked into so that we can avoid stereotyping of sex roles and change young girls' images of love and romance."

For liberation, you need communication and education, Mrs. Tucker feels, and in Mississauga "there are a great deal of resource materials available."

"In the Mississauga library system, there are all kinds of films and books which can lend knowledge to those willing to learn and initiate change. Sheridan College is also a tremendous centre for retraining."

Church auxiliary groups should learn to organize and mix with other women's groups, according to Mrs. Tucker.

"If they can learn to overcome their fears of revolting against traditional values, then Mississauga could have an even stronger voice."

Women in Mississauga should also be aware that if they want to attend WAM meetings, babysitters will be made available by calling Pat Grinstead at 274-5344, Mrs. Tucker points out.

"If the need is there and you have the will, then you will get it," Mrs. Tucker says.

"You have to accept the responsibility of being a human being — a human being with a mind and a will to aspire to the resolution of conflict."

Helen Tucker gives an added dimension to the UN theme of "equality, development, peace" for IWY.

"Equality means opportunity, development shall be, not of soaps and cereals, but of quality of life, and peace shall be cooperation among human beings who accept themselves as equals."