

## WFW Club Meeting Held Friday Night

The Parkersburg Business and Professional Women's Club held its monthly dinner meeting last Friday night at the Hotel Hartford, with Miss Hulda Wood, president, presiding. The dining room was attractively decorated with the club's colors of green and yellow.

An announcement was made that the business meeting, for the club, will be held on Friday night, March 7, at 8 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Sallie Lane, with Mrs. Ethel Perry as co-hostess. Members are asked to note change of date for the meeting from the second Friday night to the first.

The public affairs committee had charge of the program at last week's meeting with Mrs. Lois Stokes, chairman, pointing out the purpose of the program was to help the members in the clubs to do a more construc-

tive kind of work as citizens and to demonstrate the principles suggested in the cases of freedom within the community.

Using parts of the Declaration of Independence and the preamble of the Constitution as examples for providing principles on which to base constructive work, Mrs. Stokes urged members to take an active part in public affairs as a means to promoting national strength, and to keep America strong.

At the conclusion of the program Mrs. Stokes showed an informative film on the American story, in our town, called Joe Turner, American.

Attending the meeting as guests were Mrs. Ernest Guthrie, Mrs. Howard Hunter, R. M. Riddick, Jr., Lawrence Towe, Archie T. Lane, C. F. Sumner, Charles Harrell and Joe Caravello. Members present were Miss Wood, Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. Viola Nachman, Miss Nell Wilson, Mrs. Grace Costen, Mrs. Dora Riddick, Mrs. Alice M. Towe, Mrs. Mae B. Fowler, Miss Claire Hunter, Miss Pickett Sumner, Mrs. Sallie Lane, Mrs. Mary Harrell, Mrs. Nettie Lee Caravello and Mrs. Essie Burbage.

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**Use Force**  
The nurse in Scotland was trying to persuade old Mary to take some liquid food.

"Will you take some beef tea, Mary?"

"Na," replied Mary, "I couldn't tak' it."

"Would you like some hot milk?"

"Na, I couldn't tak' it."

"Perhaps you would care for a cup of cocoa?"

"Na, I couldn't tak' that either."

"Well, what about a glass of today?"

"Aye," responded the invalid

"Mak' it strong and mak' me tak' it."

## NATIONS STUDY AMERICAN FARM TO DEVELOP OWN LAND REFORMS

"The aim of land reform throughout the world is to bring about a change in the economic conditions of the American farmer and the American farm."

"Many farm leaders from other countries come here to study U. S. land policies and related agricultural programs," it is reported this week in a pamphlet, Land Reform—A World Challenge, prepared by the Department of State.

"These farm leaders, the pamphlet states, are asking us 'to send more agricultural specialists to their countries to work with them.'

"The United States, as in the past, is encouraging and supporting the land-reform programs of other nations which desire to undertake democratic reforms, the publication states. The United States will continue that encouragement and support."

The pamphlet notes, in the words of Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan:

"Evidently a little bit of land, a little bit of opportunity, can do for world peace something that great armies cannot possibly accomplish. It is something that happens inside a person. It is something that cannot be shot or chained."

### The World Problem

Here is the land problem now being tackled by free countries around the globe.

"In many of the areas of the world," the publication reports, "the land problem is a major obstacle to political stability and economic and social development. In large areas of the economically underdeveloped regions of the world, where roughly three-fourths of the people live on the soil and gain their livelihood from farming, many spend their lives under a feudal type of tenure, mostly in poverty."

Many of these tenants, it continues, "pay exorbitant rentals—50 to 70 per cent of the value of the crops—for the privilege of working small, scattered plots. Others have no security of tenure, little chance to earn a fair return, and practically no opportunity to progress into ownership. . . . some are burdened with perpetual debts at interest rates sometimes exceeding 100 per cent a year."

American solutions, however, do not always apply to other countries, the pamphlet explains, because "in our history the major challenge was to settle vast tracts of land in an empty continent." In many countries, where the people press upon their available land resources, the problem is reversed.

For example: "We think in terms of family farms of 160 acres or more; in other countries, the average farm family must often be supported on 50, 5, or even 2 acres. This compelling difference imposes different programs and different solutions."

### American Programs

On the other hand, here are some of the helpful American farm programs which are mentioned in the pamphlet. Research is discussed as having "contributed enormously to agricultural education and extension work."

In addition, "provision of adequate credit has helped keep the land in the hands of the farmers and has opened the door to ownership for tenants." The practice of the democratic principle of farmer participation in the administration of farm programs has been important. And cooperative organizations have been encouraged.

Pointed out in the pamphlet is the American belief that it is desirable for the farmer to own the land he cultivates, or have opportunity to be a landowner.

### What Is Land Reform?

Here is what "land reform" actually means—as the State Department describes it. The Department says that "many persons mistakenly identify land reform solely with land redistribution. While land reform in some localities may require an adjustment of land-holdings, either by division or consolidation, such an adjustment may or may not have a part in a particular land-reform program."

Land reform, the Department makes clear, covers a series of measures, all of which are familiar to the American farmer.

"Land reform has many aspects," it is stated. "In some cases it involves greater opportunity for ownership of the land by those who cultivate it; clear titles to land and water rights; security of tenure . . . and reasonable rentals . . ."

"It may include consolidation of scattered plots, improved status for agricultural wage laborers, and equitable and economic distribution of newly developed or reclaimed lands."

Land reform also may include reasonable credit, amortization of farm debts, the establishment of equitable tax policies, and other measures to make the intended improvement successful, the pamphlet sums up.

### The Communist Aim

And here is the comparison with what the Communists call land reform, states the Department.

"The goal of land reform in the free world is to promote and maintain an economically prosperous and independent farm population. By contrast, the Communists utilize land reform only as a means to further the economic exploitation and political subjugation of the farm people behind the Iron Curtain."

"After noting that the Communists have been quick to exploit discontent

among the farmers and when it arises, the publication continues: 'As a means to secure of power, they promise land to the landless cultivators. Their

propaganda states the fact that their ultimate objective is to bring about the needs and wishes of individuals to set up a farming state-owned system, and to reduce the cultivators to landless laborers for the state.' This is done by the Communists through the development of collective farms, the Department affirms.

### Free World Aim

The importance of land reform for underdeveloped areas is reflected in

measures initiated by many international agencies. These measures are "to encourage improved methods among rural people."

The thought of such activity is behind the content of this issue that might have been expected.

—John Lashock

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