

Woman in the news

Pauline McGibbon, recently appointed by Prime Minister Trudeau to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Ontario, is the first woman ever to represent the Crown in Canada. When Mr. Trudeau telephoned to offer her the appointment, she says she was entirely surprised — in spite of rumours that had been circulating about the possible appointment of a woman to the post.

She had been speculating along with the rest of the province about who it would be. "Friends said to me, 'How about you, Pauline?' But I said I didn't have a chance in the world. Actually, I wondered whether it (the hint of a woman's appointment) was just a kite being flown. The Government could say it tried to find a suitable woman, but it couldn't and then appoint a man. But I am being unjust . . . Ontario has done a great deal to appoint women to posts."

Mrs. McGibbon's mildly cynical reaction becomes understandable in the light of her earlier observations on the barriers confronting women in public life. The list of her appointments and honours is formidable. She is Chancellor of the University of Toronto. She has been a member of the Canada Council, National President of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, President of the Dominion Drama Festival, chairman of the Ontario Theatre Study and chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Theatre School of Canada. Yet when asked why she had never become involved in politics, she once commented, "The road to politics for a woman means running for a Board of Education post and a woman without children has no chance of being elected."

Pauline McGibbon is 63, childless and married to Mr. Donald McGibbon, treasurer of Imperial Oil Ltd. Her first reaction to Mr. Trudeau's invitation was to hesitate and say she must discuss the matter with her husband. "We were both hesitant. You ask yourself, will you give up five years of your life for public service and how much remains for yourself."

She decided that she would. The appointment became formal in March in a ceremony when she took over from the outgoing Lieutenant-Governor, W. Ross Macdonald, 81. She feels that her theatrical bent will be a help in her new job. "If you're a lover of the theatre, the pageantry has an appeal."

Women's Liberationists are doubtless



Mrs. Pauline Emily McGibbon.

hailing this as yet another blow for their cause — a cause with which Mrs. McGibbon agrees on many counts, though she does not approve of all their methods — "I guess it's my generation." She says she has never felt discrimination herself, though she readily believes that other women have.

"We can't move heaven and earth overnight but at least we're starting," she said, adding that her appointment was part of that start. "Every first helps to create a second. However, it does put one under a strain to be first." As the first woman Chancellor of Toronto University, first woman President of the University's

Alumni Association and first woman member of the 75-year-old Canadian Club, she has had plenty of training in being first — but she says: "It still frightens me."

Her husband has teased her in the past about her unpaid jobs, asking why she did not get a *real* job and support him in the style to which he would like to become accustomed. The Chancellorship at Toronto is unpaid. But as Lieutenant-Governor she will have a salary of \$55,000 a year and a suite at Queen's Park, the Ontario Legislative Building.

It looks like a husband's joke come true.