

discussed at length in two previous sessions, but there had remained strong divergence of opinion as to whether the age of retirement should be the same for men and women or lower for the latter. It was hoped that further enquiry by the ILO might cast new light on the problem.

Access of Women to Education

A UNESCO report on the access of women to "out-of-school" education was introduced by Mrs. A. K. Gegalova, the representative of UNESCO. She explained that the purpose of the report, based on 55 government answers to a questionnaire sent out in April 1959, was to give an over-all view of the opportunities of women for out-of-school education. Discussion in the Commission focussed on the subject matter and the methods of out-of-school education. For the most part, it was felt that out-of-school education should help women to fulfil their multiple role in the family, at work and in the community, but that, where illiteracy still existed, it should concentrate on basic education. As for methods, stress was placed upon the untapped educational possibilities of audio-visual, radio and television programmes, which would also help to conquer distance.

The Canadian delegate spoke of promising developments in this field in Canada, mentioning experiments in the co-ordination of programmes at the national level, which had led to creative patterns of co-operation between voluntary organizations and governments. She stated that the central problem was not a matter of the access of women to education, either in or out of school, but rather the difficulties resulting from the great distances between cities, the remoteness of many communities, shortages of staff and materials, lack of leaders and the complexities of timetables suited to women with family responsibilities. The greatest problem — perhaps it should be regarded as a challenge — was the need to awaken people, men and women alike, to a conviction of the importance of lifelong learning.

Future Programme

Reports on developments in the four basic areas of the Commission's work — political, economic, social and educational — are made from year to year. Within this general framework also, there are *ad hoc* projects classified by priority. For the fifteenth session these will include a survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved at the international level since its inception in 1946, a report by UNESCO on the access of women to the teaching profession, further consideration of a report on tax legislation applicable to women, a report on the occupational outlook of women in certain technical occupations, and a report by the ILO on the application of Convention No. 111 concerning discrimination in employment and occupation. The Commission made several additional requests for material for the sixteenth session, among these for a study of the effects of inheritance laws on the status of women.

The Commission recommended that its next session be held in Geneva in 1961.