

Mrs. Harry Quart, MBE, of Quebec City. Among questions discussed were the political rights of women, the status of women in private law, economic opportunities for women and equal pay for equal work.

During the past year the Commission's 1947 survey of the status of women in public life was brought up to date. At the end of its twelfth session the Commission was able to report to the Economic and Social Council that there were an increasing number of countries where women were enjoying equal rights.

The Commission also considered the Secretary-General's study of national laws concerning marriage. It recommended to the Council that a draft convention be prepared, providing for a minimum age for marriage, for free consent by both parties, and for compulsory registration of marriage.

In considering the economic opportunities of women, the Commission studied the treatment of working women and the situation of working mothers with family responsibilities. The Canadian Representative co-sponsored a resolution proposing that ECOSOC ask all of its members to adopt the principle that the age of retirement be the same for men and women. The Council took no action on this matter this year, but has decided to consider it further.

Commission on Human Rights

The Commission on Human Rights was established in 1946, and now has a membership of eighteen countries. Canada is not a member. The Commission normally meets once a year, and adopts a number of resolutions in the human rights field which are subsequently discussed in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

The fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Rights was held in New York from March 10 to April 3, 1958. The Commission received reports from its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and from the Committee on Freedom of Information, which was established in April 1957. The Commission studied the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, and adopted by a vote of 15 in favour, none against, with 2 abstentions, a United States resolution recommending the expansion of this programme. Considerable attention was given to the United Nations programme of reporting in the field of human rights. Thirty-one governments had submitted reports describing developments and progress achieved in human rights in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1956. The Commission expressed the hope that other governments would transmit their reports before the next session.

Some members of the Commission expressed dissatisfaction with the present fashion in which the Commission dealt with the thousands of communications it received alleging violation of human rights. The Commission approved, by a vote of 9 to 7, with 1 abstention, a resolution by which a committee would be appointed to study this problem and to prepare recommendations for the Commission at its next session.

The Commission decided to consider at its next session the drafting of an international agreement for eradicating discrimination in education; and it endorsed the idea of holding a second conference of non-governmental organizations interested in the eradication of discrimination. It took note of the progress report of the Committee on the Right of Everyone to be Free