

LUCK IS WHAT WE MAKE IT

(INSTALLATIONS CEREMONY FOR OFFICERS OF 1976-77 OF CREDIT WOMEN INTERNATIONAL AT DALLAS, TEXAS SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 20, 1976. E. MAURINE WATSON, PRESIDENT.

WRITTEN BY FERRIS REIA, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - CW-I.

AS WE REVIEW THE PATHS THAT THE RETIRING OFFICERS HAVE TRAVELLED ACROSS THE RAINBOW THIS PAST YEAR, IT IS SO GRATIFYING TO SEE THE "POT OF GOLD" AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW OVERFLOWING WITH THE SUCCESSES OF THE YEAR.

PRESIDENT HELEN LUKE, UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP, WE WERE CONSTANTLY REMINDED TO "KEEP THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE." WE WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON A GOOD YEAR AND THANK YOU AND LET YOU KNOW WE HAVE APPRECIATED YOUR DEDICATION TO CREDIT WOMEN-INTERNATIONAL. GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE IN OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION.

OUR PRESIDENT, ELECT, MAURINE, HAS REACHED INTO THE POT OF GOLD AND HAS TAKEN OUT THE YELLOW WHICH DENOTES SUNSHINE AND FAITHFULNESS, AND HAS FASHIONED IT INTO A BEAUTIFUL ROSE -- THE YELLOW ROSE -- YES, IF YOU PLEASE, LIKE THE YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS.

THE THEME CHOSEN FOR THE COMING YEAR IS "LUCK IS WHAT WE MAKE IT." WEBSTER SAYS LUCK IS THAT WHICH HAPPENS TO ONE SEEMINGLY BY CHANCE, HOPE, FATE OR FORTUNE.

LET US REMINISCENCE FOR A FEW MOMENTS ABOUT GOOD LUCK SAYING OR SUPERSTITIONS, IF YOU WILL, THAT WE HAVE ALL BELIEVED IN OR PRACTICED AT SOMETIME DURING OUR LIVES. HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE HORSESHOE HANGING IN YOUR DEN OR ELSEWHERE IN YOUR HOME FOR GOOD LUCK? DID YOU EVER BREAK A MIRROR, THEN WORRY BECAUSE IT WAS BAD LUCK? DID YOU EVER LEAVE THE HOUSE AND NOTICED THAT YOU HAD FORGOTTEN SOMETHING, AND WOULD NOT GO BACK BECAUSE IT WAS BAD LUCK? IF A BLACK CAT CROSSED YOUR PATH -- YOU WOULD EITHER TURN BACK OR CROSS THE STREET AND

WALK ON THE OTHER SIDE. IF A LADDER IS IN YOUR PATH WAY ON THE STREET, WILL YOU WALK UNDER IT, OR TURN AND WALK AROUND IT? DID YOU EVER CARRY A RABBIT'S FOOT FOR GOOD LUCK?

YES, YOU HAVE CROSSED YOUR FINGERS FOR LUCK AT A TENSE MOMENT, LIKE WHEN YOU HAD HOPES OF BEING ELECTED THE QUEEN OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS, WHEN YOU PURCHASES A ELEPHANT AS A PIECE OF JEWELRY, OR FOR A STATUE, YOU WOULD CHOSE THE ONE WITH THE TRUNK TURNED UP, AS THAT IS GOOD LUCK. DID YOU EVER ACCIDENTLY SPILL SALT, AND THEN THROW SOME OVER YOUR LEFT SHOULDER FOR GOOD LUCK?

ALL OF THESE SUPERSTITIONS HAVE A REASON, BUT IT WOULD BE TOO TIME CONSUMING TO GO INTO ALL OF THEM. BUT I DO WANT TO GIVE YOU THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LAST ONE. THE SUPERSTITION STEMMED FROM THE DAYS WHEN SALT WAS EXPENSIVE AND SPILLING IT WAS BAD LUCK. THE SALT WAS THROWN OVER THE LEFT SHOULDER BECAUSE THAT WAS WHERE THE DEVIL WAS THOUGHT TO BE LURKING. BY THROWING THE SALT, YOU WOULD GET IT IN THE DEVIL'S EYE AND BLIND HIM.

THERE ARE MANY MORE, WHICH I AM SURE YOU CAN THINK OF, BUT WE'RE ONLY GOING TO SPEAK OF ONE MORE. DID YOU EVER SEARCH IN A CLOVER PATCH FOR A FOUR LEAF CLOVER? IF YOU HAVE, YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO FIND ONE AS THE PATCH IS LOADED WITH THREE LEAF CLOVERS. THEN WHEN YOU DO FIND ONE, HOW LUCKY YOU ARE. YOU QUICKLY PLUCK IT AND KNOW THAT SOME GREAT THING WILL HAPPEN TO YOU.

OUR NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT HAS BEEN THAT LUCKY THIS YEAR. SHE HAS SEARCHED THE PAST FEW YEARS IN THE FIELDS OF CREDIT WOMEN-INTERNATIONAL FOR THAT ONE LUCKY SIGN - AND HERE SHE IS - TO BE INSTALLED AS OUR LEADER. THIS FOUR LEAF CLOVER HAS AN IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANCE TO CREDIT WOMEN-INTERNATIONAL AS GREEN DEMOTES GROWTH AND OUR ORGANIZATION HAS THAT QUALITY.

THE THEME LUCK IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON EACH OFFICER, EACH DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND EACH MEMBER. IF YOU PLUCK A FOUR LEAF CLOVER AND LET IT WITHER AND DIE, YOU

HAVE NOT GAINED ANYTHING. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU CAPITALIZE ON THE LUCK -- GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL BE MADE THROUGHOUT CREDIT WOMEN INTERNATIONAL. AND THAT IS WHAT WE SHALL EXPECT DURING THE YEAR OF 1976-77, TO SEE MEMBERSHIP GROW -- CLUBS EXPANDING EVERYWHERE OVER OUR CW-I FIELDS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN EVERY CLUB.

THIS EVENING, WE ARE GOING TO USE OUR TWELVE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS TO FORM THE FOUR LEAF CLOVER IN THE BACKGROUND AND THE OFFICERS WILL BEAR THE GOOD LUCK SYMBOLS FOR OUR INSPIRATIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR. AS I INTRODUCE THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, WILL YOU PLEASE FORM THAT COVETED FOUR LEAF CLOVER.

(AFTER ALL ARE IN POSITION, THEN ASK)

"DO YOU AS DISTRICT PRESIDENTS PLEDGE TO PROVE THAT LUCK IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT?"

(ANSWER -- I DO.)

WITH THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS IN PLACE, WE NOW CONTINUE WITH THE OFFICERS.

_____ YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED TREASURER. THE EMBLEM YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS BEARS THE WORDS RESPONSIBILITY WHICH IS INDICATIVE OF YOUR OFFICE. AS IT IS A CHARGE FOR WHICH ONE IS ACCOUNTABLE, IT REQUIRES ENDURING HONESTY AND PROMPT ATTENTION TO ALL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF CREDIT WOMEN INTERNATIONAL.

ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS SACRED RESPONSIBILITY?

ANSWER -- I AM.

_____ YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED SECRETARY. YOU CARRY THE WORD EXCELLENCE ON YOUR GOOD LUCK EMBLEM WHICH MEANS THAT YOU, AS THE SECRETARY HAVE OFFICE OF GREAT WORTH. YOU ARE TO KEEP COMPLETE AND ACCURATE RECORDS OF ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE MEETINGS.

ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT THESE DUTIES FOR CREDIT WOMEN-INTERNATIONAL?

ANSWER -- I AM.

_____ YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED THIRD VICE PRESIDENT. WHAT A GREAT BEARER OF TIDINGS YOU HOLD - ENTHUSIAM. THROUGH YOUR ARDENT ZEAL AND INTEREST IN CREDIT WOMEN INTERNATIONAL, YOU WILL DEVISE NEW METHODS AND IDEAS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP. THE FUTURE OF OUR ORGANIZATION DEPENDS UPON YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC APPROACH.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE OUR GREAT INSPIRATION?

ANSWER -- I AM.

_____ YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED SECOND VICE PRESIDENT. YOU ARE THE BEARER OF EDUCATION. THIS WORD IS SO FAMILIAR TO CW-I AS IT IS THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO DEAL WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF TEACHING AND GUIDING THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE PROPER PROCEDURES OF CREDIT AND COLLECTIONS.

ARE YOU WILLING TO ASSUME THIS IMPORTANT TASK?

ANSWER -- I AM.

_____ YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT. YOU ARE HOLDING A MOST IMPORTANT WORD -- PERSEVERANCE. WEBSTER DEFINES THIS AS "CONTINUANCE IN A STATE OF GRACE UNTIL IT IS SUCCEEDED BY A STATE OF GLORY." ISN'T THIS VERY APPROPRIATE FOR THE EXTENSION CHAIRMAN AS SHE ENCOURAGES THE ORGANIZATION OF NEW CLUBS AND THEN SEES THE FULFILLMENT OF HER WORK AND DREAMS? YOU WILL NEED TO EXERCISE COURTESY AT ALL TIMES AND HAVE GREAT PERSEVERANCE IF CREDIT WOMEN-INTERNATIONAL HAS THE EXPANSION THAT IS NEEDED. YOU TOO, MUST BE READY TO ASSIST THE PRESIDENT IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE, AND, YES, BE READY TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT IN CASE OF HEW ABSENCE.

ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE?

ANSWER -- I AM.

_____ YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CREDIT WOMEN INTERNATIONAL AND RIGHTFULLY SO. YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS LEADERSHIP, WHICH IMMEDIATELY ALERTS US THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS OUR LEADER OR CHIEF FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. LEADERSHIP REQUIRES A RARE COMBINATION OF COURAGE, HUMILITY, IMPARTIAL JUDGEMENT AND INSPIRATION. _____, YOU ARE WELL QUALIFIED TO BE OUR PRESIDENT AS YOU HAVE EXEMPLIFIED ALL OF THESE QUALITIES AS YOU HAVE SO CAPABLY SERVED CW-I THE PAST FEW YEARS. THROUGH YOUR LEADERSHIP EACH OFFICER, DIRECTOR AND MEMBER WILL WORK TOGETHER AND BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL FIELD OF FOUR LEAF CLOVERS.

_____ ARE YOU WILLING TO SEE THAT YOUR THEME LUCK IS WHAT WE MAKE IT -- OF GREAT HOPE AND FORTUNE FOR CREDIT WOMEN-INTERNATIONAL?

ANSWER -- I AM.

THESE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN ELEVATED TO THESE POSITIONS BY YOU - THE MEMBERS. IT IS THEIR INTENTION TO FULFILL THE PLEDGES THEY HAVE MADE. DO YOU PROMISE TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION TO THESE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND LEADERS? IF SO, PLEASE RESPOND BY SAYING, -- I DO.

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO SERVE AS INSTALLING OFFICER AND I, TOO PLEDGE MY CONTINUED SUPPORT TO ALL OF YOU THIS COMING YEAR. I NOW DECLARE THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FULLY INSTALLED AND WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- THESE ARE YOUR OFFICERS FOR 1976-77 AND IT IS A GREAT HONOR AND EXTREME PLEASURE TO PRESENT _____, PRESIDENT OF CREDIT WOMEN-INTERNATIONAL.
