

Minutes of the meeting held in the Board
Room, Bible House on Friday 20th March 1959.

The President Mrs Vines was in the chair and opened the meeting with a short devotional period.

Apologies were received from mesdames Blance, Millar, Carter, Powell, Henry, Wyper Miss Armstrong. The representatives from the Churches of Christ and those from the Congregational Women's Federation were unable to be present because of special women's meetings on the same day. Mrs Walker and Mrs Hall, our representatives on the WCTU, were also unable to be present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence. A letter was received from Mrs Barrett tendering her resignation from the Council. The secretary was instructed to write expressing the regret of the Council.

As Mrs Barrett was one of the representatives on the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee it was necessary to appoint another representative. Mrs Manfield agreed to act.

A letter was received from Mrs Firth,

associate secretary of the New South Wales Congregational Women's Fellowship nominating Mrs Farr for the position of President of the Council for the coming year. As Mrs Farr will be absent from Sydney during the last week in June it was decided to hold the Rally on Friday 19th June. Mrs Vines undertook to enquire whether we could hold it at Ferguson Hall which had proved so satisfactory last year.

It was decided to ask Mrs Kerle to speak. As it appears likely that Mrs Colonel Saunders the President of the Victorian Women's Inter Church Council would be arriving in Sydney on that day the secretary was instructed to write to invite her to be present and to speak briefly.

Mrs Jarlick emphasised the desirability of having a small choir, or group of singers, rather than a soloist. It was decided to ask Mrs Farr if there was such a group at her church and if they would assist. Failing that it was decided to ask the Congress Women Singers who had given so much pleasure two years ago.

The financial statement showing a credit balance of ~~£7.19.5~~^{7. 8. 11} was ^{corrected 24/4/59} proposed by Miss McDeimidis seconded by Mrs Briggs. The Treasurer was given authority to pay affiliation fees as they became due.

The President then introduced the speaker, the Rev W. J. Hoblin, who had agreed to speak on some aspects of gambling.

Mr Hoblin quoted from a recent copy of Life magazine to show that Australia spends more money per head on gambling than any other country. The average expenditure per head on gambling in Australia is \$160 (approx. £70) a year ~~compared with~~

Mr Hoblin also quoted from the Auditor-General's report 1958 to show that while the subscriptions to the 3 Opera House lotteries were over 1½ million pounds only £432,000 went to the purpose for which the lotteries had been established.

Lotteries are not abating; the population ~~area~~ increase since 1955 has been 1.4% but lottery spending has increased by 30%.

Children grow up in an atmosphere where lotteries are taken for granted, they are subsidised by the government and so accepted as the correct thing.

Economists believe that we are approaching saturation as far as lotteries are concerned but more money is going into betting on the trotting races and the dogs.

The poker machines constitute a terrible menace. They should never have been legalized, that action was taken simply because they provide the government with an income of some \$85,000,000.

Poker machines constitute one of the most vicious forms of gambling since it can become a disease, when the homes, the children and the small business people suffer.

The growth of this gambling craze is due to (1) a spineless government. Neither party was prepared to take a stand on the moral issue.

(2) the easy money attitude - as churches we have not fought against this as we should.

(3) the church needs to step up its teaching mission basing its opposition to gambling on its belief that this is God's world. The worship of chance opens the door to superstition.

Mrs. Garlick expressed the thanks of the Council to Mr. Hobbin for a most informative and challenging address.

the business of the Council was continued with a brief discussion as to any ~~form~~ of way in which the 21st anniversary of the Council, which occurs this year, could be marked. It was decided that the time was too short to permit any such action being taken, but that the 25th anniversary might be more fittingly celebrated in some way. As there was no further business the meeting closed with the benediction.

24/4/59
M. H. Vale

N.S.W. WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL
Financial Statement to 20th March, 1959.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	<u>£ s. d.</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	<u>£ s. d.</u>
By Credit Balance, 27th February, 1959,	7 19 5	To Affiliation Fee, Women's Christian Temperance Union	10 6
		" Credit Balance	7 8 11
	<u>£7 19 5</u>		<u>£7 19 5</u>

M. H. Vale
20/3/59