

5/2/56

# Eagle Woman Elected to Head State GOP Women

A Waukesha county woman, Mrs. Lila Burton, Eagle, was elected president of the Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women's clubs in Madison today.

The action followed a controversial appearance by Gov. Walter Kohler yesterday. Kohler was pinned down before the more than 300 women on questions concerning his endorsement of General Eisenhower for the GOP presidential nomination.

where I stood. I have an innate distaste for ducking or dodging any questions or issues."

**THE GOVERNOR** then went on to state his reasons for favoring Eisenhower. He stated:

"I believe that General Eisenhower's demonstrated talent for organization, his impressive record as an administrator and his experience and skill in the most delicate negotiations, particularly equip him for the task of the presidency in these difficult times."

The response drew shouts of "No, no, no" from Eisenhower opponents. Another woman asked the governor why he stood for a man who "dodges the issues."

**KOHLER REPLIED** that Eisenhower "does not dodge issues." This drew laughter from the Taft supporters and the governor countered:

"Believe me, ladies, you just don't know Eisenhower."

The governor departed amidst a rising ovation given him by the women.

Other officers elected today besides Mrs. Burton are:

**MRS. BEN SIAS**, Onalaska, first vice-president; Mrs. Robert Murray, Oshkosh, second vice-president; Mrs. R. G. Groves, Prentice, third vice-president; Mrs. Wallace Martin, Mineral Point, fourth vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Quarles, Kenosha, recording secretary; Mrs. Alvin Buss, Clinton, corresponding secretary; Mrs. L. E. Stevens, Milwaukee, treasurer; Mrs. Lee Blood, Green Bay, historian; and Mrs. T. W. Ward, La Crosse, auditor. 5/2/52



Mrs. Lila Burton

The questioning followed a short pep talk the governor gave at the group's luncheon in which he urged the women to take an active part in the coming national elections.

**THE FIRST** questioner asked the governor why he endorsed Eisenhower. The question drew heavy applause from the floor.

The governor answered that he withheld announcing his support for any one candidate until after the primary elections because he "did not want to influence the vote in any way." He added:

"I came out for him because I had been repeatedly asked