LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

lobby law update

Who must register as a lobbyist?

CATEGORY 1 - A person* who spends more than $200 in a calendar quarter (not including travel, food, or lodging expenses) for communicating directly** with one or more members of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation.

* "Person" means an individual, corporation, association, firm, partnership, committee, club, or other organization, or a group of persons who are voluntarily acting in concert.

** "Communicating directly" means contact in person or by telephone, telegraph, or letter.

Under this category of the law local Leagues do not need to register because they do not spend this amount of money to lobby.

CATEGORY 2 - A person who receives compensation or reimbursement from another to communicate directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation.

Under this category of the law if you communicate directly to influence legislation and if you are reimbursed by the League, then you must register within five days after the first direct communication.

SOME EXAMPLES:

Alice Action is a member of the League City League. Alice sends telegrams in her name to 7 members of the Legislature urging them to support a bill for displaced homemakers. The League City League reimburses Alice. Alice must register as a lobbyist.

Mary Sunshine is the Government Chair of the League City League. Mary writes the official League letter in support of the Sunset Legislation using League stationery and stamps. Mary does not have to register as she is not being reimbursed. The letter is paid for as a part of the League's lobbying budget (and the League is spending less than $200/quarter for lobbying). Should Mary Sunshine send a telegram she should be sure that it is billed to the League's account. If it is billed to her and requires reimbursement then she must register as a lobbyist.

On Legislative Day a delegation of people from the League City League come to Austin to meet with their legislators over lunch. The League City League pays

for entertaining the legislators with money from the League treasury. The individuals would not have to register. The River City League is also in town. They take their legislators to lunch and pay for entertaining them from their own funds expecting to be reimbursed by the River City League. They must register and report the amount spent. The cost of each Leaguer's meals (other than the lunch) or transportation to and from Austin do not have to be reported. The cost of the individuals' meal with the legislators should be reported.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

If you are required to register as a lobbyist, the act of registration and subsequent filing of reports are your responsibility, not the League's. Copies of the forms may be obtained by writing or calling Kerry McGee, Suite 125, State Capitol, Austin, Texas, 78711. (512) 475 - 2015. Be sure to keep duplicate copies of all paper submitted. There are three forms that are required: the registration form, supplemental registration and activities report form, and termination notice form. Failure to file forms properly is a Class A Misdemeanor. THE PENALITIES ARE A FINE OF UP TO $2,000, UP TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL, OR BOTH.

1. Registration form - The Form must be completed, notarized, and filed with the Secretary of State within five days after the first direct communication triggering the requirement.

(Note: Item 3 on the form does not require you to list donations from local League contributors. When filling in Item 6, if you do not have specific bill numbers, you may list major League positions or legislative priorities).

2. Supplemental Registration and Activities Report Form. This report must be notarized and filed with the Secretary of State (1) between the first and the 10th day of each month following a month in which the Legislature is in session (including special sessions) covering the activities during the previous month, or (2) between the first and the 10th day of the month immediately following the last month in a calendar quarter when the Legislature is not in session.

(Note: If you take your legislator out for a tour of the county jail and then take the lawmaker to lunch you will have to report your expenses if you are reimbursed by the League. The same rule applies if you take your legislator to lunch for pre-session interviews. On the other hand, if you invite your legislator to a League dinner and his dinner is paid directly by the League this does not have to be reported. The League would be required to report cost of entertainment if over $200 in a calendar quarter. If the League has a lobbyist at the time of the League dinner the amount for entertainment should be reported by the lobbyist. See Sec. 2 b 1 of Article 6252-9c VTCS).

3. Termination Notice Form. When you know that you will no longer be reimbursed by the League for your activities, fill out a termination notice form, have it notarized, and send it in. DO NOT FAIL TO DO SO. Until you have filed a notice of termination you are required to continue to file monthly or quarterly reports even if you have no activity. (REFER TO PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO FILE AS NOTED ABOVE).

If you have any question about the lobby laws contact: Kerry McGee, Suite 125, State Capitol, Austin, Texas, [redacted]

LWV of Texas
February 1975
DPM

To: Local League Presidents
From: Joyce Morgan, Action Chm.
Re: LOBBY LAWS INFORMATION

"LOBBYING": ". . . communicating directly with one or more members of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation . . ." [Sec. 3. (A) (1)]

We are sure you are all aware of the provisions for registering as lobbyists under the lobby act "Legislation--Persons Influencing--Registration and Reporting Requirements" (H.B.2). However, we thought stressing a few key phrases and giving you a glossary of definitions might prove helpful--especially for those who are planning to attend Lobby School and Legislative Day in Austin March 4 and 5.

DEFINITIONS

Person: An individual, corporation, association, firm, partnership, committee, club, or other organization, or a group of persons who are voluntarily acting in concert.

Legislation: A bill, resolution, amendment, nomination or other matter pending in either house of the legislature; any other matter which may be the subject of action by either house, including the introduction, consideration, passage, approval, or veto of the matter; or any matter pending in or which may be the subject of action by a constitutional convention.

Executive Branch: An officer, officer elect, candidate for or employee of any state agency, department or office in the executive branch of government.

Legislative Branch: A member, member elect, candidate for or officer of the legislature or a legislative committee or an employee of the legislature.

Communicates Directly With: Contact in person or by telephone, telegraph, or letter.

Compensation: Money, service, facility or thing of value or financial benefit, which is received or to be received in return for, or in connection with, services rendered, or to be rendered.

Expenditure: A payment, distribution, loan, advance, reimbursement, deposit, or gift of money or anything of value, and includes a contract, promise or agreement, whether or not legally enforceable to make an expenditure.

Secretary: The Secretary of State of the state of Texas.

Persons Required to Register

"Sec. 3. (A) The following persons must register with the secretary as provided in Sec. 5 of this Act:

> "(1) A person who makes a total expenditure in excess of $200 in a calendar quarter, not including his own travel, food, or lodging expenses, or his own membership dues, for communicating directly with one or more members of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation: and
>
> "(2) A person who receives compensation or reimbursement from another to communicate directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation."

Registration

"Sec. 5. (A) Every person required to register under Sec. 3 of this Act shall file a registration form with the secretary within five days after the first undertaking requiring registration except as otherwise provided herein."

Referring to Sec. 3 A (1) and keeping in mind that the Lobby Act only applies to communicating with state officials, we assume that local Leagues as organizations will rarely have to register with the Secretary of State, since local Leagues are not likely to spend more than $200 in a calendar quarter to influence legislation. They should, however, keep a record of all League monies spent for that purpose, including postal, telegraph, and telephone charges, just in case they do exceed the $200 limit.

Taking particular note of Sec. 3 A (2) we believe compliance with this section will prove the most troublesome for local Leagues, for this pertains to the individual member's participation in the League lobbying process. The phrase to watch out for is "compensation or reimbursement from another." Simply stated, if a League member receives ANY reimbursement for her activity on behalf of the League, she must file as a lobbyist. There is no minimum amount stipulated.

Some explicit examples:

1. A member is asked by the local League to represent that League at a legislative hearing. As a designated spokesman whose expenses are paid by the League, that member must register.
2. A local League committee chairman uses her home phone to call a state representative urging that representative to support legislation which the League endorses. If the chairman receives payment for the cost of the telephone call, she must register.
3. Four League members drive to Austin for Lobby School, where they will meet with their state senator and discuss League concerns about proposed legislation. They agree to split the cost of the gasoline, and the passengers pay the driver their "fair share" of trip expenses. The driver must then register as a lobbyist.
4. A local League has enough money to help defray expenses for its members who go to Austin for Lobby School. Each member who is then subsidized by the local League must register.

To register, a lobbyist will have to complete three forms available through the Sec. of State's office: an initial "registration form" and "activities report," and a "termination notice" form. A fourth, "supplemental registration form," will be required if there is any change in the information contained in the original registration form. These forms must be filed with the Sec. of State within five days of the "first undertaking." If the activity is completed in one action, the three forms may be submitted simultaneously. (If, however, there is an extended period of communication, continuing activities reports must be submitted by certain prescribed dates.) All forms must be notarized.

* * * *

A final reminder: As long as a League member uses League facilities and League materials when communicating with state officials for the purpose of influencing legislation and League expenses do not exceed $200 in a calendar quarter, that member does not have to register. Nor does the member who pays out of her own funds and does not exceed the $200 limit.

Legislative Office

[redacted]

LWV of Texas
January 1975
President's Mailing (2)

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

In order to eliminate time-consuming and expensive calls for the legislative office or le gislative chairman, this system will be used in times of emergency should immediate action become necessary. All calls will be made collect to the president of the local league. In the event that the president cannot be reached, then the legislative chairman or person designated on the attached list should be contacted. Two copies of this memo are going to the local president, one which should be passed on to the designated person. Those Leagues who have not designated a person to receive communications or New sletters should send this information in to the Legislative office immediately with a copy to the League listed who will make calls to you.

Where possible, the call is arranged so that the least expense is incurred. If you wish to rearrange the schedule in any way to lessen the expense, please let us know immediately and a correction will be made.

Continuity in office is of the utmost importance during a legislative session, but inevitably there are unavoidable changes. We only ask that you notify the Legislative Office whenever a change should be made on the mailing list. It is also important that a legislative portfolio be retained and passed on to the next chairman.

Thanks to all of the Leagues for sending in legislative interviews in time for us to scan them before the session started. Since it will take constant awareness of what your legislators are doing, we hope you will go over the interview forms to check the areas that your legislators need more information on and get this to them. We are depending on your doing a good lobbying job if we hope to see our goals reached.

PLEASE KEEP THIS MEMO READILY AVAILABLE

Legislative Office will call: Austin -- San Antonio -- Victoria -- Corpus Christi -- Edinburg-McAllen -- Harlingen -- Brownsville.

: Gainesville -- Denton -- Sherman -- Lamar County -- Hunt County -- Tyler -- Dallas -- Richardson -- Plano -- Garland -- Irving -- Tarrant County -- Waco.

: Houston -- Brazos County -- Huntsville -- Montgomery County -- Deer Park -- Pasadena -- Baytown -- Beaumont -- Orange area -- So. Jefferson Co. Unit.

: Galveston -- Brazosport -- Pearland -- Bay area.

: Lubbock -- Midland -- Odessa -- El Paso.

: Abilene -- Amarillo -- Wichita Falls.

Brasher will call San Marcos.

The lines are arrow indicators. In other words, Austin will call San Antonio, San Antonio will call Victoria, etc. The Legislative Office will make six calls. We will also make selective calls (ones that don't go to all Leagues), in which case we usually make these calls direct. League officers should have the President's List on file. Attached is the list for Legislative Chairmen.

Legislative Office

[redacted]

LWV of Texas
January 1975
President's Mailing (2)

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Legislative Office [redacted]

February 1975
Presidents' Mailing (2)

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMEN

League of Women Voters of Texas

Abilene	Faye Anton (Mrs Abe)
Austin	Pat Oakes (Mrs Melvin)
Amarillo	Gwen Reese
Bay Area	
Baytown	
Beaumont	JoAnne Stiles (Mrs D.M.)
Brazos Co.	
Brazosport	Marcia Ambs
Brownsville	Margaret Aziz
Corpus Christi	Chris DuBoise (Mrs Donald)
Dallas	Adena Jarvis (Mrs H.D.)
Deer Park	Betty Doebbler (Mrs Tom)
Denton	Sally Houk (Mrs Wallace)
Edinburg - McAllen	
El Paso	Helen Tullis (Mrs J.H.)
Gainesville Prov.	
Galveston	Leslie Goolishian (Mrs H.)
Garland	Jane Brewer (Mrs J.)
Harlingen	
Houston	Dorothy Lockwood (Mrs J.)
Huntsville Prov.	
Irving	Mary Reynolds (Mrs R.)

[redacted]

Lamar Co. Prov.	Lillian Hickman (Mrs Charlie)
Lubbock	Mrs. Darrell Vines
Midland	Betty Sheeler
Montgomery Co.	
Odessa	Mary Crymes
Orange Co.	Karen Druliner (Mrs J.D.)
Pasadena	Wilma Green Hines
Pearland area	
Plano	
Richardson	
San Antonio	June Kachtik (Mrs E.E.)
San Marcos	Mrs. James A. Wilson
Sherman	
Tarrant Co.	Peg Terry (Mrs. Gerald)
Tyler	Dora Wynn (Mrs M.A.)
Victoria	Betty Hazelwood
Waco	Lucy Caperton
Wichita Falls	Margaret Sims (Mrs R.)

[redacted]

League of Women Voters of Texas

[redacted]

MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

March 4, 1975

Dear Member of the 64th Legislature:

Attached is a list of the priorities of the League of Women Voters of Texas for this session of the legislature. We hope you will not only give this your attention but will file it away for future reference. Please feel free to call on us for any additional information we may be able to furnish you in any of these areas.

Many people have difficulty in realizing the unique procedure which the League of Women Voters has for arriving at its positions on issues. We feel it is very important that our legislators in particular understand that members at the local level, not the League boards of directors, determine LWV positions on issues at all levels of government.

League members read, research, study, and discuss problems and their various solutions. Then each group meeting for discussion in each local League gives its answers to the same question. On topics chosen by the members for nationwide study and action, all these answers are then sent from all parts of the country to the national LWV board of directors. Answers to statewide study questions are from local Leagues to the state board. The boards then determine if the members have reached consensus on that particular topic.

Consensus in the League means agreement among a substantial number of a representative group of members -- not just a simple majority. If there is not this substantial agreement among the members, then there is no consensus--no position from which to take action. No action is taken by state League leaders unless there is substantial agreement by members from local Leagues across the state; no action is taken by national League leaders unless there is member agreement from all the states in the nation.

This is why the League is unique--unlike any other group we know of. The League of Women Voters truly has one voice at the local, state, and national levels because it is the local members who determine the state and national positions.

Consensus, however, is never unanimous. So we feel it is important for you to know that when a local League is not in agreement with a consensus arrived at by the other Leagues in the state, it does not respond to suggestions for action sent to it by the state board. It will not ask you to support or oppose any legislation if it does not agree with the League position. However, individual League members can and do speak for themselves--as individuals--if they disagree with the League position.

We hope this explanation may give more validity to the views expressed by state League leaders.

We look forward to your consideration of the studied views of your League constituents. We want to work with you for continued improvement in our Texas state government.

Sincerely,

Veta Winick

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick
President
Dickinson, Texas 77539

LWV of Texas
Legislative Office
[redacted]

Phone: [redacted]

League Legislative Priorities

January – May 1975

NOTE: Priorities listed do not include all state League positions. This list includes those positions that appear timely, to which the League will actively devote its energy and lobbying efforts during this session. Other League positions will be acted upon when the opportunity arises. Major bills will be highlighted in issues of the **Legislative Newsletter**. For a more detailed account of League priority positions and other program positions, refer to AND NOW ACTION, March 1973, and STUDY AND ACTION, 1971-73 Program, LWV of Texas.

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

We support:

- Revision of the Texas Constitution within League principles and standards, preferably by constitutional convention, although alternate methods can be supported.
- During the 1975 legislative session, the League will support a citizens' convention, to be convened as soon as possible.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING

We support:

- Measures to equalize educational opportunity in the state.
- Local enrichment funding limited to 10% of the state program.
- Raising of revenue by a state supervised property tax, a state income tax, a state corporate profits tax, or any combination thereof.
- Assessment of taxable property at full market value with state supervision to insure equitable and uniform assessment and taxing procedures and professional training for tax assessor-collectors.
- Allocation of funds to local school districts on the basis of weighted pupil needs.
- Supplementing local district capital outlay by the state to equalize facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

We support:

- Conservation and development of water resources and improvement of water and air quality.
- Measures to achieve and maintain a physical environment beneficial to life.
- Creation of a single agency for environmental protection.
- Citizens right to sue.
- A comprehensive state land use policy which would provide for the orderly development of the state and which would assure adequate protection of the quality of life, and wise use of our natural resources.

VOTING RIGHTS

We support:

- Uniformly enforced election procedures, clearly stated election laws, and the right to a secret ballot.
- Revision of the election laws to ensure enforcement.
- Recodification of the election laws to eliminate obsolete matter and clarify ambiguous provisions.
- A single county election authority responsible to a central state authority.
- Requirement of uniform training for all election personnel.
- Provision for unitary primaries.
- Automatic restoration of voting rights to felons upon completion of sentence and/or probationary period.
- Making absentee voting more convenient and accessible, with sufficient safeguards to protect the integrity of the ballot.

LWV of Texas
Lobby School
March 4, 1975

LOBBYING TAKES MANY FORMS

Each League member represents the League of Women Voters. As such, any contacts you have with legislators is for the purpose of building a permanent, friendly relationship for the League.

It should be borne in mind that there are at least three purposes in interviewing or visiting a legislator.

1. To put the League on record in the hope of influencing the legislator's vote.
2. To obtain information or to give information by getting materials to them to promote League positions.
3. To make a friend for the League. Your interview may affect a later vote on some other measure, even if it does not have any apparent effect upon the one under immediate consideration.

When talking to your legislators:

Know your measure thoroughly and be able to answer opposition to it. Plan your approach, but keep it flexible. Give a detailed summary of positions. Have confidence in your knowledge of the subject. You will be respected for what you do know. Do everything you can to convince them of that. Information can be gleaned from Facts and Issues, And Now Action, and other materials published by the League. Don't be afraid to admit ignorance on special points.

Education of legislators is vital. So share your knowledge with them. Keep material flowing to them. Lobbying is the ability to provide information more than persuasive powers.

Let your representative talk and present his side fully. It is helpful to learn his point of view. Show a sense of humor. Do not be aggressive. Political policy should be "Love the sinner even if you hate the sin," i.e., get along with people even if you do not agree with them; these are the elected representatives with whom you must work. And thank him when he has backed something you approve. Please note and report to the state League any NEW ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE MEASURE or measures presented during the interview.

Have fun! Lobbying for the League can be a fascinating experience!

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Legislative Director's Note to LLPs: Official local League response to an Action Alert by the local League president or someone designated by here is mandatory (exception: provisional League, who do not participate in Action as a League except by permission of the State Board. Action Alerts are sent to provisional Leagues for their information only. Members of provisional Leagues may, of course, take action as individuals). We would like to know what action you have taken - send the Legislative Office a copy of your letters; tell us what the replies were, too; summarize personal contacts, phone calls, and telegrams. Tell us also what you did to stimulate action in your community. If you take no action, we must know that also, as well as the reasons for your not taking action. Good reports from you regarding the extent of your action will be of help to the State Board in evaluating League effectiveness, in shaping future action, and in overall program health. See the Local League Handbook for more information on Action.

When visiting the Capitol: Don't be careless with your remarks in the galleries, elevators or other places in the Capitol. Don't talk personalities--you may be sitting alongside that Senator's wife in the gallery. On the other hand, don't be afraid to be friendly. Sometimes a contact in the gallery can reveal lots of information. Simply exercise caution or common sense in your conversations.

****

STAND BY FOR

A -- Answer the Action Alerts
C -- Cultivate the interest of your community, members, legislators
T -- Time your releases to the local Voter and local newspapers
I -- Interview your legislators when possible, involve members
O -- Offer background material to members, community legislators
N -- Now is the time to plan

LWV of Texas
Lobby School
March 4, 1975

WHAT IS A LOBBYIST?

WHAT CAN YOU DO to influence legislation? How can you help to determine League goals?

1. You have POLITICAL STRENGTH because you are a voter and a constituent. You help put your representatives in office, and this gives you political influence. Belonging to an organization such as the League informs you and enables you to act in concert with others, but your real power is your status as a voter. Legislators hear from the LWV as an organization through our official channels. What they should hear from YOU is... "I am a voter in your district, and I seek your support for...." signed simply with your name as an individual.

SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE ACTION IS BUILT ON CAREFUL AND CONTINUING COMMUNITY ACTION in order to achieve the two goals to which all League program is directed: education and action.

2. Remember our basic purpose--"to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government." Specific implementation depends on two things--education of members and the community in ways by which a citizen may participate positively in government and achievement of those goals that League study and consensus have defined as desirable by commitment and action.

   Having informed yourself, you must then be active...and to a Leaguer that means more than just casting a vote. It means knowing your representatives and letting them know what legislation you seek. It means informing other individuals and groups, and converting them into lobbyists for needed legislation. It means understanding that there are problems, knowing that they are seldom insoluble, and accepting compromises.

SUPPORT means taking concerted action to get legislation through when the timing is right.

3. What happens, and what do YOU do, when the State Board gives the "green light" for support of a specific bill when it is in need of membership and local League action?

   First of all, direct contact with the sponsor of the bill is usually made by the state president, the state legislative chairman, or the state item chairman. Further action by the state board might include testimony at a hearing, informal contacts with influential legislators, publicity releases, and contacts with other interested organizations.

   ACTION ALERTS are sent to local League presidents and legislative chairmen who together with the local item chairman prepare the official League letter for the president's signature. Action Alerts are also sent to Newsletter subscribers and include background information and directions on what kind of action is needed.

   League presidents or legislative chairmen should convey the information to the individual members as quickly as possible...via local bulletins, unit announcements, telephone networks, letter-writing coffees, and other methods devised by local Leagues. Each League should make a list of local legislators with addresses and committees they serve one for publication in the local bulletin with a request that members keep this information handy for Action Alerts.

You may be asked to support or oppose a bill or to try to get it out of committee. Action may consist of any of the following: letters or telegrams to your legislators, letters to the editor, personal or telephone visit with your legislators. The local League presidents explain League positions and reasons for our position. Members explain their personal views and reasons. When an Action Alert goes to your League, rather than direct to every member, try to involve as many members as possible. On all Action Alerts, involve as many in your community as you can, as well. For example, get your local officials to express their views on bills affecting local government (e.g. on county zoning or elction law measures). Get local businessman whom you know are interested in certain things to express their views at the appropriate time (contributors are a good source.).

Then, what do YOU as an individual member do? You write or phone your legislators, if time is limited, expressing your interest, and you persuade other citizens in your district to do likewise.

That is how you lobby...by speaking up!

Remember, the legislature passes the laws the voters demand...and that is how to get the laws you want.

LWV of Texas
Legislative Office
308 West 15th
Austin, Texas 78701

February 1975

To: Local League Presidents and Legislative Chairmen, MALs
From: Chris Brasher, Legislative Director
Re: Analysis of Legislative Interviews

Total number of legislators interviewed:	71 Representatives	17 Senators
Assigned but not interviewed:	44	13
No Leagues in District	35	1

School finance or education outran all others as the major issue expected to be brought before the 64th Legislature (44 reps, 10 senators), with constitutional revision coming in a weak second (11 reps, 2 senators). The budget or government spending could be considered the third place contender with 7 mentions and utilities regulation only being mentioned by five legislators. Also rans were tax reform, judicial reform, energy legislation, land use, land subsidence, small business concerns, annual sessions, ethics, child care, day care, housing, unemployment compensation, mass transit, unitization, county rights, water supply, and illegal alien and migrant worker problems. One legislator listed rescission of ERA, establishment of half-way houses, and licensing of porno dealers (fee to be several thousand dollars) as the issues he considered the most important.

Listed as primary interests of individual legislators were school finance or education (30), judicial reform (8), environmental legislation (12), utility regulation (7), govt. spending (7), constitutional revision (4), human resources (3), agriculture (3), oil industry legislation (2), business needs (2). Other legislators listed as their primary interests annual sessions, ethics, child care, youth care, juvenile rights and protection, women's rights, state employees, insurance, the election process, county rights, foster parents funding, mass transit, state agencies, community mental health, finance, tax reform, right to privacy, reform of local government, prison reform, and the ERA.

Professionally, the makeup of the legislature is still overwhelmingly dominated by lawyers. Out of those interviewed, 25 representatives and 11 senators are practicing attorneys. Surprisingly enough, seven representatives interviewed are former teachers, with seven representatives and four senators being independent businessmen. Five other representatives and two senators are in the real estate business and three members of the house are in the insurance business.

Of those house members interviewed, two are engineers, two ranchers (two also in senate), two in securities or investments, two farmers (one in the dairy business), two contractors, and two full time representatives. Additionally, there is a printer, a clinical psychologist, a personnel administrator, a homemaker, a banker, a business management consultant, a former public relations man, an oil operator, and an auditor. One house member is in industry, another a savings and loan officer, and one is a community organizer. There is one in advertising and another in data processing. Two senators are also in the advertising business. So there is a sprinkling of diversified professions and businesses.

BOX SCORE ON ERA

	Representatives	Senators
Supporting ERA:	50	12
Likely to rescind:	20	4
No answer	1	1

Forty-four not interviewed and 35 in non-League areas could be a big swing!

On Constitutional Revision

What legislators foresaw happening in this session:

	Representatives	Senators
Article by Article:	26	4
Citizens Convention:	7	3
Both:	12	1
Revision Committee:	2	
Nothing without pressure from public:	2	
Submission of Constitution as whole:	1	
(Several did not answer specifically)		

What they preferred:

Article by Article	14	4
Citizens Convention	25	5
Either	21	5
Neither		2
Present document recodified	2	
Revision Committee	3	1
Submission of final work of 1974 Con-Con	2	
(Some did not state a preference.)		

An overwhelming majority of legislators expressed the hope that some kind of revision would pass so the work of the 1974 Constitutional Convention would not be a total loss.

School Finance

It was generally agreed among most legislators that no real school finance reform can come about without some restructuring of the tax system. Some legislators even went so far as to advocate doing away with the property tax! Practically all of the more conservative legislators do not want to do away with local control or local enrichment programs. No one seems to have a magic formula for equalizing educational opportunities for all school children. It is the opinion of those who are regular legislature-watchers that it will take another session or two before some of the school problems are resolved, with higher pay for teachers and possibly some weighted pupil allotments coming out of this session. Hopefully, a start twoard reforming the tax structure will be made.

Thirty-three representatives and three senators thought that there should be a state appraisal authority with uniform taxes statewide or some form of equalization of taxes. It was suggested by one or two that the comptroller should be given enforcement power.

Sixteen representatives and two senators favored consolidation of county assessments or appraisals. Nineteen representatives and three senators thought that evaluation of property should be on the full (fair or true) market value. Five representatives thought that the ad valorem tax should be abolished and several did not feel that property tax should be the major source for school financing. Two senators also thought that financing for schools should come from other sources.

Only 13 representatives favored the weighted pupil plan, four opposed. It is presumed that many were not familiar enough with the system to mention it. Four senators favored the plan. Of those mentioning local enrichment, twelve representatives and three senators voluntarily expressed the hope that continued local enrichment would be allowed.

Environmental Quality

Eighteen representatives and two senators think that land use is the most important environmental legislation needed for Texas. Two representatives mentioning this subject, however, oppose a land use policy. Senator Schwartz sees Coastal Zone Management as a step toward a land use plan.

Next most frequently mentioned subjects were consolidation of existing agencies (9 reps; 2 senators - 1 senator opposing); water quality problems (8 reps; 1 senator); strong enforcement of present laws (8 reps) and county home rule or county zoning (6 reps).

Six representatives mentioned that they favored the Texas Water Plan. Four representatives and three senators considered land subsidence as the most important legislation needed at present. Industrial solid waste was mentioned by four representatives; and the right to sue was favored by 4 reps. and 3 senators, with two senators opposing. One senator advocated creation of a state energy commission and rapid transit systems for Texas. Two others mentioned tidelands control and preservation of parks in urban areas, and a state utility commission. One senator saw no problems at all in environmental areas!

On the strip mining question most of the legislators thought that some restoration of the land should be required, 15 favoring more stringent regulations and 10 not wanting too much control. Some were undecided as to the stringency of controlling factors.

Viting Rights

Among the representatives interviewed, 15 favored a commission composed of legislators, county officers, and private citizens to revise and recodify the Election Code; six opposed this method. Eighteen favored revising the Code, but had no specific recommendations; and six were not sure the Code needed revising or saw any need for change!

Among the senators, three were for the commission, two against it. About five felt there was a need for revision but had no specific recommendations and two thought there was no need for revision. Three others thought that the legislature should do the job of revising.

The most frequently mentioned improvement needed in the Election Code was a method for a more efficient way of purging the voter registration rolls(12). The other most frequently mentioned was the need for less time between the primary and general election (8). Among other improvements considered needed in the Election Code were: a provision for a county election authority, revision of absentee voting requirements, refining of the permanent registration system, elimination of signing of the ballot stub, uniform training of judges and mandatory training for election workers, restoration of rights for ex-felons (one opposed this provision), no property ownership as a requirement to vote, limiting the political campaign costs, party registration, plastic card registration, uhiform voting machines, and more courteous and better trained personnel to assist voters. One legislator would prohibit electioneering on election days within 1000 feet of polling places. Another favored two election days -- Saturday and Sunday.

Revision of the Election Code is not widely understood by many legislators, and is an area that some legislators think that the League works best of all. We should take advantage of our experience and expertise in this field and do a good job of lobbying for needed reforms.

Voting Rights (continued)

I noticed a marked improvement in the knowledge of unitary primaries as compared to past sessions. In answer to the question: If the state continues to carry major costs of the elections, would this legislator be in favor of a unitary primary conducted by a county officer? - 33 representatives and 4 senators indicated that they were in favor of unitary primaries while ten representatives and 9 senators were against. Eleven representatives and one senator were undecided or had reservations.

Financing State Government

Most of the legislators who answered the question on encouragement of citizen participation in the budget-making process felt that this was no place for ordinary citizens to participate -- that input could and should be through the elected representatives. Other than publicizing public hearings by notices through the news media, the only constructive suggestions were for regional hearings, or subcommittees holding hearings in various areas; limitation on conference committees (to prevent pork-barrelling), annual sessions (to lessen budget proposals which are projected for two-year periods, thus allowing more time to get reactions from citizens), joint appropriations committee for hearings, and input through agencies, boards or commissions in specific areas.

Speaker Clayton has instituted a system this session whereby a member of each substantive committee in the house sits in on the Appropriations Committee as a whole. Citizen input could be brought before individual committees which would then be presented to the Approp. Committee by the members appointed from the substantive committees. (See Newsletter #1 for those members of substantive committees appointed to the Appropriations Committee.)

It was generally agreed by those responding that it is quite difficult for individual citizens to testify or have input in the complex budget-making process at the state level.

As for citizen participation in the allocation of revenue sharing funds, it was felt that responsible reporting by the news media could increase public awareness and that revenue sharing should be used locally mostly for capital improvements. Only two legislators mentioned that funds should be used to improve the quality of citizens services or to expand existing social programs. Most were not aware of how funds are used and quite a few thought that revenue sharing funds would be discontinued in 1975.

Texas Legislature

Twenty-nine representatives and five senators anticipated revision in reform legislation passed last session (HB 2 and HB 4). However, 18 of these thought that if revision measures were voted on, a move to weaken the bills would be made. Only eight of the representatives thought the measures should be tightened up. Nineteen representatives and four senators did not anticipate any revision in reform legislation, and most thought that if there should be any revision that it would consist mostly of clarifying changes rather than substantive changes.

Only seven representatives and one senator approved of having an election authority created to enforce the reform laws. Seven opposed an election authority. Eight reps. and one senator approved of an ethics commission while 11 opposed such a commission. Only 7 reps. and one senator approve creating a new enforcement agency, while an overwhelming majority were adamantly against creating any new agencies (30 r, 10 s). Most felt that existing agencies, the attorney-general, or the secretary of state should enforce campaign or ethics laws. Quite a few thought that grand juries and oppsoing candidates were sufficient enough to make candidates abide by the election campaign laws!

And what do the legislators think of the League? Generally the attitude toward the League of those interviewed was good or favorable (30 reps, 13 senators) with ten others being very favorable to the League, and one thinking we're great! However, two legislators were downright hostile (one thought we were a nuisance!) and another was almost hostile because he thought the League did not do anything for him. Two were on the defensive and two considered League members as lobbyists. Seven were friendly or courteous but probably not influenced by League lobbying, and one senator is cooperative but opposed generally to League positions. One League reported that their senator's attitude toward the League was one of "amusement."

Other remarks reported by Leaguers doing the interviewing:

"The most responsive and responsible such group in the community."

"Likes the League, but feels majority are liberal, therefore partisan. Feels League should consider cost of programs we push and should present a method of financing them. Leaguers should not lobby on issues they know nothing about."

"....high regard, but feels supports too many positions to be effective."

"Positive - in areas where we agree."

"Too many liberal policies!" -- 2

Only two Leagues reported that the legislators were somewhat uninformed about the League, which shows an improvement over the past.

And reminescent of the constitutional convention, one legislator said, ".....doing a good job,.....no "PLAGUE."

Many thanks to those who took the time to participate in the legislative interviews!

****

We would still appreciate any updated information on the following legislators:

Carl Parker
Wayne Peveto (Orange)

George Preston (Lamar Co.)

Fred Head
Emmett Whitehead (Tyler)

Jimmie Edwards (Montgomery Co.)
Joe Hubenak (Pearland)
Ben Munson (Sherman)
Bill Sullivant (Gainesville)
Bob Hendricks (Richardson)

Charles Evans
Joe Spurlockk
Dave Finney
Doyle Willis (Tarrant County)

Kenneth Vaughn (Garland)
Ruben Torres (Brownsville)
Melchor Chavez (Harlingen)

(It's too late to ask the questions - send clippings, Voters Guides, etc.)

Chris Semos
Richard Geiger
Calvin Rucker
T. H. McDonald
Eddie B. Johnson
Ray Hutchison (Dallas)

Gonzalo Barrientos (Austin)

Leroy Wieting (?)
Carlos Truan
Joe Salem (Corpus Christi)

Dave Allred
Tom Cartlidge (Wichita Falls)

James Kaster
Robert O'Kelley
Paul Moreno
Ronald Coleman
Luther Jones (El Paso)

G. J. Sutton (San Antonio)

Ray Farabee

Ron Waters
Craig Washington
Ben T. Reyes
Mickey Leland
Kay Bailey
Frank Hartung
R. C. Nichols
Gene Jones (Houston)

Jim Clark (Pasadena)

Senators

A. M. Aiken
Peyton McKnight
Don Adams
D. Roy Harrington
Bob Gammage
Ike Harris
Ron Clower
Walter Mengden
Lloyd Doggett
Jack Ogg
Grant Jones
Raul Longoria
Tati Santiesteban

PRESIDENT'S FILE

LWV of Texas
January, 1973

To: Local League Presidents, local legislative chairmen, state board members
From: Mrs. Thomas Brasher, Legislative Office
Re: Telephone Communications System

Attached you will find a new device called a Telephone Communication Schedule for Times for Action. This system will only be used in times of emergency should immediate action become necessary. It may never be used, but in the event several phone calls need to be made, the set-up will eliminate time-consuming and expersive calls for the legislative office or chairman.

Emergency phone calls will be made directly to the legislative chairman. In the event she cannot be reached, the president will then be called.

Where possible the call is arranged so that the least expense if involved.. Those local Leagues being called will be called collect, so if you wish to rearrange the schedule in any way to lessen the expense, please let us know immediately and a correction will be made.

Thanks to all of the Leagues who sent in the information needed. Please check the schedule and if any names, addresses, or telephone numbers are missing, please send us a postcard with the correct information.

As you know, each local League will receive two complimentary copies of the Legislative Newsletter--one to the local president and one directly to the local legislative chairman. If you have not designated a local legislative chairman, the extra copy of the Newsletter will be sent to the president until we are notified to whom it should be sent. If you do not have a legislative chairman, we strongly recommend that you either appoint one or designate the state program chairman to receive the information.

As we prepare for the next few months of legislative activity, please keep in mind that continuity in office is very important--the legislative chairman should retain this position until at least the end of the legislative session. It would also be wise to include proper budgeting for legislative action in your proposed budgets.

The 63rd Legislature promises to be a "reform minded" Legislature, so we should see many League goals at last within reach. It will take constant awareness of what your legislators are doing, seeing that they are plied with League information on program items, and lobbying for those things we are striving to see implemented. So let's go where the action is--and make it a great League year!

Address of the Legislative Office: State Legislative Office
LWV of Texas
[redacted]

Secretary: Mrs. T.H. Harvey (DeeDee)

LWV of Texas
January, 1973

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE FOR TIMES FOR ACTION

BRASHER (San Marcos)

1. ANDERSON
   1. Lubbock----Odessa----Midland----El Paso
   2. Plainview----Hale----Amarillo----Wichita Falls
2. HOLMES
   1. Austin----Brazos County
   2. San Antonio----Victoria----Corpus Christi
      Edinburg-McAllen----Harlingen----Brownsville
   3. Waco----Corsicana----Tyler----Longview
3. HIGGINS
   1. Denton----Sherman Provisional
   2. Dallas----Irving----Richardson----Garland----
      Lamar County
   3. Tarrant County----Hunt County
4. HUNTER
   1. Houston--Brazos County
   2. Deer Park
   3. LITRAS
      1. Baytown----Montgomery County
      2. Pasadena----Bay Area----South Jefferson
         Beaumont
   4. CONNER
      1. Galveston----Texas City----LaMarque
      2. Dickinson----Pearland
      3. Brazosport

BRASHER	will call	Anderson, Holmes, Higgins, Hunter, San Marcos
ANDERSON	will call	Lubbock, Plainview-Hale
		L ubbock will call Odessa Odessa will call Midland Midland will call El Paso Plainview-Hale will call Amarillo Amarillo will call Wichita Falls
HOLMES	will call	Austin San Antonio, Waco
		Austin will call Brazos County San Antonio will call Victoria Victoria will call Corpus Christi Corpus Christe will call Edinburg-McAllen Ed inburg-McAllen will call Harlingen Harlingen will call Brownsville Waco will call Corsicana Corsicana will call Tyler Tyler will call Longview
HIGGINS	will call	Denton, Dallas, Tarrant County
		Denton will call Sherman Provisional Dallas will call Irving Irving will call Richardson Richardson will call Garland Garland will call Lamar County Tarrant County will call Hunt County
HUNTER	will call	Houston, Deer Park, Litras, Conner
		Houston will call Brazos County
LITRAS	will call	Baytown, Pasadena
		Baytown will call Montgomery County Pasadena will call Bay Area Bay Area will call South Jefferson South Jefferson will call Beaumont
CONNER	will call	Galveston, Brazosport, Dickinson
		Galveston will call Texas City, LaMarque Dickinson will call Pearland

PRESIDENT'S FILE

LWV of Texas
Dickinson Plaza Center
[redacted]

LWV Legislative Office
[redacted]

LEGISLATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JANUARY 1973

State President
Mrs. Darwin Winick (Veta)
[redacted]

Program Vice-president
Mrs. M.S. Braunagle (Lois)
[redacted]

Legislative Director
Mrs. Thomas Brasher (Chris)
[redacted]

Legislative Projects Director
Mrs. Bill Holmes (Nancy)
[redacted]

****

RESOURCE DIRECTORS

Judicial Reform
Mrs. John Hunter (Helen)
[redacted]

CAPITOL CORPS MEMBERS

Mrs. Francis B. May (Janice)
[redacted]

Texas Constitutional Revision
Mrs. R.E. Conner (Betty)
[redacted]

Mrs. Francis B. May (Janice)
[redacted]

Voting Rights
Mrs. John Anderson (Betty)
[redacted]

Mrs. Francis B. May (Janice)
[redacted]

RESOURCE DIRECTORS

Public School Finance

Mrs. Edward Fritz (Genie)

[redacted]

Human Resources

Mrs. Edward Fritz (Genie)

[redacted]

Texas Legislature

Mrs. Thomas Litras (Harriet)

[redacted]

Texas Executive

Mrs. John Hunter (Helen)

[redacted]

State-Local Relations

Mrs. John Hunter (Helen)

[redacted]

CAPITOL CORPS MEMBERS

Mrs. Kenneth Ashworth

[redacted]

Mrs. Jake Billingsley (Pat)

[redacted]

Mrs. William Holmes (Nancy)

[redacted]

Mrs. William Holmes (Nancy)

[redacted]

Mrs. James Lancaster

[redacted]

RESOURCE DIRECTORS

CAPITOL CORPS MEMBERS

Environmental Quality

Mrs. Wilfred Higgins (Bobbette)

[redacted]

Mrs. Edward Parker (Judy)

[redacted]

Foreign Policy

Mrs. R.E. Conner (Betty)

[redacted]

Mrs. Leon K. Richards (Eleanor)

[redacted]

*Rotating Observer

For Jean

February 3, 1973

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mrs. Johnson,

Because you are a member of the Human Resources Committee we would like you to know that the Dallas League of Women Voters strongly supports HB 184 and hopes you will do all you can to see this bill is reported favorably out of committee.

The creation of a Texas Human Relations Commission is a positive step toward constructive action in alleviating inter-group tensions.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Lee R. Johnson
President

JJ/rw

PRESIDENT'S FILE February, 1973

League of Women Voters of Texas
To:Local League Presidents, local Legislative Chairmen & State Board
From: Chris Brasher, Director of Legislative Action
Re: Analysis of Legislative Interviews--A Summary

Total number of legislators interviewed: 81 (18 Senators, 63 Representatives)
Assigned but not interviewed: 61 (13 Senators, 48 Representatives)*
Total number of legislators with no League: 39 (all Representatives)

* Twelve Leagues with assignments did not send in any interviews. A few Leagues did part of the interviews, but did not complete all assigned. As you can see, if all of the interviews were done, all of the Senate and almost all of the House of Representatives would be interviewed.

Legislator's Attitude Toward the League

A large majority of the legislators think very highly of the League of Women Voters. Thirty-two of the legislators rated a "very favorable" attidude; 16, favorable; 8 "friendly" or "good"; 2 were tolerant; 4 were "politely non-committal"; 3 were down-right hostile; and 8 were unfamiliar with the League. One Senator said he respects the League for its non-partisan activities, and likes the issue orientation of the League. Another thinks the lobbying influences of the League are good. However, he thought that letter writing is good for new legislators, but does not have much effect on older ones. He said the League could be more effective if broad er based.

Occupations

By far, the Legislature is dominated by lawyers--40 out of the 81 interviewed being practicing lawyers or attorneys, and many of the others having had law education. Seven were listed as contractors or real estate developers, 4 had farming or ranching interests, with 1 being a dairy farmer. There are 2 advertising executives; a community relations consultant; a business consultant; a vocational school co-ordinator; a law clerk; an assistant to a county commissioner; a banker; a restaurant owner; a real estate broker; a clinical psychologist; an engineering consultant; a petroleum consultant; a printer; a former school administrator; a fireman; an independent oil producer; a labor man; 2 independe nt businessmen; a pharmacy co-owner; a redio and TV broadcaster; a government major; one each in urban research, public relations, and real estate and insurance. Two are full time legislators.

The Texas Legislature

In replying to the question, "Do you favor allowing legislators more voice in determining committee chairmen?", almost all of the legislators qualified their yes and no responses. In the House, 27 replied yes, with other remarks being "Yes, but not cumulative seniority system" (3); favors system as outlined in new rules (3); one preferred limited seniority system, with the chairman selected from those who have served on the committee. Two answered "not necessarilly, if standing subcommittees are used" Seventeen rep-

resentatives thought that the Speaker should retain the power ot naming committee chairmen.
On committee members: 36 favored limited seniority on committees; 7 said they did not favor allowing legislators more vioce in determining committee members, adding remarks such as "too unwieldy", should be administrative function, and the Speaker must be a leader. One thought members of committees should exercise powers they have. Six House members did not discuss this topic.

In the Senate, 6 senators favored the legislators having more voice in determining committee chairmen, 7 did not. The majority also did not favor more voice in determining committee members. Those in favor of more voice said the presiding officers should have some say, but appointments should be subject to approval by members of the Senate. Those against said the responsibility for appointments should be identifiable and that they favored a modified or partial seniority system.

Asked what type of financial disclosure would have their support, 31 House members said they would support full financial disclosure, both on campaigns and personal assets; 6 added that income tax forms should be included. Others had these answers: one favors financial disclosure by candidate, but not to include entire family; two do not support full financial disclosure, since political campaigns serve as a method of disclosure of wrongdoing; one favors only disclosing campaign contributions, not total personal income.

Two said sources and amounts or types of income should be reported but no details and not total net worth. One legislator was not in favor of disclosure, as he considers it a risk to the business of individuals (a lawyer's clients). He thinks the press is effective in publicizing information in regard to public officials, including finances. Eleven legislators stated that they would pre fer filing income and sources with an ethics commission, to be made public only if a conflict of interest is evident. Ot herwise, they would not mind reporting sources but no amounts.

One legislator said he thinks "everyone is for reform and the issue is irrelevant now"! He thought only a conflict of interest should be disclosed. Two legislators were satisfied with the present disclosure law, and the final word here was that one of these thought that the type of disclosure we now have is sufficient in light of the salary legislators receive!

Three House members said they would support anything! and seven legislators did not discuss this question.

Other recommendations made voluntarily were a requirement for a listing of campaign sources and amounts, plus amounts spent by the lobby; that all candidate disclosures should be handled by the candidiate's county and the Secretary of State and published in the home town record; and on e did not favor a ceiling on campaign spending. One thoughtful comment was, "Elect ethical men to office."

Of the Senators speaking on financial disclosure, 11 favored full disclosure, with two making an exception of listing lawyer's clients in order to protect the relationship between lawyer and client.

One idi not favor amount of income being disclosed, only sources: one dinn't want to reveal financial holdings publicly but would support an ethics commission which would hold information in confidence unless a conflict of interest is suspected; and one was in favor of no disclowure, as he thought it "ridiculous to penalize honest people." He said he feels this is "just a gimmick of an irresponsible press, and will quit if it (the disclosure law) is too strict."

State-Local Relations

Out of 48 House members questioned on single purpose special districts, 35 favored more accountability and increased state regulation. One legislatior thinks proliferation would be cut if state regulations were abolished and local governments were responsible, following established overall state guidelines. Local officials who preferred to blame the legislature, he said, rather than be accountable to their own voters, brought about the current situation (on Water Districts). One legislator favored the regional approach; another said that the law is defective and needs revising. Two legislators thought districts should be locally controlled. One said districts should not be created and dissolved through constitutional amendments. Also that property owners should be notified of elections on proposed creation of special districts.

One legislator didn't know of any problems, and three were unfamiliar with the subject. Four others said the subject of special districts would require further study, indicating a lack of knowledge of the subject, and 15 of those interviewed did not answer or were not asked the question on special districts.

Among the Senators, six senators answered yes to whether or not they favored greater accountability and increased state regulation. One added that these districts have gotten completely out of hand, and there is a lot of abuse. Another said regulation should be more systematic. One thought that taking provisions out of the Constitution might solve problems. Another favored increased state regulation only if fully funded by the state. Two were uninformed on the subject and one was not interested in "this at all". The remainder of senators were not questioned on this subject.

Texas Constitutional Revision

Recommendations for the composition of the Constitutuonal Revision Commission brought many varied answers. Some named specitic people, others included ligislators, which plainly showed that they did not understand that elected officials could not be on the commission (this was stated in Amendment 4), and furthermore, the legislators will be members of the con vention, not of the commission. Three felt the House should have a major role in choosing members; another that the citizens should be chosen jointly by the House and Senate.

Basically , most of the members of the House thought that the commission should be composed of a cross section of citizens (35). Other recommendations were: two from each congressional district; commission should be evenly divided (1/3 with legislative background, 1/3 from the education field, an d 1.3 laymen) with responsibility broken down into sub-committees; commission should be composed of percentages in direct ratio according to ethnic groups and economic structure; two from each senatorial district in order to geographical representation; four had no specific recommendations; six seemed unsure or had not made up their minds; and four did not discuss this subject. Several members agreed that people familiar with Texas and either versed in constitutional law or having the finest possible qualifications or background should be considered. One legislator wanted the commission to remain a small group made up of attorneys of various political beliefs! One legislator was not in favor of revision "in this manner".

But the one we could agree with the most was emphatic in stating that he thinks the working staff should be composed of the best constitutional scholars, not special interest hacks, and work to begin immediately.

Most legislators favored section by section approval of the voteres.

Senators interviewed on constitutional revision commission make-up generally supported recommendations made in the Wolff resolution, although one senator thought 36 members was too unwieldy and one thought th e commission should not be less than 100 members, with a broad spectrum of political interests.

One senator said he doesn't care who writes the revision as long as the commission members agree on certain philosophies--a Bill of Rights and specific protected funds--and that no group is favored ove r another. Another thought the commission should be conservative. He likes the Constitution we have now!

Judicial Reform

Do uou approve of Court of Criminal Appeals and Supreme Court being merged into a single court for both civil and criminal matters?

House

Y es - 31 No-8- No Opinion - 3 Undecided - 1

Possibly - 1 Unfamiliar with subject - 2 Did not discuss - 15

Wanted to discuss matter further before commenting on a merger of courts - 2

A need for better distribution of workloads among justices was mentioned by several representatives. One legislator said that the biggest need is for redistricting of judicial districts, and another wanted to see an increase of Supreme Court justices to perhaps 15 members if the courts were merged.

Those who opposed a merger of the courts said they opposed it because of the present workloads, and because criminal law is a specialt y that should be kept separate.

In the Senate, five senators favored the merger of courts, but six did not favor it. Most of those who favored it thought, however

that now is a bad time for the merging of the two courts because of large caseloads. Those against the merger think that criminal law should be dealt with by specialists; dual courts are more productive; and the merger would slow things up more; One senator said he would prefer to see an increase in the size of the courts, if necessary , rather than merging them.

Six senators did not discuss this subject.

In regard to the Merit Plan for the selection of judges, 24 representatives favor the plan. One suggested that Texas should attempt the way Florida had found to clear up their backlog of court cases.

Opposing the plan were 18 representatives, five favoring judges running on a nonpartisan ballot, and two representatives thinking judges should be elected for six year terms.

One legislator thought that the Bar Association should take the leadership in selling the idea of the Merit Plan of selection, but some of those opposing the plan had reservations about the Bar appointjudges or "running it". One legislator expressed the fear that appointment of judges would end up being political.

Ten representatives interviewed were unfamiliar with the Merit Plan and eleven had no op inion or did not discuss this subject.

In the Senate all twelve who discussed this subject were not in favor of the Merit Plan, either preferring to continue the present system of election of judges or favoring non-partisan election of judges. Six senators did not discuss this subject.

Human Resources

What steps should the state government take to solve the welfare problem in Texas?

In the House:

There was general agreement that the welfare problem is "bigger than Texas" and that something constructive should be done, but few constructive recommendations were presented by the legislators.

Many legislators favor a general overhaul of welfare programs, with the majority in favor of the federal government having complete control because they issue the regulations. Some felt that the federal guidelines h amper efficient operation of programs. Oth ers felt that reform should come through state and local levels. Many expressed concern ove r abuses and advocated a rewtructuring of the state system. Specific recommendations along this line included a more flexible budget, a bette r attitude on th e part of employees, human comparrion in determining needs, and hiring more case workers to check through recipients. One recommended appointing a commission to investigate the welfare structure, and another stressed need for an administrative task force to study and make recommendations. Some legislators recommended some sort of state-sponsored labor or work programs for those unemployed, and one favored looking for new industries to provide jobs.

A few of the legislators felt that revenue sharing money should be used for welfare, and that it should be handled by the lowest governmental leve l.

Eight House members wanted to remove the ceiling on wilfare; two wanted to diip the ceiling; one to raise the ceiling, and one to reduce the ceiling. Two members supported the California system of having work for those able.

There were mixed feelings on AFDC payments. One felt that the AFDC portion of welfare should be given to the federal government to administer and finance. One was not sympathetic with AFDC because it "encourages ieegitimacy " and "the present system needs overhauling because of abuses." Two le g islators favored garnishment of salaries of absent husbands and fathers for payment of court-ordered child support.

One or two legislators deplored the fact that an overwhelming majority of people associate payment of welfare only with illegitimate children when "most welfare goes to the aged and disabled." One suggested that perhaps that if ADFC payments came from the federal government, it could be made clear that all state welfare money goes to th e aged and physically disabled.

In the Senate, on e legislator was in favor of removing the ceiling, one was for retaining the ceiling, and one was for raising the ceiling.

One senatore felt that no real action could be taken on the welfare problem until HR-1 passed by Conhress is understood by the states. Conforming to th e federal recuirements was considered one of the greatest problems. Most senators conceded that emphasis should be on employment, day care centers for working mothers, and cutting of caseloads ny spe ndin g more on case workers. There was disagreement on whether the fe deral government should take over the funding of welfare. And one thought that the state should come up with innovative approaches, not just raising money.

It was also felt that revenus sharing wwill solve part of the problem.

Environmental Quality

Thirty-four representatives in the House favored the broadening of citizen rights to bring suit against polluters when government agencies fail to enforce existing laws. Many oualitied this statement by saying that suits should be legitimate and not just "harrassment".

Seventeen legislators opposed the class acrion suits, mostly because of "trivial cases", "nuts", or "nuisance" suits. Two of these felt that a person should have to be personally affected before suit couls be brought against a company; four felt existing laws should be used more forcefully; and one favored regional control of environmen tal protection. One thought companies could clean up their own pollution if pressure were nrought to near. Another felt that citizens should not have the right to go directly to court, but should file a complaint with the Environmental Control Board, who would check the complain t and file suit if necessary.

One representative was undecided, three had no opinion, and eight did not discuss this question.

Seven senators favored broadening citizen rights to bring suit, with one senator suggesting that the person bringing suit should pay costs if he loses the case. Another felt that agencies would be more responsible if combined into one, "with more tools".

Of the three opposing the right to sue, one thought complaints should come through an agency and another favored local governments suing polluters.

One senator believed that only the person(s) involved shou ld be allowed to nring suit. And one thought citizens should be able to brin g about an investigation, but with nō profit to the citizen.

Sic did not discuss this subject.

Major Legislative Issues

A little over half of the legislators interviewed (36) thought that public school financing would be the major responsibility, this session. Ranking next (25) was constitutional revision, with legislative reform (15) and judicial reform (12) coming in third and fou rth.

Ten House members listed insurance reform as a major responsibility and five each considered financing state government, equalization of property assissments and taxation, education, and ethics as major issues to be faced. Four le gislators thought pollution control was an important issue; three each listed welfare and re d istricting; two each listed election laws and mass transit. Other issues listed by one legislatore e ach were primary reform and financing, urban and rural problems, easing of laws dealing with marijuana, crime an d law enforcement, reorgani zation of boards and commissions, consumer protection, and broadening of the Governor's responsibility.

One House member said he was going to take things as they come! Some members listed more than one issue, others as many as three or four.

As in the House, the members of the Senate who were interviewed also think that public school finan cing is ny far the most important issue facing the legislators this session, being listed by eleven senators, and taking precedence over constitutional revision which was listed by only five of the 18 senators. Judicial reform, legislative reform, insurance reform, and taxes were each listed twice. Other issues mentioned were makin g education more relevent to needs, such as vocational training; stronger laws for drug abusers and drunk dribers; anti-pollution laws, and publicly owned mass transit systems.

Comments from the Legislative Chairman

As I see it, most Leagues have a tremendous jon ahead of educating their legislators, particularly the new ones in the larger areas. There was a tremendous lack of intelligent and knowledgeable answers by a majority of the legislators on League program items. It certainly doesn't give the Capitol Corps much to g o on, and it would

be impossible for the Austin group to personally educate or inform 181 legislators during a busy session. Local Leagues must assume this responsibility.

Program chairmen will be preparing background and position statements on League program items. Please use this information to the fullest extent and dig into your files for good information from past unit meetings, old committee guides, state board publications, etc, to bring your members and your legislators up to date. You will need to be armed with this information in order to lobby intelligently when the time comes during the session and for constitutional revision.

With all of the non-League areas to cover as well, we have a tremendous job ahead. So please go back over your interview forms and follow up on any areas where you think you can furnish materials and do a good job of lobbying for our positions.

Remember, lobbying is more than just writing your official lett er. There are areas where you as members can make a terrific impact in doing a good lobbying job--by supplying your legislators with materials in areas where he has shown little knowledge or where he has indicated he needs to study more, and in some cases where the legislator has admitted he is totally unfamiliar with certain subjects. The legislators will appreciate your assistance.

So do your homework, help the legislators do theirs, and we will see the results reflected in passage of good legislation that shows th e results of your lobbying for League goals.

League of Women Voters of Texas
Legislative Office
603 West 13th
Austin Texas

AUSTIN PM MAR 7 1973 TEX.

Mrs. Lee R. Johnson
[redacted]

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER
DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

October 1972

TIPS ON INTERVIEWING

1. The League's contact with public officials is a continuing contact with the purpose of establishing a permanent, friendly relationship. The word "sustained" is the key to our legislative work. Sustained attention, the continued building up of interest and support, determines the course of League legislation.

2. It should be remembered that there are several reasons for this interview:

   To obtain information.

   To make a friend for the League. Your interview and your attitude may affect the legislator's vote not only on present League program, but for the future as well.

   To explain League positions and plans if asked or if this seems desirable and necessary.

   This interview is to obtain information - not to give League views. Let him or her do the talking.

3. It is always helpful to be as familiar as possible with previous contacts your League has had with the legislator, such as earlier interviews, so that by referring to them you are certain the legislator has as complete a picture as possible of the League's work and purpose.

4. Before you leave for your appointment, secure and study the legislator's answers to Voters Guide questions. It would increase your confidence and background to be familiar with League program material and positions. If he has not seen recent LWV material that is available, take him a copy. But do not give it to him until you are ready to leave, otherwise he may try to skim it on the spot. Avoid "selling" the program. We want frank answers, not what we might prefer to hear. Let him see that we can "take it" too.

5. Plan your approach and the general outline of the scope and direction of the interview before you begin, but keep your method flexible so that you can adapt it to the development of the interview.

6. Be sure to know about and express appreciation for any support which the legislator has given to League program positions in the past.

7. Listen appreciatively to all jokes and stories. If there seems to be a tendency to wander from the purpose of the interview, be prepared with tactful ways of getting the legislator back on the subject. At nearly all interviews you will talk of other things. Remember and make a mental note of all his likes and dislikes and anything else you learn about him.

8. Do not get into an argument. If there is no possible basis for agreement, express appreciation for the opportunity of hearing his point of view and regret that his position is not in accord with the League's and retire as gracefully as possible. Be sure to leave the way open to come back again.

(over)

9. Let him know that you will follow not only legislation of special League interest but other legislation as well, including bills introduced and sponsored by him. It will help reinforce this if you can indicate some knowledge of bills introduced by him in previous sessions.

10. Be prompt for your appointment -- and don't prolong the interview or overstay the time allotted you for the interview.

* * * * *

LWV of Texas
November 1972

STATEMENT TO THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON HOUSE RULES & PROCEDURES, OCT. 27, 1972
by Mrs. Thomas Brasher, League of Women Voters of Texas

I am Mrs. Thomas Brasher, Legislative Chairman of the League of Women Voters of Texas, and it is with sincere appreciation that I am granted this opportunity to speak on behalf of the League members of this state.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has been greatly encouraged by the performance of the special sessions of the 62nd Legislature in regard to rules reform and wishes to see this work continued and expanded in the 63rd Legislature. The League of Women Voters of Texas supports the readoption and strengthening of reform rules and encourages further action in this area to restore public confidence in representative government in the state of Texas.

The specific rules reform which we endorse are:

1. the restriction of conference committees to the adjustment of differences in bills and resolutions passed by the two Houses,

2. a reduction in the number of committees, and fewer committee assignments per member,

3. closer cooperation between the two houses by the adoption of joint rules and the establishment of joint, parallel, and joint interim committees,

4. increased power for the House and Senate in relation to the power of the presiding officers, including more voice for the legislators in determining committee memberships and guidelines to insure the referral of bills and resolutions to committees of appropriate jurisdiction,

5. a workable system to ensure the orderly flow of bills and resolutions.

It has been said that no significant legislative reform is possible until the electorate is enlightened. If this is so, it seems that the 63rd Texas Legislature will meet in the floodlight of the arena of an awakened electorate. The focus is now as perhaps never before on how the Legislature intends to govern itself through its rules and procedures.

Two other areas of League concern will also be of prime importance to the 63rd Legislature -- legislative ethics and lobby control. The League supports standards which enable legislators to be more responsive to the public. We believe in the citizen's right to know when a legislator has a conflict of interest.

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports a workable code of ethics which clearly defines and discloses conflicts of interest. At the same time, our membership is weary, as we are sure the electorate is weary, of seeing the ethics issue exploited for maximum publicity with the subsequent bill of little or no merit. Again let me state that the League of Women Voters of Texas is for a <u>workable</u> code of ethics. By this we mean that we want the Legislature to draft and pass a bill which will <u>not</u> be declared unconstitutional, which avoids

over-restrictive and unrealistic qualifications, and which embodies the protection of the citizens' right to know when a legislator has a conflict of interest. We are not interested in sound and fury but of seriousness in intent and content.

A major component of legislative reform has to be concerned with the regulation of lobbying. This is needed not because lobbying is evil or legislators dishonest, but because it is within the right of the citizen to know what influences are being brought to bear on this state's legislators. The League of Women Voters of Texas supports detailed disclosure of all funds spent on lobbying -- this to be placed on file and open to the public.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to present the views of the League of Women Voters of Texas and urge you to remember that the good work done in rules changes in the past special sessions has helped restore the confidence of the people in this state. Don't allow a betrayal of this renewed confidence, as attention will truly be focused with interest on the actions taken in the coming session, not only on the laws of this state but the manner in which these laws are enacted that will govern you and the people you represent.

Thank you.

* * * * *

January 13, 1972

TO: Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, LWV of Texas, President
Mrs. R. E. Connor
Mrs. J. W. Hunter
Mrs. Thomas Litras

SUBJECT: Legislative Continuance--use and abuse

FROM: LWV of Dallas, Mrs. R. P. Coffman, Legislative Action Chairman

Can the LWV of Texas address itself to the "Use and abuse of the Legislative Continuance"?

Early in September, 1971, I began a series of telephone conversations with Mrs. Jannette Rudine, a woman in Dallas, who was extremely concerned about the many irregularities involved in the Lander case (Lander was a narcotics agent who shot an airline stewardess in her bedroom, two years ago, and was given a ten year probated sentence when he finally came to trial in September, 1971, after two years of delay).

The Legislative Continuance refers to the practice of delaying any court case where the lawyer involved is a Legislator, from 30 days before the beginning of a session, until 30 days after the end of a session. Mrs. Rudine contends, (as does District Attorney Henry Wade and others as seen in recent newspaper articles) that the continuance is used to delay trials, and that this constitutes unethical conduct on the part of Legislators.

I asked Senator Oscar Mauzy after a Legislative Coffee the Dallas League sponsored on September 16 about the use and possible abuse of the Legislative Continuance, and he readily answered that it is possible to make from $12,000-18,000 per year "selling" the use of the pass! (The advantage is that one's court case can be delayed by retaining a Legislator.) He further said that the Senate had passed a provision in the Ethics Bill abolishing the Legislative Continuance as unnecessary, but that the Conference Committee took it out.

I am enclosing several newspaper articles which may help clarify the issue for you.

Would you please consider this and see whether, in your judgment, our position on modernizing state government: support of executive, legislative and judicial reform to be accomplished through constitutional revision and legislative action--would allow the State League the latitude to lobby for this in any ethics bill which might be submitted.

Thank you very much.

Pauline

Mrs. Robert P. Coffman, Legislative Action
Dallas League of Women Voters

Copies also to: Mrs. Lee Johnson, LWV of Dallas, President
Mrs. Jannette Rudine

Trial Delays Cited

DALLAS MORNING NEWS, 9-29-71

Wade Criticizes Legislative Passes

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said Tuesday that too many state representatives and senators who are lawyers take advantage of their positions by getting trial delays on legislative passes.

Wade said he is concerned that some attorneys are hired in certain cases solely to gain a continuance in the court trials because they are members of the Texas Legislature.

"I don't think the passes should be mandatory," Wade commented. "I think the judges should have the discretion to decide if the requests for continuances are valid."

THE LEGISLATIVE PASS rule became an issue in the murder trial of James Laswell Lander, which was delayed from last January until September when State Sen. O. H. (Ike) Harris joined the defense attorneys.

Wade said he was not accusing Harris, but noted that the Republican senator was not listed among Lander's legal counselors until shortly before the trial was set.

"If Sen. Harris had gotten Lander out of jail and had been working on the case all along, I could understand how a judge would be willing to wait until he returned from Austin to set the trial," Wade said.

However, the district attorney stressed that Lander, a former federal narcotics agent accused of killing an airline stewardess, had "very competent counsel" in Percy Foreman, Charles Tessmer and Frank Wright.

UNDER THE RULE, any judge automatically has to delay a trial until after the completion of a legislative session if one of the defense attorneys is a state legislator.

Wade said he has found an average of 40 or 50 cases a year in which the legislative pass is used to delay a trial.

He said he usually is confronted with the mandatory rule when a complaining witness calls to ask why a certain case has never come to tri.

SEN. HARRIS, who was present for most of the Lander trial, has said he took an active part in the case and was assigned to handle defense witnesses.

However, attorneys Foremand, Wright and Tessmer rested their case without calling a single witness.

Jurors in the trial found Lander guilty of the 1969 slaying of Miss Mary Morris Mead, but gave him a 10-year probated prison sen-

—HENRY TATUM

4 Years in Office Have Left Marks On GOP's Harris

DALLAS TIMES HERALD, 9-27-71

RON CALHOUN, Political Writer

When O. H. "Ike" Harris became Dallas County's first Republican state senator four years ago, he exthe fresh, young, untarnished image with which the GOP hoped to conquer the state, politically.

Today, Harris still exudes freshness and youth, but his image, if not exactly tarnished, bears a couple of scars.

The first came back in the 1969 special session when he supported an abortive attempt to put groceries under the state sales tax.

The second came recently when he drew criticism for gaining a "legislative pass" which delayed the controversial James Laswell Lander murder trial.

An Analysis

"YOU EXPECT a certain amount of that," Harris said, but he denied he agreed to become one of Lander's attorneys last January in order to delay the trial.

"The offense was allegedly committed Oct. 26, 1969. It was set (on the court docket) and passed for whatever reason several times during the next 14 months when I became involved in it in January of 1971," he noted.

The opening of the 62nd state legislative session in January caused the case to be passed again. "but I'm not so sure it wouldn't have been anyway," Harris said.

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade's office "obviously was not too anxious to try it," Harris, a former Wade assistant prosecutor, claimed.

"I think it is pretty well agreed down at the courthouse that the state was not too well prepared. They were getting some pressure from the parents of the deceased girl and the newspapers were questioning Wade and some of his prosecutors on why they weren't going to trial.

"I think they took the opportunity to lay the blame off on a legislative continuance."

Harris said he agreed to participate in the defense after Lander, a former federal narcotics agent, came to see him in Austin. He joined Lander attorneys Charles Tessmer and Frank Wright, with whom Harris said he had worked before and knew personally.

Lander subsequently was found guilty of shooting to death an airline stewardess, but he received a probated sentence.

"My job was working with the witnesses," Harris said. "We had a significant number of witnesses ready to come if we decided strategically we needed them. These were fact witnesses (as opposed to character witnesses)."

But because of "the way the state handled its case" none of the witnesses were called, Harris said.

He also claimed he was in court every day of the trial except one, and that was because one of his witnesses "got op

HARRIS STILL BELIEVES legislative continuances have a place in the legal scheme of things, but admits some legislators abuse them.

By law, a judge must grant such a continuance to an attorney who is a state senator or representative as long as the legislature is in session.

Harris said he has had persons offer him $100 just to sign a blank motion for continuance.

"I know some members of the legislature whom I'll leave unnamed who come to the session with a stack of blanks. They just sign them and send them back to wherever it is they are from for that purpose."

Otherwise, Harris, 39, the father of two, and one of two Republicans in the State Senate, plans to seek reelection next year in his North Dallas district.

He said he had some discussion with party bigwigs about running for lieutenant governor, but still isn't sure the Texas GOP is committed to putting big money in state and local races.

"We have a good shot at these offices next year if we get high behind, simply because there is a feeling around the state to 'throw the rascals out' (because of the stock scandals)," Harris said.

"I think we ought to cabbage on to it. But in the final analysis, the emphasis this time is going to be re-electing Nixon and Tower, and if I don't miss my guess these other races will begin to kind of take a back seat."

DALLAS MORNING NEWS, 9-30-71

Delaying Justice

Forty or 50 times a year, Dist. Atty. Henry Wade complains, trials are delayed because defendants have retained state legislators as attorneys.

Under the rule, judges must postpone a trial until after a legislative session when a legislator-attorney is involved.

And in the case of any delay, prosecution becomes more difficult. Witnesses die or move, memories of events dim. In brief, obtaining justice for both the defendant and the public becomes more difficult.

Although many legislators, who are attorneys, are probably sincere in pursuing these cases, there is evidence that the legislative pass procedure is abused.

The district attorney feels that the passes should not be mandatory, but that the judge should have the discretion to decide if the requests for continuances are valid.

It may be unfair to deny legislator-attorneys the right to continue to engage in defenses, when that is the basis of livelihood and the public insists on paying them an unrealistic $4,800 a year in Austin.

But it is equally unfair to delay justice for the accused and the public.

The rule should be changed to allow the judge to use his discretion in allowing legislative passes.

MAR 9 1971

The Dallas League of Women Voters is planning expansion of our efforts to help ourselves and others be more effective in participating in government. A committee is working on a presentation called "People Power--How citizens influence their government." As a part of that presentation, we hope to prepare a steering list to organizations and coalitions of all kinds to facilitate getting people together.

We know that League members and husbands are involved in many different organizations. You can help us put together this steering list. Tell us about the civic organizations, coalitions, or community action groups you are involved in. The following questions are designed to jog your memory.

NAME_____ BUSINESS_____

HUSBAND'S BUSINESS_____

WHAT CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU OR YOUR HUSBAND BELONG TO?

BOARDS?

COMMISSIONS?

BLOCK PARTNERSHIPS?

(The LWV urges its members to be active in the political party of their choice.)

ARE YOU ACTIVE IN A POLITICAL PARTY? (Be specific only if you wish)

Yes_____ No_____

HAVE YOU OR YOUR HUSBAND WORKED IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN? Yes_____ No_____

If yes, what level?

City?_____ State?_____

County?_____ National?_____

WHAT OTHER AREAS OF CIVIC ACTIVITY OR INVOLVEMENT CONCERN YOU?

CAN THE "PEOPLE POWER" COMMITTEE CALL ON YOU FOR ASSISTANCE IN RELATING A CITIZEN'S GROUP TO ANY OF THE ABOVE GROUPS YOU NAMED?

Please return to: Mrs. R. P. Coffman
[redacted]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DALLAS DELEGATION

DISTRICT 33

Place	NAME	AUSTIN PHONE	ROOM NO.	DALLAS PHONE
6	Fred Agnich	[redacted]		
2	Ben Atwell			
13	Jack Blanton			
3	John F. Boyle			
1	Bill Braecklein			
12	Sam Coats			
15	Joe Golman			
10	Joe Hawn			
5	Zan W. Holmes			
8	Dick McKissack			
7	Griffith Moore			
14	Fred Orr			
4	Dick Reed			
11	Chris Semos			
9	Jim Stroud			

Mail should be addressed:

Member's Name
House of Representatives
Post Office Box 2910
Room Number ____
Austin, Texas 78767

SENATE MEMBERS

District 9	Sen. Ralph Hall	[redacted]
District 8	Sen. O.H. Harris	
District 23	Sen. Oscar Mauzy	
District 16	Sen. Mike McKool	

Mail should be addressed:

Senator's Name
Room Number ____
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas

Jan 20, 1971

Senator Mike McKool
State Capitol Building
Austin, Tx 78711

Dear Senator McKool,

Thank you for your letter of Jan 12 telling me that you will be sending me the Senate Journal. I am indeed interested in what our Legislature will be doing, and the Journal will be very helpful. Thank you also for the telephone numbers in Austin.

Keep up the good work on voting laws--re-registration by voting, longer period for registration and later primaries. All Texas League members support these changes.

In case you have not seen our publication Your Elected Officials, I enclose a copy for your reference.

Sincerely

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President

NOV 1 8 1970

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

A Study By

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

Fifth in a Series

Through the Members' Eyes

A LOOK AT THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

State government affects our lives in many ways—education, welfare, highways, to name a few. It also collects billions of dollars in taxes and revenues to pay for these services. The state is big business.

The board of directors of this multi-billion-dollar enterprise is the Texas Legislature. Are their rules and procedures designed to be businesslike and to respond to public needs?

To find out, the League of Women Voters of Texas interviewed 102 members of the 1969 Legislature (86 representatives and 16 senators). Results show legislators have concrete suggestions for improving many legislative procedures.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

When asked to volunteer suggestions for major improvements, legislators mention:

Physical, research, and staff improvements
Annual or longer sessions
Salary increases
Seniority system for committees
Constitutional revision
Rules revision
Stronger code of ethics
Greater influence on the legislative process for individual legislators
Budgeting and taxation improvements
Limitation of conference committees
Pre-filing of bills before the session begins
Changes in method of selection of Speaker
Committee staff
Year-round work on bills
Other bill-handling, committee, and substantive improvements

In addition, in other sections of the interviews, the legislators bring up the need for more orientation for legislators, better communication with the public, and a lighter work load.

It is interesting to note that many of these changes are proposed as solutions to multiple problems.

MORE TIME

In August, 1969, voters turned down a constitutional amendment which would have permitted the legislature to meet in regular session during the second year of the biennium for 90 days. Despite this defeat at the polls, legislators indicate they still favor annual sessions more than three to one.

In their opinion, with annual sessions, the first year's regular session should last about the same length of time as the present biennial session (120 to 150 days); the second year's regular session, however, should be shorter. Both budget and legislation should be considered each year, if annual sessions are adopted.

If biennial sessions continue, they should last about the same number of days as now.

A limited number of days in session is favored over an unlimited number by two-thirds of the legislators.

Annual sessions is just one of the solutions offered for the serious logjam of bills at the close of the session. Other solutions suggested are longer sessions, changes in time limits, pre-filed bills, calendar and other bill-handling improvements, committee improvements, and more printed information. (Some of these ideas will be discussed later.)

HIGHER SALARIES

At present, representatives serve two-year terms and senators serve four-year staggered terms. Legislators think this length of term of office is about right and do not want to change it. However, with the exception of one legislator, they agree that salaries need to be increased.*

The most frequently suggested salary is in the $10,000 to $12,500 range, with $25,000 for the presiding officers. In addition, they feel they should be reimbursed for such expenses as Austin residence and meals, travel, and attendance at meetings, particularly interim meetings. About a third also mention expense allowances for speaking engagements.

Presiding officers have extra large speaking and travel expenses. It is suggested that they have special allowances for speaking and that either there should be a plane for the Speaker and Lieutenant Governor or they should have access to the planes for other state offices.

Although several legislators say that being a legislator is a full-time job, almost all have other businesses or pro-

*The constitution was revised in 1960 to provide the present salary of $4,800 per year, plus $12 a day for the first 120 days of the 140-day regular session and for 30 days of each special session. Legislators also are reimbursed $2.50 for every 25 miles traveled going to and from Austin one time each regular session, and for office expenses. In addition, the 1969 Legislature passed substantial interim expense allowances.

fessions. Primarily, they are lawyers. Most of the legislators are willing to serve full time.

PRE-SESSION ORIENTATION

Pre-session orientation is endorsed by most legislators, to be offered to all legislators and legislative staff members.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of procedure are adopted by both houses at the beginning of each session. Legislators say by about four to one that they would like to see changes in these rules. They prefer:

Limitation of conference committees
Committee improvements
Seniority system and increased individual influence on the legislative process
More joint rules
Calendar and bill-handling improvements
Changes in the method of rules adoption

BUDGET

Separate budgets should be drawn up by the governor and the legislature (as at present), perhaps with more staff assistance, but should be considered earlier in the session, legislators say. A number of other suggestions are given concerning budget-making. Among them are:

More participation by the legislative body
Limitation of conference committees
Annual budget
Longer time to consider, with budget available for advance study
Budget accompanying each bill
More coordination between legislation of taxes and appropriations
Joint hearings or joint committees
More use of appropriation subcommittees and of recommendations of standing committees
Follow-up as to how appropriations are being used
Printing of the two budgets side by side, with differences indicated in the margin

LOCAL BILLS

Legislators are divided about equally on whether the legislature should continue to handle a heavy volume of local bills, with the edge given to less volume. However, even some who feel it is impractical to spend less time give suggestions for types of legislation which should be handled in other ways.

Heading the list of such bills is **setting salaries of county employees.** One legislator estimates that the last legislature spent time on about 100 bills just to set permissive salaries for court reporters.

Legislators also say that **game laws** can be worked out by local authorities or by the Parks and Wildlife Department. Local control of **special districts** (such as water, hospital, soil conservation, fire, air pollution, and mosquito control) is recommended, as is local control of **farm to market roads, local bond issues** or **local tax rates, county judiciary,** and anything which involves **county or local funds** or which **affects counties.**

Perhaps the legislature can delegate more authority to state agencies, it is suggested. A few also see the need for county home rule. (A constitutional amendment would be required to establish county home rule.)

COMMITTEES

Despite the fact that committees of the two houses are set up differently, both senators and representatives want many of the same changes in committee structure and procedures. There is agreement among the majority that there should be **fewer standing committees,** possibly 25 to 35 in the House (instead of the present 45), less than 15 in the Senate (instead of the present 27).

Legislators should have three to five **committee assignments,** depending on the work load of the committee. Several representatives comment that no legislator should be asked to serve at one time on two major committees (such as State Affairs and Appropriations). A few of those suggesting five assignments qualify this by saying that some of these should be to honorary or inactive committees. Legislators presently serve on about five committees.

There are a number of ideas about **eliminating or combining specific committees,** and most legislators favor **creation of no new committees.** Most often suggested for combination are committees concerned with education, with appropriations and taxation, with agriculture, and with transportation.

If **new committees** are considered, the most popular is environment or air pollution.

The present system of **bill referral to committees,** based on assignment by the presiding officer, is preferred by a little less than half of the legislators, with those suggesting changes favoring assignment either by subject matter or by an assignment committee.

Legislators prefer a **seniority or modified seniority** system more than three to two over the present system of assignment of legislators to committees by the presiding officers. Those preferring modified seniority differ in the methods of accomplishing this, with a number of plans being offered.

One of the proponents of the seniority system claims it is superior because it allows full use of knowledge acquired by those continuing on the same committee.

A senator opposing seniority says, "The Lieutenant Governor runs statewide and is answerable to the whole state. The system gives statewide type of control. A seniority system could lead to poor committee chairmen completely wrong for the job—i.e., a rural chairman of the urban affairs committee."

Additional recommendations for **assigning legislators to committees** include selection by qualifications or experience of the legislator, by preference of the legislator, or by an assignment committee.

Most legislators wish to **limit conference committees** to adjusting the differences between the two houses. There are a few other suggestions for conference committees, such as that deadlocked committees should not be reassigned, the committee should be instructed, and the conference committee report should be open to amendment.

A number of specific recommendations for committee improvements are made by legislators. They relate to:

Staff, Research, and Physical Facilities

Full-time research staff for legislators and committees
Research by standing committees during interim
Committee study of bills, proposals, and problems
Studies to be assigned to standing committees
Permanent committee rooms
Adequate bill-drafting aid

Committees of Record

Complete records of committee proceedings
Tapes of witnesses' testimony available to legislators
Witnesses under oath, with testimony in writing

Time Limits for Bills in Committee

Time limits for bills to come out of committee
Bills not in committee more than 30 days
Easier method of getting bills out of committee
In Senate, a simple majority, rather than two-thirds, required to re-refer bill to friendly committee
Elimination of rules committee bottleneck
Speaker required to hold hearings on all bills

Establishment of Committees and Subcommittees

Pre-session appointment of committees
Committees to be appointed first week of session
Joint committees
Committees to be set up by a committee
Screening committee for bill referral
Bills to be assigned to germane committee
Fewer committees
Elimination of state affairs committee
Fewer legislators on committees
Year-around continuing committees
Automatic subcommittees in Senate
No automatic subcommittees in House
More subcommittees

Committee Meetings

Policy change so that chairman is not only one who can call meetings of subcommittee
Majority of committee to be able to call meeting
Fewer Jim Hogg meetings (out in the hall)
No executive sessions (closed meetings)

BILL HANDLING

Besides the handling of bills in committees, other suggestions are made to help the legislature be more efficient in considering bills. Perhaps the greatest number of recommendations concern **time limits.** Legislators say they want:

Pre-filing of bills or year-round work on bills
Bill screening to prevent duplication
Less wasting of time at the beginning of the session
Faster processing of bills
Bills to be taken up by number
Cut-off date for introduction of bills
Limit on the number of bills introduced at the end of the session
Carry-over of bills from one session to the next

Other opinions concern the need for **built-in delays** in order to stretch out the present regular session of 140 days every other year set by the constitution. Because of the rejection of annual sessions, legislators are looking at alternatives which would give them more time to legislate. It is suggested that temporary adjournment in the middle of the session would give committees more time to deliberate.

Besides committee research, legislators want more time, staff, and funds to do **individual research.** One legislator reports, "Biggest handicap is lack of time and tools to research all legislation except at own expense. Time element is very important. When asking advice of others, they answer to the best of their ability, but that isn't always good enough. The 'family code' bill is an example. The Texas Bar Association said that this was what was needed, and, as they are respected, it was passed. Now the furor!"

Better bill analysis, which would include the cost of implementing the bill and how these costs would be paid, is another suggestion.

Some legislators want **more printed information.** Besides the printed calendar suggested before, they mention printing:

Conference committee reports
Amendments and substitute bills before voting on them
Bills, to be available 24 or 48 hours in advance
Committee activities each day
Notations on committee changes in bills

Other bill-handling ideas:

Limit on number of bills that may be introduced
Changes in rules for amendment introduction
Bills to be brought to floor without consent of presiding officers
No consent days for measures not expected to have opposition
Limited rules suspensions

CAMPAIGNS

A few more than half of the legislators favor a **shorter period of campaigning.** They feel campaigns should be shorter both from filing to primary and from primary to election. The same slight majority do not think there should be regulation of **amounts of money spent in elections.** Some comment that this is not enforceable.

Minority recommendations concerning campaign costs include:

Control of total expenditures
Limits on amounts contributed
Limits on media budgets
Amount spent to be based on population in district
Lower filing fees; fees paid by party
Stricter enforcement of present regulations

Legislators are divided about stronger regulation of **reporting campaign costs.** Those who want improvement recommend:

Full and accurate disclosure
Non-campaign times included
Original contributor disclosed
Committees and individuals acting on behalf of candidates required to file reports
Earlier reporting deadline during campaigns
Annual reporting
Better enforcement with regular auditing
Speaker required to report contributions and expenses for his campaign as Speaker

Relationship of **campaigns to media** is brought up by some legislators. Besides the suggested limit on media budgets during campaigning, there is concern about the high cost of media. Legislators suggest lower media rates for political campaigning with more public service and government-sponsored media time. Regulation of newspaper abuses and accurate reporting are also mentioned.

Other ideas concerning campaigning:
Limited amount of personal contributions to be made tax-deductible
Libel laws to be applied to campaigning
Requirement that unopposed candidates file campaign expenditure reports
More encouragement of potential candidates by parties
Better voting regulation

CODE OF ETHICS

About seven out of eight legislators favor revising the present code of ethics. When asked what major points this code should cover, they reply:

- Better financial accounting
- Full disclosure of personal income
- Disclosure of special and business interests and affiliations, clients, and retainer fees
- No state-related business; no member lawyer practicing before a state agency; no nepotism
- Conflicts of interest to be disclosed, with abstention in case of conflict
- Reporting of gifts, campaign contributions, author or speaker fees
- Either no retainer fees, or control of retainer fees
- Better enforcement with strict penalties for violation

LOBBYING

Legislators are evenly split over the need for changes in the present regulation of lobbyists, with a slight majority favoring no change. Those who suggest changes advocate:

- More accurate reports of expenses, with public disclosure
- More accurate registration of lobbyists
- Regulation of lobby's contact with legislators
- Limitation of campaign contributions and expenditures
- Stricter enforcement and penalties for violations

LEGISLATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Twenty-seven pre-listed items relating to the legislature have been rated in one of four ways, from very necessary to very unnecessary. Legislators' answers have been weighted according to degree of interest and listed in order of importance.

Very Necessary

- More office space
- Early introduction of bills
- Professional staff for committees
- Centralized daily bill-analysis service
- Standing committees continuing during interim
- Public record of votes in committees
- Additional staff for legislators
- Publication of committee hearings
- Improved research and information facilities
- Seniority system

Somewhat Necessary

- Pre-session filing of bills
- Additional pre-session orientation
- Increase in legislators' travel allowances
- Parallel committees in the two houses
- Joint hearings by committees from both houses
- Reporting deadlines for committees
- Permanent rooms for standing committees
- Better bill-drafting aid
- Joint committees
- Fewer committee assignments
- More electronic aids
- More legislative interns
- More joint bills

Somewhat Unnecessary

- Introduction of fewer bills
- Special sessions to be called by the legislature
- Selection of committee members by a committee

Very Unnecessary

- Reduction in the size of the House

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Communication with the public is a concern of the legislators. They say communications could be improved if they had:

- Better public relations assistance
- Money for a newsletter
- A system for reporting to the public with feedback
- More free media time to tell what is happening at the state capitol
- WATS line (allowing constituents to make free calls to their representatives)
- More public understanding of the legislature
- More letters from constituents
- Office and staff on a permanent basis in home district
- Better communications with state departments and officials and with local officials
- Directory of lobbyists and key men in state agencies

Aside from better communications, other ideas mentioned by the legislators include:

- Computerized statutes and bills
- Professional help in establishing legislative priorities
- More education for legislators
- Single-member districts
- Unicameralism
- More experienced clerks
- State merit system
- Improvements in state departments
- Lighter work load with more even division of responsibility

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to each legislator who spent more than an hour of his busy time giving us comprehensive views about the legislature and to the League members throughout the state who did the interviewing.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the legislators, and, while they are at times parallel to those of the League, are not necessarily those of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

20c per copy • October, 1970

League of Women Voters of Texas Dickinson Plaza Center Dickinson, Texas 77539

DEC 2 1 1970

LWV of Texas
December 1970

Dear Presidents:

We have written to the legislators who did not attend the Pre-Session Legislative Conference on Nov. 23, 24 and 25. We urge all local Leagues to follow thru with their legislators during interviews and subsequent contacts regarding the substance of the conference. (See enclosed reports.)

Remember, this was a direct result of the 50th anniversary campaign for Texas. We will be seeing the long range results of this effort in terms of our legislative goals.

I particularly want to share with you remarks made by G. F. (Gus) Mutscher at the conference -

> "It is indeed a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to participate in this Pre-Session Legislative Conference and to help kick off what will be an informative and enlightening discussion of some of the issues which will confront each of us as members of the 62nd Texas Legislature.
>
> I particularly want to thank Dean Gronouski and the staff of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs for their leadership in bringing together a vast array of talent for this program.
>
> The value of the contributions of the League of Women Voters in promoting greater interest in governmental affairs and in keeping our citizens informed have been acknowledged by myself during the last ten years."

All those who attended felt that the conference was extremely successful. We were delighted that Lucy Benson was able to attend and very proud that she has since been made an honorary citizen of Texas.

Cordially,

Vota Winick

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag
encls. Pre-Session Legislative Conference Reports
by: Bubis, Lancaster and Holmes

File, legislative

LOBBY SCHOOL CONT.

3. Make community contacts early--long before the item is scheduled for attention in the legislature. Then ask for community help when TFA's come.

General rules of Lobbying were noted:

1. When trying to influence persons to work with you on an issue consider there are three types of people:
   a. Those who think like you do. It's great fun to talk with them because they reinforce your own thinking. But in the long run, it's like talking to yourself. Little progress has been made in gaining new people to your cause.
   b. Those who hold strongly opposing views to yours. They aren't apt to change their way of thinking and again you are wasting your time and effort if you concentrate much time on them.
   c. Those who are undecided - or don't feel strongly one way or the other. These are the people you should try to reach. All efforts should be directed toward fully informing them of your point of view. Use facts and logical reasoning.
2. When trying to influence others, consider some factors of motivation
   a. people act to satisfy their own needs and desires (not organizations or other people)
   b. people behave to satisfy real motives (not motives they ought to have)
   c. people have many different motives and most behavior is based on a combination of these motives. (If you can appeal to three or more motives, you have a stronger chance of influencing them.)
   d. both rewards and punishments motivate people. (It is better to work on their desires rather than punishment.)

3. Rules for Motivating (Taken from People Power, copies 25 cents from the League of Women Voters of Nevada, 3511 Pueblo Way, Las Vegas, 89109)
   a. Have well defined goals for what you want to accomplish.
   b. Include those whom you want to reach in the selection of goals and strategy sessions.
   c. Be prepared to show how the doer will benefit from the action.
   d. Be ready and willing to provide sufficient information and assistance to those whom you want to take action.
   e. Identify those who can help you reach your goal and tailor your plans to fit.
   f. Be aware of your opposition and be prepared to handle it accordingly.
   g. Be clear about what you want people to do.
   h. Keep the channels of communication open.
   i. Make the doer feel he is not alone but part of a large effort.
   j. Stage public meetings for maximum impact.
   k. Use the news media to help tell your story.
   l. Praise the efforts of others.
   m. Be realistic about what can be accomplished and be frank.
   n. Don't forget the follow-through.

These rules can be applied to legislators, all office holders, and members of your community.

The noon luncheon speaker was Burton Hackney, Commissioner of the Department of Public Welfare for the state of Texas. Highlights of his speech will appear in the December VOTER in preparation for our December unit meetings in which we will be trying to reach consensus on Welfare.

Thank you again for this Opportunity to participate in League activities.

CONSENSUS-STATE PROGRAM MAKING CONT.

MODERNIZATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT - A combination of Texas Constitutional Revision, The Texas Executive Department and the Texas Legislature. (all units) The Outlook for Work would be support of executive, legislative and judicial reform to be accomplished through Texas Constitutional Revision and Legislative and Administrative action.

Three units wanted a study of TEXAS CONSUMER LAWS. The outlook for work would include a study of lending practices, interest rates, credit ratings, bail bonds and insurance laws. A minority of the fourth unit was interested in such a study.

One unit wanted HUMAN RESOURCES on the state level. The outlook for work would be Evaluation of legislative proposals to implement this position in Texas.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LOBBY SCHOOL, AUSTIN, OCTOBER by Carolyn Jordan

It was my pleasure to serve as your representative at the Second Lobby School held by the League of Women Voters of Texas.

The theme of the meeting was sounded by the first speaker when she said: "Action without Study is fatal; but Study without Action is futile."

Speakers then presented an overview of how the legislature and executive branches function so that League members would understand how best to apply their lobby efforts.

Items of League concern scheduled for Legislative attention in the next session were then noted, including:

A. Permanent Voter Registration Bill with provisions for 1) reregistration by voting; 2) year-round registration; 3) safe guards against fraud, including personal registration, identification at the polls, updating of poll lists; 4) primary dates moved closer to general election.
B. Texas Water Planning
C. Water and Air Pollution - probably including stricter regulations
D. TCR-not much in the way of revision, but probable action on improvements in the Texas Court System including: unified court system of civil and criminal courts; establishments of courts of record; new training qualifications; more equitable system of case load; appointment rather than election of Appellate Judges.
E. Monitoring of COG's, state planning agencies
F. Formation of study committee of the Texas Executive
G. Texas Legislature-pay raises and other aids; rules of procedures; annual sessions.
H. Human Resources-Welfare; Removal of welfare ceiling from the Constisution, reorganization of the welfare department, supplimentary welfare payment. Also, housing, migrant labor, vocational education, Human Relations Commission.
I. Redistricting by one - man - one - vote principal
J. Ratification of the Electoral College Reform Bill if it passes Congress.

Suggestions were made to improve local League response to TIME for ACTIONS on bills of League interest.

1. Establish a telephone committee to notify interested members when a TFA arrives.
2. Send TFA mailings to local members.

OCT 5 1970

October 2, 1970

Mrs. Robert P. Coffman
League of Women Voters of Dallas
1439 Summertime Lane
Dallas, Texas 75241

Dear Pauline:

To be frank, your letter of May 12 has lain dormant under a pile of folders and has only recently been unearthed. It came at the time I was out of the state due to deaths in my family, so I was pretty much in shock for a while after that and some correspondence went unanswered.

I really appreciated your sending the article on the court system improvements and have made copies to send to State Office, Program V-P, and TCR chairman, Ann Bury. It may come in handy for reference.

Incidentally, we need an official "clipper" from the Dallas area to be on the alert for anything on legislators to be filed in the legislative office.. also anything relevant to League issues. Would you continue to send me pertinent articles?

About copies of responses to TFA's from national, yes, the state office should have a copy of these.

I hope you are still enjoying your job as legislative chairman and note with pleasure that you will be attending Lobby School on the 6th. I look forward to meeting you at that time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas Brasher
State Legislative Chairman

cc: Winick
Bubis
Bury
Mrs. Henry Lanz

Richard Morehead

Court System Improvement Sought

4-16-70 D. M. N.

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN—Joe Greenhill, president of the State Bar of Texas' judicial section, has joined Chief Justice Warren Burger of the U.S. Supreme Court in a campaign for prompt and vast improvement in the court system.

Since courts, especially appellate courts, are the final bulwark of the "government of laws" on which our republic was founded, the success of the judicial reform campaign may determine the survival of the system by which this country has been governed almost 200 years.

UNDER ATTACK from such diverse sources as the Chicago Seven and the U.S. Congress, the courts are embroiled in "a real emergency," says Greenhill, an associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

". . . 'The silent majority" is dissatisfied with the administration of justice generally. We ourselves recognize a need for improvement," Greenhill told Baylor law students the other night in Waco.

The judicial system may be better equipped to cope with the disrupters like the Chicago Seven than it is with such everyday problems as automobile accident litigation.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently has handed down what Greenhill declared to be "the most encouraging legal pronouncement in the last 10 years," Justice Greenhill noted. It decided that defendants who insist on disrupting trial proceedings can be removed from the courtroom.

Burger, Greenhill and others attempting seriously to achieve real and broad improvement in our courts will encounter much opposition in high places, if past experience is repeated.

Lawyers Resist

Legislators, judges and lawyers have been resistant to court reform. Texas district courts haven't been reapportioned in all the state's history, although the need has been widely recognized for decades. How long can we afford a judiciary that wastes time, talent, and money and frequently thwarts justice by delay?

Several studies are under way to make courts more efficient and the results more prompt and fair. Greenhill has some ideas which drew rebuffs from a good many lawyers almost as soon as he uttered them. By suggesting simplification of procedures for settling automobile accident claims, Greenhill was accused almost immediately of attacking the "adversary" system which lawyers generally hold sacred so long as it favors them.

AT ITS CONVENTION in Galveston in October, the Texas Bar judicial section will be asked to help "get as many reforms adopted as quickly as possible," Greenhill said.

Proposals will include constitutional reform, a unified judiciary, better court administration and "an independent judiciary selected under a merit system," Greenhill said.

The rise of 2-party politics is stimulating interest among Texas elective judges in changing to a less partisan system of selection. So long as the Democrats always won, a judge could have job security belonging to that party. Only 18 states still elect judges by political party ballots, and most of these are in the South.

Sixteen other states have nonpartisan no-party ballots for judicial candidates and the other states have various plans of appointment.

"Perhaps in 1875 when our Constitution was drafted and our population was just over one million, it was possible for a sizable part of the population to get to know, or know about, the people they elected to the judiciary," Greenhill observed.

"HOW DIFFERENT NOW! Only a very small percentage of the people can cast an intelligent vote in a judicial race, especially at the appellate level.

"Texas is rapidly becoming a 2-party state. Shall judges be elected or turned out just because they are Democrats or Republicans?"

Efforts Ignored

With its 11 million people, Texas already has about 600 judges above the justice of peace level. England, where the quality of justice is considered at least equal to ours, has 220 judges for 54 million people. Much of the cumbersome procedure of American courts has been eliminated by the British.

The Texas Legislature so far has largely ignored efforts to modernize the court system, and these attempts until now have really been half-hearted.

With courts under attack both from inside and outside, perhaps desirable changes are about to happen.

Teddy

August 26, 1970

The Honorable John Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Tower:

The League of Women Voters of Dallas urges you to support the proposed Constitutional Amendment for the direct election of the President.

Direct election with a runoff is most responsive to the will of the people because it is the only system which guarantees that the President will have received the most popular votes. It also encourages more voter participation by giving voters a direct role in the election.

Direct election does not imperil our federal system or curtail the rights of the states; these are adequately protected by representation in the Senate. Moreover, the size of a state should not be allowed to influence the outcome of a presidential election.

Uncertainties surrounding vote counts, challenges and recounts can certainly be resolved by Congressional legislation to assure uniform and prompt count and recount procedures in each state.

We urge you to reconsider your views concerning direct election, and give it your support and vote in the Senate. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

RL:pc

Teddy

August 26, 1970

The Honorable Ralph Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Yarborough:

The League of Women Voters of Dallas is gratified to see that you are among those Senators co-sponsoring the Constitutional Amendment for direct election of the President.

As you know, the League believes that direct election with a runoff is most responsive to the will of the people because it is the only system which guarantees that the President will have received the most popular votes, and because it encourages voter participation by giving voters a direct role in the election.

Thank you for your leadership in support of direct election.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

RL:pc

Teddy

August 26, 1970

The Honorable Graham Purcell
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Purcell:

The League of Women Voters of Dallas is alarmed to note that the Trade Bill (H. R. 18970) reported from the House Ways and Means Committee contains several restrictive provisions regarding United States trade policy, and we urge you, as strongly as we can, to oppose this bill when it reaches the floor after Labor Day.

This bill represents a step backward for U. S. trade policy, and if enacted, would have serious consequences both at home and abroad. Rather than encouraging a competitive system of trade which has been so good for this country, this bill gives specific aid to those industries not necessarily the most in need but who have had the most political clout.

As so often happens, the low-income family will be hit hardest by quotas on low-cost, bargain basement products. With inflation our major economic woe, this is a bad time to be limiting the supply of those necessities which are cheapest.

The reaction of the rest of the world to this regressive policy can only be one of erecting similar barriers. In these times of world tension and hoped-for progress toward peace, it would be catastrophic for this nation to turn its back on one of the few consistent means of working to increase harmony among nations.

We hope you will vote against this bill. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

RL:pc

also to: Collins
Cabell
Teague
Roberts

Teddy

August 31, 1970

The Honorable Wm. M. Colmer
Chairman, Rules Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Colmer:

The League of Women Voters of Dallas urges you to persuade the Committee on Rules to report H. R. 17555 for House floor action as soon as possible after the House reconvenes on September 9.

We support the adoption of a law to provide the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission strong enforcement powers and expanded coverage. The present limitation of EEOC authority of persuasion, conference and conciliation is not enough to produce the results necessary to end discrimination.

We hope you will do what you can to get this bill reported soon. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

RL:pc

similar letters to:

Rep. H. Allen Smith, Rules Comm.
Rep. Carl D. Perkins, Educ & Labor
Rep. Wm. H. Ayres, " "
Rep. James M. Collins, " "

Sen. Mike Mansfield
Sen. Hugh Scott

May 28, 1970

The Honorable Graham Purcell
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: H.R.4249 (Senate-passed bill)

Dear Mr. Purcell:

The League of Women Voters of Dallas urges you to vote for the Senate-passed version of H.R. 4249, should it be allowed to return to the House floor for concurrance.

We are all deeply concerned about the dissension in our country today and feel that weakening the voting rights bill of 1965 could bring about additional dissension and racial bitterness in areas of disenfranchisement. Now is the time to zero-in on action to protect the right to vote.

The League believes that the focused coverage of the Voting Rights Act offers a better opportunity for enforcement in the most recalcitrant jurisdictions than does the possible nationwide coverage of the House-passed bill which does not extend the trigger formula provisions.

We hope you share our views on this matter. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

RL/pc

Similar letters to: James M. Collins
Ray Roberts
Earle Cabell
Olin Teague
Graham Purcell

File

League of Women Voters of the U.S.
1730 M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

March, 1970

ANOTHER DIMENSION OF LOBBYING

We in the League have gained considerable respect on Capitol Hill because of the well-informed views of our members and our tenacity in seeking our goals. Congressmen frequently acknowledge our efforts to affect national legislation. For example, in a letter to the president of the League of Women Voters of Chicago, Illinois, Congressman John Kluczynski said, "Let me take advantage of the opportunity your letter provides to extend to you, on behalf of the entire membership of the League, my congratulations and personal appreciation for the unwavering and statesmanlike work the League has done for many years on pollution control. If an award were to be given the citizen group that has contributed the most toward progress in this field, I think it would be generally agreed that the League is without peer."

But the knowledge we have in our own fields is not enough for effective lobbying. Another important ingredient is a thorough understanding and knowledge of the Congressman and his District (or State). Much of a Congressman's work and interests reflect the interests of his District. When a Congressman comes to Washington, he usually asks to be put on a committee where he can do the most good for his District. For example, 16 of the 17 members of the Senate Interior Committee are from the western states. As the late Senator Robert Kerr once said, "I am a Senator of the United States, but I want it fully understood that in the United States Senate I represent the State of Oklahoma." Or as the Senate Majority Leader, Mike Mansfield put it on a recent Meet the Press program, "I am first of all a Senator from the State of Montana. That is my primary responsibility here, and I intend to adhere to that responsibility as long as I'm in the Senate of the United States."

It is most important for the League and the member to know not only the committee assignments of her Congressman and how these reflect his interests, but also how he sees his District and its needs. Here are a few suggestions to help in getting better acquainted with your Congressman.

Gathering the Facts: You might start off by assigning one member to build a file on your Congressman. Most of this work can be done at home. It is an ideal job for someone who wants to help but finds it difficult to get out to meetings. A few suggestions about how to begin are:

a. If you have a newly elected Congressman or are beginning a file on an incumbent, collect as much of his campaign material as possible, newspaper clips on his speeches, and the candidates questionnaires. Local newspaper stories are a continuing source of information after the session begins.

b. Each Congressman is allowed a certain number of Congressional Records for his constituency. Ask him if your League can be placed on the mailing list to receive the Record. This will give you a complete record of his votes and statements he makes in Congress. The Records will pile up in a hurry for they come out every day that Congress is in session. However, it is not necessary to read the entire record or to read it everyday. Every two weeks is published an index by subject and Congressman, which can readily be checked. If the person making the file has time, she can route to the Program chairman a considerable amount of valuable and pertinent substantive information put in the Record by other Congressmen as well. The Record also lists

useful Congressional Committee reports, which can be ordered from the appropriate committee.

c. Many Congressmen send a regular newsletter to their constituents in which they talk about what they are doing in Washington and what they think is important to their District. Ask to be put on the mailing list.

Increasing member interest: If the Congressman does publish a newsletter, you might include this information in your local bulletin so that individual members can write to the Congressman to receive it. More and more Congressmen are making public opinion polls in their Districts. If the members are on his mailing lists, they will be able to participate in these polls.

Knowing his work: Much of the Congressman's work on Capitol Hill revolves around his congressional committees. These are the real power centers in Congress, and the committee and subcommittee chairmen wield tremendous influence by their committee positions, which are based on the seniority system. Even if your Congressman is not a committee or subcommittee chairman, he may be a ranking member of the committee or subcommittee.

Knowing his staff: The Congressman's staff plays a vital role in his work, particularly the Administrative Assistant. Since the demands on the Congressman's time are overwhelming, a high percentage of letters are handled by staff, as well as much of the work in his office. Many Representatives and Senators have offices in the District or state. Some put their key man in the home offices, while others have only part-time secretaries, who route everything to the Washington office. Find out where the local office is and get to know who runs it. Also urge League members visiting Washington to drop in at their Congressman's office. It is not always possible to see him, but an aide is usually available. His friendship should be cultivated along with the Congressman's.

Serving the Congressman: Many Congressmen have found our publications valuable background reading. The national office frequently receives calls from a Congressman's office asking for copies of our publications. When a new publication comes out and you know he has a special interest in this field, send him a copy with a covering letter.

* * * * *

Take to National Convention

League of Women Voters of the U.S.
1730 M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

March, 1970

TO: Dallas
(Local League interviewing Representative or state Board member interviewing U.S. Senator or Representative with no local League in his District)

FOR: Congressional Interview with Jim Collins
(fill in name of Representative or U.S. Senator)

FROM: National Office via state League

Because there is more than one local League in many Congressional Districts, the state League each year assigns one League in each district to be responsible for setting up the annual interview. Your League has been assigned the interview with the above listed Representative.

The national convention this May will offer an excellent opportunity for League delegates to meet with their Congressmen in Washington for the first time. Your state League will help coordinate the Wednesday afternoon on Capitol Hill (See page 6 of Convention Workbook 1). Because of the Congressman's busy schedule, it may not be possible to arrange to meet with him in Washington. If you cannot arrange a Washington meeting, you should try to meet with one or more of his key staff members on Wednesday afternoon.

If you are not able to meet with your Representative in Washington, you will want to try to arrange for a meeting back in your Congressional District later in the spring or early summer. Some Leagues who meet with their Congressman in Washington may still want to set up a meeting in the District to invite more members.

Following the interview, we hope you will fill in the copies of the enclosed report form, save one copy for your files, send one to the state office and one to the national office. The national Board and staff find these interview reports a valuable source of information, especially when a national Board member testifies before a Congressional Committee or meets with one of the Congressmen in Washington. Good luck!

THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE INTERVIEWS

The usefulness of congressional interviews depends largely on the preparation made by the League before the meetings take place. Interviewers should know the League positions on the issues to be discussed, should be aware of current developments in these fields, and, as far as possible, the position of the Congressman.

The Congressman: You will want to find out as much as you can about your Congressman before you talk to him (check former interviews, earlier candidate's questionnaire, voting records, newspaper stories, and his newsletter). Congressmen usually specialize in two or three major areas, usually in the fields which come under their committee assignments. You should know not only on which committees he is, but also on which subcommittees. What is the key legislation in which he has been interested? Some of this information may be useful during the interview. All

You might like to invite the Irving delegate to go with you.

of it will help you formulate tactful questions and make the meeting an easy, pleasant occasion. One special warning -- don't let the interview deteriorate into a monologue on either side. This is an excellent opportunity for a two-way exchange of ideas. Take along a few national League publications to leave with him. If the state League or the local Leagues in the district are working on issues in areas of special interest to the Congressman, you might want to give him some of your publications.

League Program: Those taking part in the interview will want to review both our national program and the action we have taken. Recent League Action Service publications should be helpful background.

Planning the Interview: Many Leagues tell us that it is a good idea to vary the pattern of congressional interviews from year to year. Sometimes it seems appropriate to send your well-prepared delegation of two or three members to the Congressman's home office for the interview. Sometimes a tea, breakfast, coffee, luncheon, or dinner meeting may have more appeal (don't forget to invite the Congressman's wife if the affair has social overtones). This past year we have had some reports of very successful teas and coffees at member's homes, some involving husbands of members, some with the participation of other Leagues. The breakfast meeting also was reported successful by several Leagues. Most Leagues found the informal approach to be the most successful in providing a free flow of ideas and opinions, although many Leagues used the formal interview with 1 to 5 members with good substantive results. We also got some reports of public meetings which involved larger numbers of participants and received increased publicity. You have been assigned by the state League to be in charge of the interview, but if there are other Leagues in his District, you will want to consider ways of involving their members -- this seems to have been successful in several instances in the past. Whichever approach you use, be sure to make an appointment or send an invitation well in advance. You might even offer several dates, or let the Congressman suggest his best time. Congressmen are busy people, in session and out.

THE INTERVIEW -- SOME DO'S AND DON'TS

1. Don't try to go over every League program item. Select two or three topics for discussion. Try to pick topics of special interest to your Congressman if possible. You can leave League publications on the other areas for his reading later.

2. Do not take notes during the interview. As soon as you finish the interview and leave the meeting sit down and make notes.

3. Don't be afraid to admit ignorance on special points. Say, "I'll look that up and let you know later", and be sure to do so.

4. Confine your conversation as far as possible to the measures you are discussing.

5. Remember that the League is strictly non-partisan and that we as members are interested in the public merits of the measure.

6. Keep a sense of proportion and realize the subject in which you are so interested may not be important to the person you are interviewing, except as you are able to make it so.

7. Try to avoid prolonged or controversial argument. It is only likely to confirm a Congressman in his own opinions.

8. Do not stay so long that the Congressman has to give the signal for departure.

9. Take every possible means to prevent your Congressman from committing himself definitely against your position. This is important.

10. Leave the way open for another interview.

11. If the Congressman is known to favor our position, show that you realize that fact and ask him how you can work more effectively toward the same goal.

12. If you have someone in your League who has been willing to take on the assignment of following the Congressional Record which is published daily when Congress is in session (see enclosed ANOTHER DIMENSION OF LOBBYING -- b. on Gathering the Facts), ask the Congressman if he would be able to send the Congressional Record to that League member. Many Congressmen also publish a Report Home to their constituents. Ask him to send each League in his district a copy of it and send him the appropriate names and addresses.

13. Leave the Congressman with a friendly feeling, even if he disagrees. Emphasize the areas of agreement rather than disagreement.

REPORTING THE INTERVIEW

The Report Form: We are enclosing three copies of the report from to be fillied out on the interview -- one for your files -- one for the state office -- and one for the national office. This report should be filled out as fully as possible. It is valuable for your future use in writing the Congressman. The Report of your interview will alsc be helpful to the state League. National Board members review your reports before they testify before a Congressional Committee, or meet with your Congressman in Washington.

Reporting to the Members: You will want to tell the members about your interview in your local Voter. If it was an informal meeting in his office with a few members, remembers that often in a small informal meeting Congressmen will give "off the record" comments and background information. Use your discretion in reporting your meeting with him.

Reporting to other Leagues: If there are other Leagues in the Congressional District that were not at the meeting, send them a report. This information will help them in their future lobbying efforts with the Congressman.

ANOTHER DIMENSION OF LOBBYING

We are including ANOTHER DIMENSION OF LOBBYING again this year as it contains still pertinent information on how to be more effective in your lobbying.

file

May 6, 1970 James M. Collins, Congressman
Reports sent to Natl, State + Pauline Coffman

Collins interview

1. D.C. petition: Now I can't see why you want that. What we ought to do is to move all the people out of the District.
2. Sewage disposal: water is very important, but do you know how much of the money appropriated for fiscal '70 has been spent? Can we really use $1.5 billion? It takes a long time to plan these things.
3. Budget - we might be able to balance it this year again -
4. Taxes - we can't raise taxes anymore. He gets reads of mail from women complaining of h.c. of living. Tax loopholes are not really bad (example: oil depletion) - taxes can be used as a stimulus to business. He would favor quick write-off of costs (to a company) of pollution control devices, like 3 yrs, + then the businesses would choose most economical way to cut pollution, + govt would get a bargain.
5. Income maintenance: will be terribly expensive. So many people wont work if they can't get welfare or unemployment compensation. Likes the LTV bit about ~~OIT~~ bringing people up, training them + retaining 80% as employees.
6. Water: is very important to Texas. Was leery of Texas Water Plan (bringing water from the Miss.)
7. Green belts - likes them.
8. Guns: against gun registration but wants mandatory minimum 1 yr in jail for any ~~crime~~ infraction involving a gun + stiffer penalties all along.

~~West Trip to the Hill~~

9. Police: what's wrong with foot patrolmen with guns? Police brutality - nonsense. Liked store front police in Dallas. Is LWV hard-line?
10. LWV - The League is pretty visionary at times - idealistic, but we like your candidates' rallies.
11. Please let me know when you take a stand on something --- " " " " answer to questions about sewage disposal.
12. Pollution: We have just found out that if you switch from coal to electric power, you use gobs of water & get it hot.
13. Income maintenance: This will be astronomical in cost & will ruin our Soc. Sec. system by using its funds. Soc Sec should have a reserve fund.
14. Phila. plan: That's terrible? If you have quotas for blacks, why not for Latin Am's? Whole idea is wrong.

Rumsfeld on prelim. results of family assist system (only income considered; not work or day care components)

1. No evidence that work effort declined.
2. Low income families who are in program buy less "on time" than control group.
3. Program can be administered for much less than present welfare system.

file

May 6, 1970

James M. Collins, Congressman
Reports sent to Natl, State + Pauline Coffman

Collins interview

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League of Women Voters of the United States
1730 M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

May 4, 1970

SOME TIMELY ISSUES
FOR DISCUSSION WITH YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

There is an excellent opportunity for League members this week, especially Wednesday afternoon, to get League views directly to the Congress through Congressional visits. Since four major pieces of legislation are now in the vital stage of decision-making on Capitol Hill, it is in these areas that delegates can be most effective:

ELECTORAL COLLEGE REFORM (Times for Action, February 6, April 15):

The crucial vote on the Constitutional Amendment will come up in the Senate shortly. The direct election plan passed its first hurdle in the Senate on April 23 when the full Senate Judiciary Committee voted 11-6 to report out Senator Bayh's Constitutional Amendment for the direct election of the President and Vice President with a run-off election if no pair of candidates gains 40% plurality of the vote. The final vote in committee came after several other reform proposals had been narrowly defeated.

The Senate will probably begin floor debate on the Constitutional Amendment the end of May. In order to pass -- 2/3rdsof the Senators present and voting must vote yes -- i.e. 67 yes votes are needed if all Senators vote on final passage. There are indications that several Senators might filibuster this issue. Even if there is no filibuster, other alternatives will undoubtedly be offered on the floor -- such as Senator Ervin's proposal which would keep the Electoral College system but abolish personal electors.

Some useful information on the Electoral College has been included in the state President's packet (given to state Presidents on Monday), and information is available at the Congressional Desk (including a limited supply of April 15 Time for Action) for those who wish to go up to the Hill on Electoral College. A list of Senators who support the direct popular vote is posted on the LEAGUE ACTION NEWS bulletin board (located next to the Congressional Desk). Feedback to us on Senators (or staff) response to your visit is important as it will indicate where the work needs to be done to get the necessary 67 votes for direct popular vote for President and Vice President.

TRADE LEGISLATION (Time for Action, April 23, 1970):

A Time for Action was sent to local and state Leagues last week. Those delegates with Congressmen on the House Ways and Means Committee will find this an excellent and timely opportunity to articulate League views for freer trade and against protectionism

The Ways and Means Committee is shortly to begin hearings on the Administration's Trade Act and on other trade legislation (scores of quota bills have been introduced this year). Information on the Trade Act and on protectionist legislation has been included in the state Presidents packet (given to state Presidents on Monday), and can also be obtained from the Congressional Desk for those who wish to go up to the Hill on Trade. (Time for Actions are also available in limited supply.)

At this point, it is vital that a sentiment for liberal-trade policies be voiced and that the dangers of protectionist legislation be spelled out to Congressmen. Those voices for quota legislation have been loud and long -- and are getting results. The voices of the liberal-trade community on this issue is needed to stem the tide now running toward protectionist legislation.

It is also important for the League national office to get some feedback from delegates who have visited congressmen (or staff) and discussed trade. The League is working with several other liberal-trade organizations in this area. Together, it is hoped that Congressmen's views on trade can be ascertained and that those Congressmen who are not sure or who do not have sufficient information on the subject can be brought up-to-date on the importance of the United States maintaining a policy of freer world trade.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR FEDERAL GRANTS FOR SEWAGE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION (Time for Action, April 15, 1970):

Mrs. Donald E. Clusen, National Water Resources Chairman, is testifying Monday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 5 before the House and Senate Appropriations Public Works Subcommittees in support of the $1.25 billion appropriation for federal grants for sewage facility construction in fiscal 1971. The Public Works Appropriations bill is expected to reach the House floor the first week of June. The League is again cooperating with the Citizens Crusade for Clean Water to gain support in Congress for the full funding for sewage facility construction. In the April 15 Time for Action, (available at Congressional Desk in limited supply) we listed members of the House of Representatives who have pledged support for the full funding for fiscal 1971 (see also LEAGUE ACTION NEWS bulletin board next to Congressional Desk). These Representatives should be commended for their support -- and the rest of the members of the House should be encouraged to support the full funding. You will also want to let your Senators know that the League is supporting the full funding for fiscal 1971.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - NON-VOTING DELEGATE AND CHARTER COMMISSION BILLS (Report from the Hill, January 12, 1970 - page 11):

The Senate on October 1 passed two bills containing proposals made by President Nixon to give the District of Columbia a non-voting delegate to the House (S. 2163) and to create a 13-member, partially elected home rule study commission for the District of Columbia (S. 2164).

The D.C. bills have been stalled in the House District of Columbia Subcommittee # 3, chaired by Representative Dowdy (D. Tex.). The subcommittee has had several days of hearings during the past two months, but no vote on the bills has been taken. It is necessary first to get the subcommittee to vote on the bills. Members of the subcommittee are: John Dowdy (D. Tex.), G. Elliott Hagan (D. Ga.), Brock Adams (D. Wash), Earle Cabell (D. Tex.), Joel Broyhill (R. Va.), William Harsha (R. Ohio), Lawrence Hogan (R. Md.), and Earl Landgrebe (R. Ind.). These are the key men to be talked to in order to move the bills out of the subcommittee. You will want to urge all members of the House D.C. Committee to move the bills to the floor of the House as soon as possible. Delegates will also want to encourage other Representatives to get in touch with the D.C. Committee Chairman (John McMillan, D. S.C.), and the ranking minority member (Ancher Nelsen, R. Minn.), urging them to report the bills out of the full committee.

* * * * *

For additional information on Legislation, VISIT THE CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION DESK AND SEE THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND STAFF SPECIALIST IN THE PROGRAM AREA OF INTEREST TO YOU. At the Congressional Desk, you can also get tips on lobbying and help in setting up interviews. INTERVIEW FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION DESK for those delegates who will be going to the Hill to meet with their Senators, Representative or staff member. After they are filled out (This should be done immediately after the meeting), they should be returned to the Information Center at Convention and put in the staff box marked D. STIMPSON.

April 28, 1970

Senator Ralph Yarborough
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Yarborough:

The 635 members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas were most pleased to learn that the proposed Constitutional amendment calling for direct election of the President and Vice President with a runoff provision if no candidate receives 40 percent of the popular vote was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee recently.

We urge you to give the direct election method your support on the floor of the Senate. It received the overwhelming endorsement of the House and has the support of President Nixon.

The League of Women Voters has reached a national concensus supporting the direct popular vote method and believes it is essential to representative government. The Dallas League agreed with this position after a careful study of the alternatives to the Electoral College system.

We know you are considering this matter carefully and hope you will conclude, as we have, that representative government is best served when the people elect the President and Vice President directly.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

HL/pc
also sent
C. to Senator Tower

April 28, 1970

Representative James M. Collins
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Collins:

The League of Women Voters of Dallas urges you to join in the effort to secure full funding of the $1.25 billion authorization under the Clean Water Restoration Act for sewage facility construction in fiscal 1971.

We are now, more than ever, aware of the need for pollution control. We recognize that President Nixon has proposed a new program for pollution control and that bills designed to enact the Administration's recommendations into law have been introduced into Congress. We also recognize, however, that orderly deliberations over a new clean water program will take time.

Treatment plant construction must continue while these deliberations are taking place. In order that states will receive their allotments for fiscal 1971, full funding of the $1.25 billion as authorized for fiscal 1971 under the existing program should be appropriated.

We hope you will join in this effort. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

RL/pc

Similar letters sent to: Earle Cabell (on list of supporters)
Sen. Ralph Yarborough (Approp. Comm.)
Sen. John Tower
Rep. Geo. Mahon (Ch. House Approp. Comm.)

April 30, 1970

The People's Forum
Dallas Times Herald
1101 Pacific Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Sirs:

I noted with interest your editorial of April 4 opposing the proposed Constitutional amendment to permit direct popular election of the President.

The League of Women Voters has reached national concensus supporting the direct election of the President and Vice President with a runoff provision if no candidate receives 40 percent of the popular vote. The House of Representatives approved direct election by a vote of 339 to 79. President Nixon has endorseddit, and now the Senate Judiciary Committee has given its approval.

Many alternatives have been proposed, but direct election alone prevents any possibility of a President being elected who has received a minority of the vote, and it alone embraces the one-man, one-vote principle completely.

You are alarmed because states would be deprived of any role in choosing the President. This does not "prove out". The largest states would still be the major target of presidential campaigning because a win in the ten largest could produce a victor. Under any system of presidential election it is inevitable that the largest states are going to be the prime targets of presidential campaigning.

The argument you mention that direct election "would weaken the power of minority groups in large states" has been answered by Tom Wicker in his New York Times column of January 30, 1969, entitled "In the Nation: Some Are More Equal, etc." as follows:

> "While urban-based minority groups might lose some of their power over big blocks of electoral votes, is there any longer a justification for that advantage now that the one-man, one-vote rulings are putting an end to rural-dominated state legislatures? All minority-group votes would be counted, moreover, under the direct election plan; those of blacks who voted for Hubert Humphrey in Illinois, for example, were negated when Richard Nixon took all that state's electoral votes in 1968.

(continued)

"Neither the small states nor the large states, in short, would suffer from direct voting. The people of one would only become as important as the people of the other--no more and no less."

The charge is also made that direct, popular election could lead to substantive frauds. Of course, fraud is possible under any system of election. We should be able to devise means of keeping the possibility of fraud at a minimum.

The League of Women Voters of Dallas studied the issue of presidential election reform, and concluded what thousands of Leaguers across the nation concluded: that direct election is essential to representative government.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

RL/pc

April 23, 1970

Governor Preston Smith
State Capitol Building
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Smith:

Members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas are strong supporters of the "War on Poverty", and we urge an uninterrupted flow of funds from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Dallas Community Action agency to carry on the programs so desperately needed.

The Dallas Community Action agency has five neighborhood centers and numerous community houses making available educational and vocational opportunities to many peoply trying to help themselves. A cutback in staff and facilities due to lack of funds at this time would be a disaster in terms of motivation and morale.

We urge you to ratify the OEO grant immediately.

The Dallas League of Women Voters, with 635 members, works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. We have studied the local "War on Poverty", and we beiieve its programs are of great benefit to our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

RL/pc

Oct '69

Teddy

TELEGRAM TO SENATOR ALLEN J. ELLENDER, CHAIRMAN PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The 500 members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas, Texas urge your support of appropriation of full amount authorized for grants to aid construction of sewage treatment plants for 1970. We can no longer afford to let our lakes and rivers become little more than open sewers.

Mrs. H enry Lanz, President.

Teddy

October 25, 1969

Senator Ralph Yarborough
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Yarborough:

The members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas are very concerned about the amounts of money needed to achieve really clean water in every State. It seems that every year the gap between what amounts are authorized and what is appropriated widens instead of narrowing. We believe time is rapidly running out to stop water pollution and we must be prepared to spend adequately to encourage the states to increase their expenditures.

Although we are pleased that the House has increased appropriation for federal grants for sewage facilitys over that requested by the President, we still hope that the Senate will approve the full 1 billion authorized. Since pending applications from the states amounted to $2.25 billion as of last March, the 1 billion amount does not seem in the least excessive.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President

RL/dc

We have sent a telegram to Senator Ellender (chrm. of sub-committee) asking for his support.

Teddy

Tower has answered -

August 1, 1969

Nat'l Office

The Honorable Ralph Yarborough
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Yarborough:

The members of the Dallas League of Women Voters are very concerned about some aspects of the Tax Reform Bill as reported out by the House Ways and Means Committee. The provisions that directly affect our organization are the restrictions on foundations which would eliminate Voters Service activities such as voter registration, educational campaigns about issues presented for consideration by the general electorate, or panel discussions with candidates.

The National, State, and Local Leagues and the League of Women Voters Education Fund have been actively involved in projects of this kind for nearly 50 years. We hope that you will be able to help to moderate the provisions of the tax reform bill when it is presented to the Senate Finance Committee, and the whole Senate. If there have been abuses wh would be the first to want them corrected, but we also feel that throwing the baby out with the bathwater is not in the national interest.

We would appreciate your comments and your support for our organizations involvement in non-partisan Voters Service Activities.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President

RL/dc

Same letter to Senator Tower -

cc - Nat. Office, State Office Mrs Lanz

October 28, 1969

Dear Senator Yarborough

We have been attempting to follow the course of the "Whitten Amendments" Sections 408 and 409 of the 1970 Labor-HEW Appropriations bill (H.R. 13111). but the Dallas Papers have made no mention of progress.

We are very definitely against attempts to undercut by means of legislation, school desegregation progress already achieved, and yet to be achieved, by the use of cloudy language in an appropriations bill to weaken the authority of HEW to press for desegration. This does not mean that we are for or against bussing or freedom of choice plans in the various secions of the country but we feel current federal law guidelines for School Desegration should be allowed to work for a reasonable length of time before they are changed.

We would appreciate your clarification of this issue for us and would be interested in your views on the subject.

Needless to say, we encourage your support also for full funding of the Labor-HEW programs

Sincerely

Mrs. Henry Lanz,
President

JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA., CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM PROXMIRE, WIS.
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CHARLES E. GOODELL, N.Y.
ROBERT W. PACKWOOD, OREG.
DUDLEY L. O'NEAL, JR.
STAFF DIRECTOR AND GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 16, 1969

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President
League of Women Voters of Dallas
2626 West Mockingbird
Dallas, Texas 75235

Dear Mrs. Lanz:

Thank you very much for your recent correspondence.

I certainly share your concern over the extension for two years of the authorization for the Office of Economic Opportunity. While this program has been plagued by mismanagement in many areas, I do believe that under the new Director, Donald Rumsfeld, the programs will begin to see fruition. The Administration has promised a vigorous assault on poverty in this nation. You can be assured that all reasonable efforts will have my full support.

I do appreciate hearing from you. Please continue to keep me informed of your views.

Sincerely yours,

John Tower

John G. Tower

JGT:Ssm

Noted - D. Clark

Tell Diane

OCT 1 1 1969

RALPH YARBOROUGH, TEX., CHAIRMAN
JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J.
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
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ROBERT O. HARRIS, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1969

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President
League of Women Voters of Dallas
2626 W. Mockingbird
Dallas, Texas 75235

Dear Mrs. Lanz:

Thank you for your letter of September 29 regarding extension of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

You will be pleased to know that on October 1 the Labor and Public Welfare Committee met in executive session and approved a bill that was appreciably stronger than that recommended by the Administration. The bill will be reported in the very near future.

Thank you for your concern in this matter.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Ralph Yarborough

Ralph Yarborough
Chairman

noted by D. Clark

RY:rhh

T File Tax Reform having to do with foundation money

JOHN G. TOWER
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING AND CURRENCY
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
DEFENSE PRODUCTION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 11, 1969

Mrs. Henry Lanz
2626 W. Mockingbird
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mrs. Lanz:

Thank you very much for your recent correspondence concerning certain tax reform proposals affecting charitable organizations.

As I am sure you are aware, this matter has been receiving a great deal of attention in the Congress this year. It is my feeling that we must be careful not to impede the good work done by the many charitable foundations by overzealously correcting the inequities which have resulted from the present laws in some instances. It is important that these inequities be corrected, but you may be sure that I shall oppose changes which I feel would be harmful to legitimate charitable efforts.

It was a pleasure to have your views on this matter, and I shall keep them in mind.

Sincerely yours,

John Tower

JOHN G. TOWER

JGT:Af

T File

DICK REED
DISTRICT 33
PLACE 4
DALLAS COUNTY

The State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEES:
AERONAUTICS
LABOR
MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION
MILITARY AFFAIRS
PENITENTIARIES

September 22, 1969

The second Special Session of the 61st Legislature adjourned on Tuesday, September 9, 1969, fourteen days following the adjournment of the unsuccessful first Special Session. On Saturday, September 6, the Legislature fulfilled the primary purpose for which these two Special Sessions were called, with the passage of a 348.6 million dollar tax bill, to underwrite a two year State budget.

This tax measure was approved on the eleventh day of the second Special Session, being the forty-first day from the day the first Special Session convened. Though it did not rain continiously those preceeding forty days and forty nights here in our State Capitol, as it did in Noah's day, it could hardly have been more stormy. In fact most observers rate these forty days and forty nights as the stormiest in modern times for the Texas Legislature.

To be sure these two Sessions of the 61st Legislature were a far cry from the normally quiet Sessions of the past few years. I shall make some of my observations about both, the events and the implications, of the events of these unusual Sessions after an explanation of the tax bill. I hope you will read my comments completely and carefully as I think you will find them most interesting.

The 348.6 million dollar tax measure, having received in excess of the two-thirds majority of both Houses necessary to place a bill in immediate effect, is dated to become effective on October 1st of this year.

The adoption of this tax bill represents at least a partial victory for those of us who fought so vigorously against the earlier top-heavy, consummer tax proposals such as those which would extend the sales tax to services, repairs and groceries.

This bill, while extending the sales tax to cover beer and alcoholic beverages avoids the extension of this tax to necessities.

Aproximately 22% of the revenue to be produced by this bill, will come from the ¼ of one percent increase in the present sales tax, while 38% of its revenue will come from increased taxes on luxurie items, and 40% from increased business taxes.

The following breakdown shows where the 348.6 million dollars will come from:

1. Increasing the sales tax by ¼ of 1%---------- $79,641,663
2. Extending sales tax to beer and liquor-------- $39,600,000
3. Increasing the Corporation Franchise tax------ $42,008,712
4. Increasing the tax on cigarettes by 4½ cents per pack---------- $79,546,735
5. Increasing by ½ of 1% the Natural Gas tax----- $10,000,000
6. Levying a tax of 5¢ for each drink served in private clubs and on airlines---------- $13,224,691
7. Adding "Destination" allocation factor to the Franchise tax---------- $84,616,880

TOTAL---- $348,638,681

After passing this tax measure the Legislature moved along very quietly and speedily, to approve the two year appropriations bill, to act on the 39 bills which were passed in the Regular Session and vetoed by the Governor, and to act on several additional matters which were submitted by the Governor. One of the 39 bills which was again adopted is the omnibus Courts bill, a bill which creates five new courts, three civil and two criminal, for Dallas County.

Now some of my abservations about the events and the implications.

First I would point out that probably no previous Session of the Texas Legislature has had its activities so thoroughly exposed to the general Public as have these two Special Sessions of the 61st Legislature. Without doubt the radio and TV stations and the newspapers in our state gave more time and space to the covering of the activities of these two Sessions than ever before. The natural by-product of this extensive coverage of this Legislature's activities, is a more enlightened public and thus a more concerned public. And in my judgement this is as it should be.

In support of the suggestion that there was a more concerned public, let me point out that I received more phone calls, more telegrams, and more cards and letters in the forty-four days of these two Special Sessions than I did in the entire, one hundred and forty days of the Regular Session. And in my judgement this too is good.

My only real fear about so much attention suddenly being focused on the activities of these two Sessions is that you who were observing closely for the first time, may have misinterpreted what actually took place. I am concerned that the numerous Editorials and Editorial Cartoons depicting the influence of the many lobbyist on the present Legislature, may have led some new observers to believe that these Special Interest groups just came into power during these two Special Sessions. However the truth is that because of the excellant job done by our Radio and TV stations, and our Newspapers, these Special Interest groups had much of their activities publicly exposed, for the first time.

Actually these Special Interest groups have been much more influential in the peaceful and quiet Sessions of the past. In fact much of the noise generated during these two Sessions can be attributed to an awareness on the part of the lobby that their influence is on the decline. For you see though it is true in these two called Sessions of the 61st Legislature, powerful lobbyist were able to attach to some of the tax proposals, self serving provisions either exempting their interest form taxation or even providing for reductions for their Special interest, these same powerful lobbyist were unsuccessful in getting a majority of the 61st Legislature to approve these self serving provisions. And though it is true that in these called Sessions of the 61st Legislature, powerful lobbyist were able to influence the fabrication of several virtually 100% direct consummer tax proposals, these lobbyist were unsuccessful in getting the 61st Legislature to adopt any of these measures.

Though I would be the last to attempt to justify all that took place in these two noisy and sometimes unruly Special Sessions, I think many Senators and Representatives of the 61st Legislature demonstrated a genuine concern for the welfare of the people of this state. After all it is because of their efforts that much of the bad which almost happened, failed to happen.

In closing I would like to again thank all of you who communicated your views to me during these Special Sessions. And though the Legislature has adjourned I hope you will not hesitate to write or call me if I can be of service to you during the interim. My Dallas, address is, 4034 Shelley Blvd. Dallas, Texas 75211, and my phone # is 339-3360.

Sincerely,

Dick Reed

Dick Reed

September 11, 1969

The Editor
The Dallas Morning News
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Sir:

We were most interested in the editorial article "Legislative Criticism - How Justified?" by Mike Kingston. The League of Women Voters and its members can be considered "fans" of the Texas Legislature, but this does not mean unqualified approval of things as they stand at the moment. Rather it expresses a strong belief that State Government as an integral part of our lives should be supported by all Texans with more intelligent understanding than has been evidenced up to now.

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to promoting good citizenship by informed and active participation in all areas of government. After a lengthy study, we came to the conclusion that the first step in modernizing government in Texas would be a thorough revision of the Constitution. More recent, a three year study of the Texas Legislature, has convinced us that such things as increased salaries for legislators, annual sessions (not necessarily limited to budget making), more professional staff and research facilities, changes in the committee system, etc. would make the Legislature more effective in solving the problems of our complex society. We also believe that legislators cannot exist in a vacuum. They must have financial assistance from a wide cross-section of citizens to get elected and then supported in office by widespread interest and concern in all aspects of legislation.

We commend the efforts of the Dallas Morning News to inform its readers about the legislature and for its support of measures to make a more effective state government. Since the Dallas Morning News and the League of Women Voters have been unsuccessful in mobilizing public support in large enough numbers to accomplish our objectives, perhaps we now need some articles about "Criticism of Texas Voters - How Justified?".

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President

RL/dc

Teddy-

Telegram sent on May 22, 1969 to: Senators, Ralph Hall
Ike Harris
Mike McKool

Dallas League of Women Voters members urge support of SCR-89, Mauzy rescinding SCR-24. We believe apportionment by population fairest to all.

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President

Teddy

May 22, 1969

The Honorable Gus Mutscher, Speaker
The House of Representatives
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It seems to the members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas that proposals for a better voter registration system for Texas are the step-children of the 61st. Legislature.

We hope that your support of SJR-13 to remove annual registration from the Constitution will give it the impetus necessary to pass the House before the end of the session.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz,
President

HL/dc

Lamy

May 14, 1969

May 14, 1969

The Honorable Ben Atwell
The House of Representatives
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Atwell:

For many years, members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas have been supporting a system of voter registration for Texas that would be convenient for the voter, economical and efficient to administer, and containing adequate safeguards against fraud.

Toward this goal, we urge your support of two proposals which will be before the House shortly.

SJR-13 to remove the annual registration requirement from the constitution.

HB-211 would extend registration periods and provides procedures to prevent fraud in registration. We believe many of the Voter Registration difficulties in Dallas County this spring would have been avoided by a longer period for registration.

If, after successful passage of SJR-13 by the legislature, it is defeated at the polls, the passage of HB-211 would be a significant step forward in the revitalization of the Voter Registration system.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lang
President

NL/dc

Same letter to: Bracewell — Senators
Atwell — Clark
Wright — Blanton
Reed — O'Daniel
Holmes — Coleman
McKissack
Hazon

Lanz

May 14, 1969

The Honorable Griffith Moore
The House of Representatives
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Moore:

As part of the League of Women Voters of Dallas continuing search for a better system of Voter Registration for Texas we urge your support of HB-211 by Mr. Stroud.

If the proposal to remove the annual registration requirement is unsuccessful (which we certainly hope it is not), this measure, which extends registration time periods and provides procedures to prevent fraud would be a significant step toward the re-vitalization of Voter Registration in Texas

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President

RL/do

Teddy

May 10, 1969

The Honorable Gus Mutscher
Speaker, The House of Representatives
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The League of Women Voters of Dallas and its six hnndred members hope that in the tremendous press of legislation in these last weeks, you will not overlook HB-211 of Mr. Stroud, Mr. Price, et al.

Texas desperatly needs a revitalized Voter Registration system and this bill providing safeguards against fraud in registration procedures and extending registration periods is a good step in filling that need.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President

RL/dc

Teddy -

May 4, 1969

The Honorable Joe Ratcliff
The House of Representatives
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Ratcliff:

For many years the members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas have been working toward a system of Voter Registration for Texas that would be convenient for the voter, economical and efficient to administer, and containing adequate safeguards against fraud. We consider a continuing registration system to be a more positive approach than the annual registration now required by the Constitution.

We urge you to consider favorably, SJR-13 already passed by the Senate, to repeal the annual registration requirement from the Constitution as an essential first step in obtaining a more adequate and convenient Voter Registration system for the state

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz,
President

TL/dc

cc/S.O.(2) Mrs. May -

Teddy Lanz

May 4, 1959

Senator Ralph M. Hall
The Senate
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator Hall:

The members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas urge your support of SB-368 setting up a Texas Human Relations Commission. We support this measure because it provides ethnic group representation, provides powers to establish local sections to investigate individual complaints and negotiate with wide sectors in a community and provides enforcement machinery.

While there are federal laws providing for equality of opportunity in education, employment, and housing, implementation of these laws rest mainly with State and Local authorities.

We believe that a strong Human Relations Commission for Texas is a constructive effort to assert that discrimination is indeed unlawful and that the State is concerned with improving conditions and opportunities for all Texans.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President

RL/de

Similar letters to: Reps Joe Erlman
Jack Blanton
Dick McKissack
} HB. 694

CC - Mrs. Lanz, 5.0(2) Mrs May

Tell Diana

JUL 14 1969

DICK REED
DISTRICT 33
PLACE 4
DALLAS COUNTY

The State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEES:
AERONAUTICS
LABOR
MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION
MILITARY AFFAIRS
PENITENTIARIES

June 1969

Dear Friend,

This is my final report on the activities of the regular session of the Sixty-first Legislature. Since Governor Smith vetoed the one-year appropriation bill approved overwhelmingly by both the House and Senate, there will be a special session of the Sixty-first Legislature the latter part of July and the early part of August. The job of the legislature in this special session will be to write an appropriations bill acceptable to the governor, a tax bill which produces adequate revenue to underwrite the appropriations bill, and to take action on any other measure which the governor submits for legislative consideration. I will have further comments on this at the close of my newsletter.

A number of bills primarily affecting Dallas County received the approval of the Sixty-first Legislature. House Bill #303 providing for the creation of the University of Texas at Dallas, sponsored by Rep. Jack Blanton and the entire Dallas delegation, survived a number of serious threats to become a reality. The passage of Senate Bill #202 and Senate Bill #373 providing for ad valorem taxation of some properties owned by businesses not heretofore subject to taxation should be of considerable assistance in providing additional revenue to the county, the cities, and the school districts. A bill which should be of much significance to Dallas County is the one providing for the creation and financing of a crime laboratory at Parkland Hospital. A bill was approved that will allow the Firemen's and Policemen's Pension Fund of the City of Dallas to offer optional retirement plans. Another bill of great importance to Dallas County, the Omnibus Courts Bill, was one of those receiving the governor's veto. Hopefully, the governor will see fit to submit this proposal in the special session.

In two very historic moves, the Sixty-first Legislature approved the torts claims act for the State of Texas and its political subdivisions, and a minimum wage bill. The torts claims act seeks to afford recourse to a person for injury or property damage resultant from the negligence of a government employee. After vetoing the original bill, Governor Smith saw fit to sign a slightly modified version of the Texas Torts Claims Act. The Texas Minimum Wage Law extends coverage to many employees not covered by the Federal Minimum Wage Law. Effective February 1, 1970, those covered by this act are to receive a minimum of $1.25 per hour. In 1971, the amount will increase to $1.40 per hour. Though few citizens in Dallas are affected by this bill, there are some areas of the State of Texas where workers will receive a considerable increase in their wages because of passage of this act.

In the area of worker's compensation, this session of the legislature saw fit to increase the weekly benefits for the injured worker from $35 to $49 per week, and the maximum benefits accordingly. As a result of this improvement, an injured worker in Texas will now receive slightly more than someone who is unemployed.

The passage of Senate Bill #74, an act requiring breath tests for those suspected of driving while intoxicated, is an attempt on

the part of the legislature to curb highway accidents and deaths. It is hoped that passage of this bill will not only be of assistance to prosecuting attorneys, but will prove of even greater value by discouraging people from undertaking to drive while they are under the influence of alcohol.

In the area of education, the passage of House Bill #240 assures significant improvements in salary and other benefits for teachers in the State of Texas over the next decade. Another proposal providing for improved retirement benefits for teachers was also approved by this session. Because the legislature is still somewhat rurally dominated, an effort to incorporate the provisions of the Governor's Committee Report on Public School Education dealing with tax equalization and the consolidation of inefficient school districts failed to receive approval by the Sixty-first Legislature. A measure which gained little public attention, but in my judgment will have far-reaching significance, is a bill sponsored by Rep. Will Smith and in its final form incorporating the provisions contained in House Bill #119 by Rep. Ben Atwell of Dallas. This proposal provides for special education classes and services for emotionally disturbed children. Witnesses, consisting of educators, juvenile superintendents, chiefs of police, and other concerned citizens from over the entire state, appeared to testify on behalf of this proposal. Most witnesses estimated that between 5 and 10% of the children in the lower grades of our schools could benefit from these special services and classes.

According to those leaders in Texas law-enforcement testifying for this proposal, it is these emotionally disturbed children who will eventually turn to violence and crime. Thus, if these children receive needed assistance, future generations may well be spared some of the tragic events such as we are now witnessing.

As a result of the passage of House Bill #535, the State of Texas now has a prisoner's work furlough plan. Under this plan, prisoners deemed acceptable risks will be permitted to accept a position of private employment and leave the prison during the day, returning to the prison at the end of his work day. This plan has worked very successfully in many other states, and I believe Texas, having in Dr. George J. Beto the finest prison director in the entire nation, will have equal or greater success with it.

In relation to automobile insurance. there were a number of bills introduced to deal with such problems as arbitrary cancellation of policies, increased cost of insurance, and the uninsured motorist. I introduced a proposal whereby the uninsured motorist, when applying for his automobile license plates, would pay an additional fee with which the state would purchase his insurance. There were several bills in addition to mine which were directed toward solving the uninsured motorist problem, but all failed to receive legislative approval. A bill which would require an insurance company to give a policy owner a reason for the cancellation of his policy received House approval, but was too late to receive Senate approval. I do hope future sessions of the State Legislature will give more serious consideration to the problems related to automobile insurance.

In closing, may I redirect your attention to the Special Session. The Governor has requested a two-year appropriation bill rather than a one-year bill such as the legislature passed during the regular session. If the legislature approves a two-year bill, a significant tax bill will be necessary to underwrite it. I would desire, as your representative, to know which you prefer—— a one-year or a two-year appropriation bill, and if you recommend a two-year bill, what kind of tax measure you would personally prefer.

Sincerely,

Dick Reed

Dick Reed

Tell Diana

JUL 1 7 1969

The Senate of The State of Texas Austin

RALPH M. HALL
DISTRICT 9
ROCKWALL

PRES.-PRO TEMPORE
1967-1968

July 16, 1969

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President
Dallas League of
Women Voters
5943 Glendora
Dallas, Texas 75222

Dear Mrs. Lanz:

I want to thank you for your telegram and for your interest in Senate Concurrent Resolution 89. As you may already know, this particular resolution passed the Senate on May 31st; however, it died in House Committee. Thus, no further action could be taken. I am sorry I could not be of further service to you in this matter; however,

If I may be of assistance to you in the future regarding this or any other matter, please feel free to call on me.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Ralph M. Hall

Ralph M. Hall
State Senator
9th District of Texas

RMH:klp

Tell Dianne

JUL 14 1969

The Senate of The State of Texas Austin

RALPH M. HALL
DISTRICT 9
ROCKWALL

PRES.-PRO TEMPORE
1967-1968

July 7, 1969

Mrs. Henry Lanz
President
League of Women Voters
2626 West Mockingbird
Dallas, Texas 75235

Dear Mrs. Lanz:

I received and appreciate your letter relating to Senate Bill 368. I always enjoy hearing from the interested people of this great State. As you may already know, this particular piece of legislation died in the Senate Committee on State Affairs; thus, no further action was taken on it.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to call on me.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Ralph M. Hall

Ralph M. Hall
State Senator
9th District of Texas

RMH:klp

Tell Diana

AUG 2 1969

The Senate of The State of Texas Austin 78711

MIKE McKOOL
STATE SENATOR

July 31, 1969

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President
Dallas League of Women Voters
[redacted]

Dear Mrs. Lanz:

I know of your interest in our state government. In order that you may be kept informed on all of the proceedings before the Texas Senate, I will send you copies of all of the Senate Journals during this Special Session.

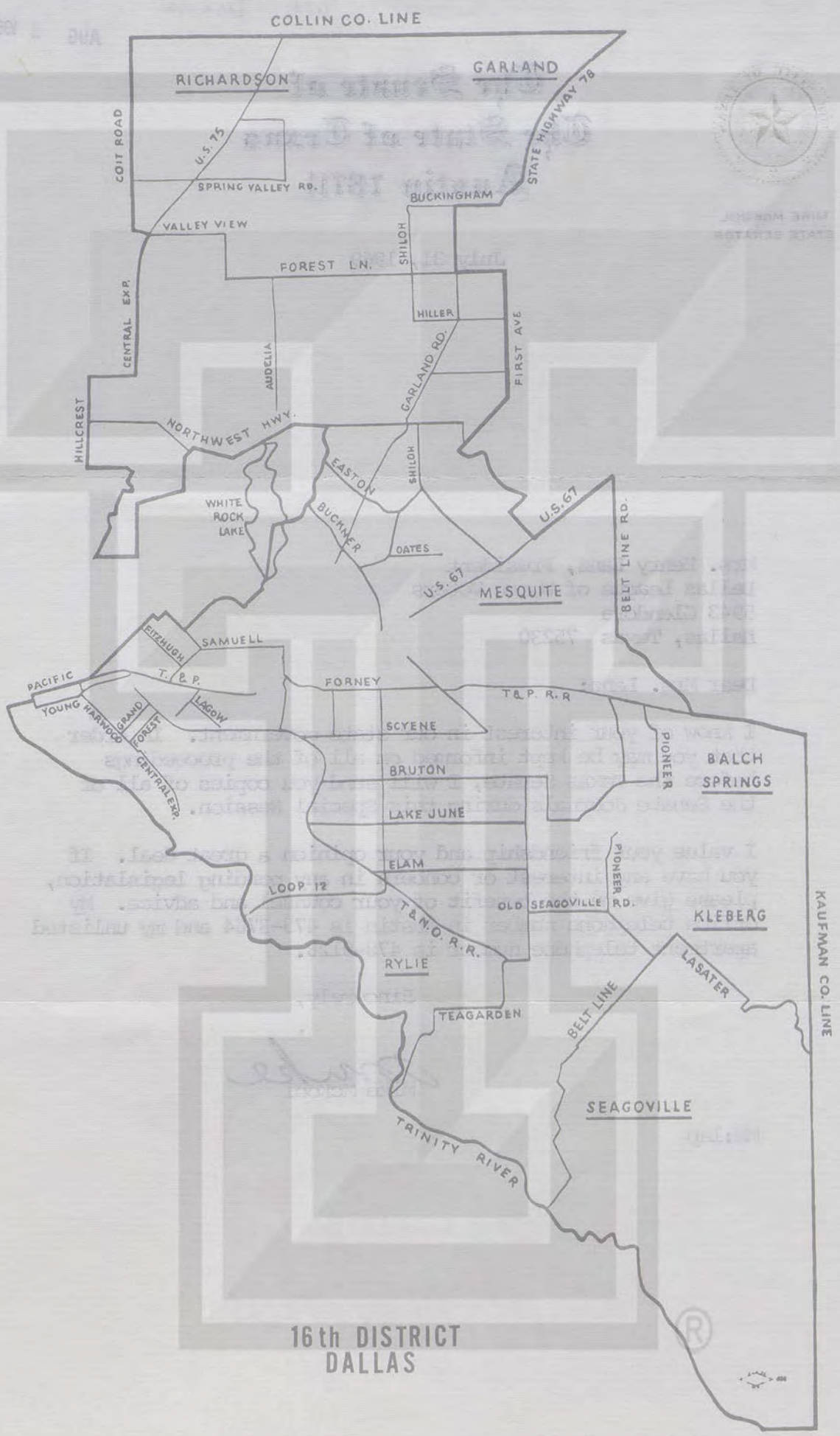
I value your friendship and your opinion a great deal. If you have any interest or concern in any pending legislation, please give me the benefit of your counsel and advice. My office telephone number in Austin is [redacted] and my unlisted apartment telephone number is 478-9128.

Sincerely,

Mike

Mike McKool

MM:lap



16th DISTRICT
DALLAS

T File

AUG 1 1969

To Local League Presidents

July 31, 1969

From Mrs. William E. Joor

Re: Amendment No. 1

Many of you may have noted that Attorney General Crawford Martin is opposing this amendment on the grounds that repeal of Articles 13 and 14 might affect Texas land titles. Quoting from a Houston Post editorial, "Section 13, dealing with Spanish and Mexican land titles, appears totally obsolete and unnecessary to the layman, but Martin said its repeal// could result in tying the state's hands in the trial of land vacancy suits...// Before issuing his statement opposing the passage of Amendment 1, the Attorney General obtained the opinion of 12-15 outstanding Texas attorneys experienced in land law..."

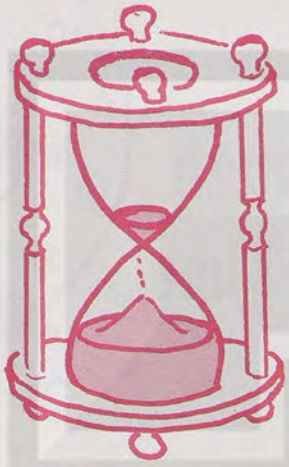
I have talked over this matter with Janice May and with Mrs. Millard Ruud, former president of the Austin League and a lawyer. Barbara discussed this with former state Senator Kilgore of Austin, a member of the Committee of Nine supporting all nine amendments, and Corwin Johnson, a professor at the University of Texas. The result of these conversations is that Mr. Martin may have a point, but neither of these lawyers view his point very seriously. The point could be argued by someone bringing suit, but the courts would need to look very carefully at the suit, and it is doubtful that the argument would prevail. Therefore, we believe it is fair to say that the amendment if passed could not be invalidated legally.

The League of Women Voters of Texas will not change its position, nor will we issue a denial of Mr. Martin's point. If any of you are asked about this subject, please respond in the vein of the above paragraph. Do not make any inflexible statement.

We do not have time, since election is next Tuesday, to go into this matter more deeply.

Please excuse the poor typing and the carbons. Both secretaries are on vacation.

T File



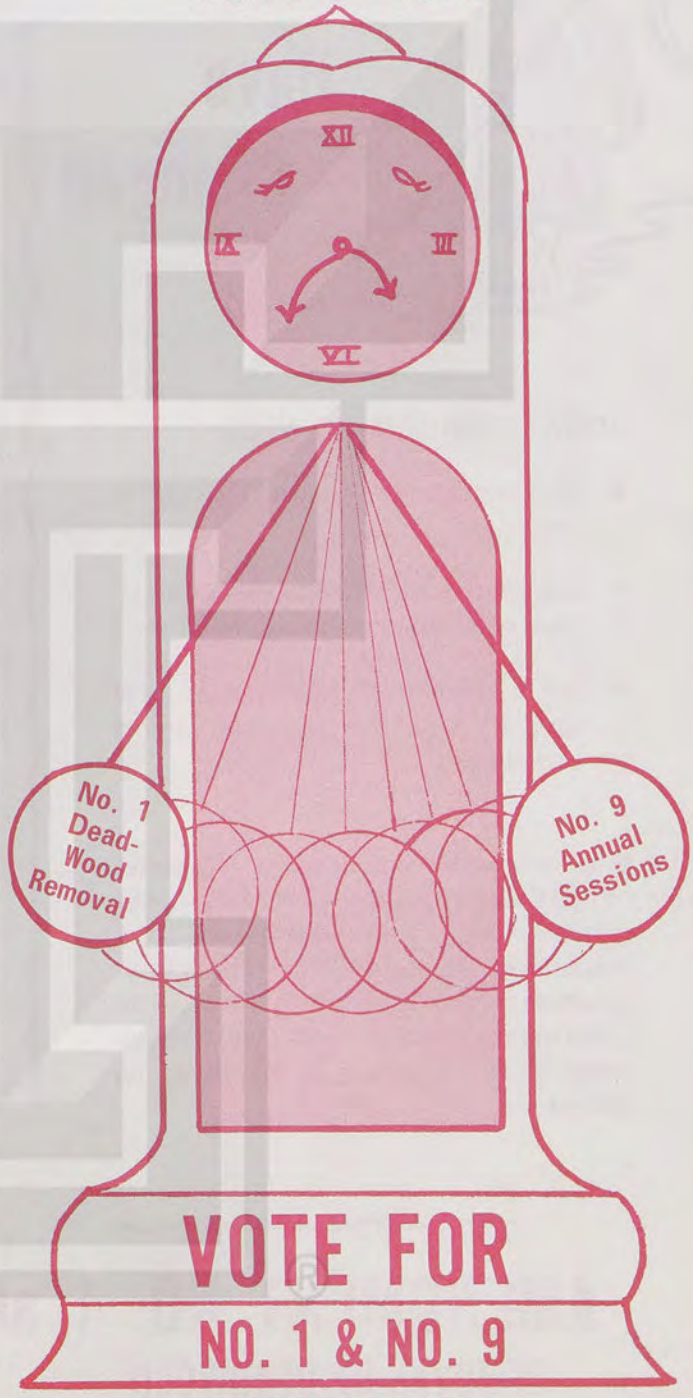
TIME IS RUNNING OUT

for modernizing state government. Legislators cannot be responsive to the needs of Texans in this changing world while handicapped by an unwieldy constitution and an inadequate amount of time. Your vote is needed on **August 5** for two important amendments. Vote FOR the **first** and **last** amendments.

VOTE FOR
AMENDMENTS
NO. 1 and NO. 9

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS
1841 Bingle Road
Houston, Texas 77055

Too Much Time Has Passed
1876 – 1969



VOTE FOR
NO. 1 & NO. 9
AUGUST 5, 1969

Times Have Changed

VOTE FOR

Not Enough Time

TODAY THERE IS NO NEED

- for restrictions against dueling at dawn
- for provisions prohibiting consolidation of railroads with a foreign road
- for a complete Article dealing with Spanish and Mexican land grants and titles

Such provisions are obsolete. Decades of judicial decisions have invalidated many more. Such deadwood comprises over one-third of the Texas Constitution. Now is the time to begin to bring the constitution up to date. Amendment No. 1 is a simple housekeeping amendment.

TODAY THERE IS TOO LITTLE TIME

- for deciding how to spend almost $6 billion in one session
- for passing laws that concern ten million people
- for considering 2500 bills and resolutions in a regular session

Minutes tick away all too soon for our part time legislature. Vital legislation often is postponed for two years. Amendment No. 9 adds a 60 day session in even numbered years for budgeting and emergencies. Give the Texas legislature more time.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 and AMENDMENT NO. 9

REMOVAL OF DEADWOOD

ANNUAL SESSIONS

T File

July 23rd '69
Summer meeting with
4 legislators

Representative James Stroud. - Democrat

Serving a third term in the Legislature

Was Chairman of Interim Committee for revision of Texas Election Laws.

This past session was Chairman of Elections Committee
also served on
Conservation and Reclamation
Highways and Roads
Parks and Wildlife

introduced several Voter Registration Bills

Representative Fred Orr - Democrat

Business intrests are Insurance and Investments

Serving a second term in the Legislature

Vice-chairman Public Health Committee
also served on
Banks & Banking
Congressional & Legislative Districts
Insurance
Rules

Rules committee has power to set calendar - meets continuously almost
Bills he is active on: 1 to protect & study "fragile" species
2 election reform
3 uninsured motorists - required endorsement
4 vocational education for Lancaster School District & try a new system
5 organic transplants - a study committee formed last year to draw up guidelines Texas Anatomical ... was passed 1969
6. more on protection of wild life
7. SCAS into Univ. of Texas in Dallas
8. State wide housing & codes were an interest of his
9. Insurance industry is a punching bag - there is a reason for rising rates

Stroud

Voter Reg. – he introduced League's model reg. law back in '65 + got nowhere.

Amendment #1 on TCR is a first step.

61st Legislature – accomplished more good legislation than ever before. In education alone, great progress over-all.

Election law reforms – Texas is 49th in election laws – only state with annual registration, we now have no regulations to accomplish purges of lists, etc. His interim comm heard thousands of persons + made up a package of bills, i.e. tax collectors out + election commissions in, but disagreement on who will be on election boards – never passed out of committee.

LWV voter registration law is great. Texas needs to encourage voting got jammed up at end of session.

HB 211 – stopgap bill was considered, amended to have July open for registration, but died in the Senate.

HB 512 was passed, slight improvements – a rule on voting booths was taken out by Senate & others.

District 8 - Dallas County

Senator O.H. "Ike Harris - Attorney. Republican

Served as representative from Dallas County 1962-1964.

Elected Senator for the 8th District in 1967 after death of Senator Parkhouse.
Elected to full term in 1968.

Serves onfollowing Senate Committees:
Military & Veterans Affairs - Vice Chairman
Federal Programs and Relations - Vice Chairman
Banking
County, District & Urban Affairs
Finance
Insurance
Oil & Gas
Transportation
Water & Conservation

District 16 - Dallas County

Senator Mike McKool - Democrat Attorney.

Serving first term as Senator

Serves on the following Senate Committees

Legislative, Congresstional & Judicial Districts - Vice-Chairman
Banking
Commerce & Industry
Finance
Jurisprudence
Privileges & Elections
Public Health
State Departments & Institutions
Transportation

Was sponsor of SJR-13 to remove the annual registration requirement from the constitution.

Harris - unfruitful session

major problems in late '68 : TCR - nothing much done

education - the meat of the commission's recs were lost - teachers got raise

higher ed. - rec's of a commission ignored + more under funded schools

judicial re-apportionment - needed but not supplied.

Urban needs hard to supply.

1 year tax bill was good idea - more fed funds will be coming

We will now write a 2-year bill at gov's request. $400 000 000 in taxes needed.

Principal need is for real 2-party system.

McKool - SJR 13 repeal of annual registration his bill - LWV lobbying helped. Passed the Senate, but too late to pass House

He sponsored Kennedy Memorial Fund, + with Ike Harris, changed name of Dallas North Tollway to Dwight David E. Tollway.

Sponsored bill to clear up matters in voting receipts - passed, but vetoed in big bunch.

Amendment #3 was his, also 1 for smooth transition for Lt Governor that did not pass the House

Eminent Domain cases get moving expenses - passed into law,

Amendment for 1970 - on homesteading in cities.

new rule pushed on

61st Legislature was good - Barnes is fine.

Dear
Dear Senator Harris:

We are pleased that you are able to participate in our summer legislators meeting, Wednesday, July 23rd

It will be held in the Community Room of the Dallas Federal Savings Building - Preston Center Branch- 6019 Berkshire Lane. Coffee will be served at 9:30 with the meeting proper to start at 10:00. You and Senator McKool will have the first hour, including questions from the audience, and Representatives Fred Orr and James Stroud will have the second hour, the meeting to end at noon.

We hope you will speak of ~~xxxxxxx~~ legislative matters of greatest interest and concern to you - what you have tried to accomplish in the past session and what you hope for the future. League members have studied proceedures and processes and are familiar with ~~xxx~~ such roadblocksc things as the committee system, lobby, etc.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Winthrop A. Clark
Legislative Chairman
La 8-0690

File

JUN 9 1969

FRED ORR
DISTRICT 33-14
P.O. BOX 10
DESOTO, TEXAS
DALLAS COUNTY

The State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEES:
VICE-CHAIRMAN:
PUBLIC HEALTH
RULES
BANKS AND BANKING
CONGRESSIONAL AND
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
INSURANCE

June 4, 1969

Mrs. Henry Lanz, President
League of Women Voters of Dallas
2626 West Mockingbird
Dallas, Texas 75235

Dear Mrs. Lanz:

I do appreciate your letter of May 14, 1969, relative to an improved system of voter registration, and I concur that we should make it more convenient for the voters to register, more economical and efficient to administer.

I did support H. B. 211 in the Rules Committee as well as on the House floor.

We anxiously await the opportunity to be of service to you in the future.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Orr

Fred Orr

FO:sm

Catherine

March 10, 1969

The Honorable Jack Blanton
The House of Representatives
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Blanton:

It is unfortunate that in Texas, Legislators must be considered part-time officials because of the very low salaries as provided by the Constitution. Because of the varied occupations of the House and Senate members, situations involving conflict of interest can sometimes be hard to define.

The members of the League of Women Voters of Dallas believe that HB-133 proposed by Mr. Nugent and currently before your committee will greatly strengthen the existing "Code of Ethics" statute by clarifying guidelines for the individual legislator with regard to conflicts of interest in relations with state agencies, campaign funds, and in the introduction of legislation.

We also believe that a really sound Code of Ethics would inspire greater public confidence in the Legislature which is vital to good legislative performance. With greater confidence, ~~perhaps the majority of voters would consider a salary increase in a favorable light.~~ a more equitable salary may become a reality. (Change in letters to Colman + McKissack)

Again, we urge your support of HB-133.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laurence Perrine
President

CP/dc

Same letter to Joe Colman, Dick McKissack - Dallas members of State Affairs
CC: Perrine, State Office (2), Mrs. May

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS LWV 2626 W. MOCKINGBIRD, DALLAS, TEXAS 75235

December 27, 1968

TO: Dallas County Delegation to State Legislature

RE: League of Women Voters Lobby School

The League of Women Voters of Texas will hold a one-day Lobby School---

Tuesday, January 7
Commodore Perry Hotel
Austin, Texas

The schedule is:

9:30 Coffee, Welcome, Introductions

10:00 The League and the Lobby
Dr. Janice May, State LWV Legislative Chairman

11:00 The Future of the Lobby: New Lobby Legislation
James K. Presnal, Lobbyist for State Farm Mutual
Walter Caven, Lobbyist for Texas Railroad Assn.
Joe Ratcliff, State Representative

12:15 Luncheon
Speaker: Gus F. Mutscher, House Speaker-Elect

1:45 Texas Election Laws
Mary Kate Wall, Attorney, Secretary of State's office

2:45 Booby Traps
Stuart Long, Capitol News Service
Dr. Clifton McCleskey, Professor of Government, UT
Glenn Ivy, Director of Governor's Committee on Public School Education

3:30 Dismissal

You are most welcome to attend any of these sessions. The luncheon and the discussions immediately preceding and following it will, I believe, be of particular interest to you.

If you wish to come to the luncheon, please call Mrs. John Graham [redacted] or me [redacted] by Friday, January 3, so that we can make a reservation for you. (In Austin, reservations can be made with Mrs. Francis May, [redacted]

Best wishes for the New Year!

Catherine Perrine

Mrs. Laurence Perrine

COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF
LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
(H.C.R. 24, 60TH LEGISLATURE)
SENATE CHAMBER, CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

AC 512
475-4498

CHAIRMAN:
SEN. CRISS COLE
HOUSTON

VICE-CHAIRMAN:
REP. GUS MUTSCHER
BRENHAM

SEN. H. J. BLANCHARD
LUBBOCK

SEN. CHARLES HERRING
AUSTIN

REP. CHARLES JUNGMICHEL
LAGRANGE

REP. DEAN NEUGENT
TEXAS CITY

BILL J. FERGUSON
HOUSTON

JIM JACKSON
ROCKPORT

DR. CARL J. LIND, JR.
HOUSTON

CHARLES SOWELL
HOUSTON

STONE WELLS
HOUSTON

January 31, 1969

Mrs. Laurence Perrine
President, League of Women Voters
[redacted]

Dear Mrs. Perrine:

The Committee for the Study of Land Use and Environmental Control has made its report to the 61st Legislature. On behalf of the committee members, I want to thank you for participating in the hearing held in your area.

The information and evidence presented was of great assistance to the committee in developing material for the report and recommendations for appropriate legislation.

Under separate cover, a copy of the Committee's Report is being mailed to you. I hope that you will take the time to study it and the recommended legislation very carefully, and give any support that you can in securing its passage.

Thank you again for your interest, time and efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Criss Cole

Criss Cole

CC:ja

League of Women Voters of Texas

[redacted]

MRS. WILLIAM E. JOOR, President

February 28, 1969

TO: Mesdames Beeman, Carter, Hoffman, Lankford, Smith and Walker
FROM: Mrs. Francis B. May, LWV of Texas Legislative Chairman

Many thanks to all of you for volunteering to help make our lobbying more effective this Legislative Session.

Enclosed are copies of the bluebook and the first LWV Legislative Newsletter both of which I think you will find useful.

The best way you can help is by being well informed about state program and by informing your legislators of our positions and the reasons for them.

About a week ago we requested that League members write their Senators in favor of SJR 13 by McKool, which would repeal the requirement in the Constitution that voters register annually. Your letters would be appreciated. However, first be sure to consult your President, Program Vice President, Legislative Chairman or Voter Registration Chairman for the instructions contained in the Time For Action on SJR 13 which we sent to each local League.

We will be asking local Leagues with Representatives on the House State Affairs Committee to write in support of HB 133 by Nugent, which strengthens the present "code of ethics" statute. Again your letters would be appreciated if your LL has a representative on this committee. But be sure to consult with your League officers or appropriate chairmen about the instructions contained in the Time For Action which will be sent to all Leagues in question.

If you are acquainted with members of the Governor's staff, the Lieutenant Governor's staff or the Speaker's staff, please let me know. There might be a special assignment I would like you to undertake. Also, I would like to know how well acquainted you are with your Representatives and Senators and with Senators and Representatives from non-League areas.

When you are in Austin, please call me. My telephone number is [redacted]
My home address is 6504 Auburnhill Drive, Austin, Texas 78723. My office number is GR 1-5121 and my office is 212A Waggener Hall, the University of Texas at Austin. When you are in town, I can tell you about important committee hearings or other action likely to be underway.

Again, a warm thank you for agreeing to help us.

Janice May

League of Women Voters of Texas

1841 BINGLE ROAD • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055 • TEL: A.C. 713 HO 5-3705

MRS. WILLIAM E. JOOR, President

February 18, 1969

Mrs. Laurence Perrine
League of Women Voters of Dallas
[redacted]

Dear Catherine:

Enclosed are copies of the two recent Texas Research League proposals for counties. The State Board discussed their general contents at the January Board meeting and considered them worthy of introduction. It turns out that the County Land Use Protection Act introduced by John Wright is not the current TRL proposal on the subject.

Judge Sterrett told the TRL that he would support both the county bills. Whether this means that he will actively urge the Dallas delegation to support them is another matter. Governor Smith has said he would sign the County Land Use Protection Act, but he would not actively campaign for it.

In re SJR 13 and SB 131. Senator McKool, who thinks very highly of the Dallas League, got in touch with me after I had sent in the Legislative Newsletter. I swung into action, sending letters special delivery, etc. Over the week-end the committee in charge decided to support SJR 13. We are sending out a Time for Action, which you should be getting shortly. Either Rose Lancaster or I will testify for the LWV of Texas on the 25th. We hope League members can attend. I am sure the AFL-CIO, the Democratic Women and other groups will be out in force.

We are, however, still considering support of ~~SJRxxxx~~ SB 131. In principle we are in favor of this sort of approach, but the bill departs from our positions in basic ways and in addition is poorly drawn up, even referring to "poll tax receipts" and "tax collectors" (now registrars). I think McKool relied on the Texas Legislative Council for drafting this bill. We hope to change the bill or get another one introduced more in line with our stands.

Jim Stroud introduced a companion measure to SJR 13 -- HJR 20. The word came the day after I had sent in the Newsletter. Incidentally, the Newsletters has two typing errors, committed by yours truly, you might want to change. The electoral college bill introduced by Davis and Angly is HB 204. The water resolution mentioned on page 6 is HJR 9, not HJR 99.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Janice

Mrs. Francis B. May
Legislative Chairman

cc: Mrs. Winthrop Clark, Brient, Martin, SC

TO: Local League Presidents, Program Vice Presidents, Legislative Chairmen, and Voter Registration Chairmen

FROM: Mrs. William Joor, President: Mrs. John Brient, Voter Registration Chairman; and Mrs. Francis B. May, Legislative Chairman

RE: TIME FOR ACTION on SJR 13, "Proposing an amendment to Section 2, Article VI, Constitution of the State of Texas, to repeal the requirement that voters register annually."

T I M E F O R A C T I O N

The Senate Constitutional Amendments Committee has scheduled a public hearing on SJR 13 by Senator Mike McKool of Dallas for Tuesday, February 25, at 9:00 A.M. The League supports SJR 13 and will testify in favor of it. League members are urged to attend this hearing. Senator McKool has requested that members come from all over Texas. This may be our most important hearing of the session in the Senate. Unless we can repeal annual registration, we cannot pass other features of a voter registration system we want.

Briefly, SJR 13 would repeal the constitutional requirement that voters register annually. It would continue to require registration prior to voting, but the kind of registration system would be left to the discretion of the Legislature.

We support SJR 13 under our Voter Registration positions, described briefly for you in the "background" material enclosed with this mailing.

Please write and urge your members to write to your Senators NOW in favor of SJR 13. We have an excellent chance of passing this through the Senate although the vote will be close, perhaps by a margin of one. So it is very important to let our Senators know how we feel. Since many Senators will be home this week-end, a personal contact in addition to a letter will be possible and helpful.

Following is a list of co-sponsors of the resolution. A note of commendation to them will be helpful:

Jim Bates
Joe Bernal
Red Berry
Ronald Bridges
Chet Brooks
Criss Cole
Roy Harrington
Jack Hightower
Don Kennard
Oscar Mauzy
A. R. Schwartz
Charles Wilson

Special attention should be paid to members of the Constitutional Amendments Committee who are as follows:

Joe Christie, Chairman
*Jack Hightower, Vice Chairman
*Jim Bates
*Red Berry
*Criss Cole
Wayne Connally
Murray Watson
Henry Grover
Roy Harrington
Grady Hazlewood
Charles Herring
*Oscar Mauzy
William Moore

* This indicates that a member is a co-sponsor of the resolution.

Please send us copies of any replies you receive to your letters. (OVER)

LWV of Texas
February 1969

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR SJR 13

The LWV of Texas adopted a study of voter registration systems at its 1960 Convention. After two years of study the League strongly opposed the poll tax registration system and set forth criteria for a "permanent" registration system. In 1964 an amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified by the required number of states exempting all voters in Federal elections from paying a poll tax. The following year the use of the poll tax for any Texas election was ruled unconstitutional. This was appealed by the State of Texas but upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in May 1966. In November 1966 Amendment #7, which the League opposed, was passed. It repealed the poll tax requirement (already void) and substituted an annual registration system. Senator Mike McKool of Dallas has introduced SJR 13 to repeal the annual registration provision from the Texas Constitution. The League will support his proposal.

The League support of improved procedures for the registration of voters in Texas includes good administrative methods: uniformity, responsibility, economy, qualified staff, and adequate record facilities. The League also supports adequate safeguards against fraud in registration of voters, in maintaining of registration lists, and at the polls; and voter convenience by re-registration by voting, year-round registration with no fee, liberalization of residence requirements and no registration for active armed forces personnel.

In supporting SJR 13 tell why the League is against annual registration, but do not use the word "permanent," as some Senators react unfavorably to the word. Redoing voter registration lists every year causes registrars unnecessary work and is obviously uneconomical and inefficient. It is more inconvenient for the voter and discourages voting. If annual registration can be abolished, it will be possible to enact a more convenient, economical system with adequate safeguards against fraud.

MIKE McKOOL
STATE SENATOR

The Senate of The State of Texas Austin 78711

February 17, 1969

Mrs. Lawrence Perrine, President
League of Women Voters
[redacted]

Dear Mrs. Perrine:

I enjoyed talking with you over the telephone in regard to Senate Joint Resolution No. 13 which I introduced in the Senate to repeal annual voter registration. The Constitutional Amendment Committee has this matter set for hearing for 9 a.m. on February 25th. I am enclosing a copy of this resolution for your information. I am also enclosing a copy of Senate Bill No. 131 for a Quadrennial Voter Registration Bill, and extending the time to open registration from June 15th to September 30th.

Please request your members to write all of the State Senators and members of the House to support the Constitutional Amendment (S.J.R. 13) to repeal annual voter registration. Please let me know if any of your officers from your League of Women Voters in Dallas will be able to attend the committee hearing at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25th.

Sincerely,

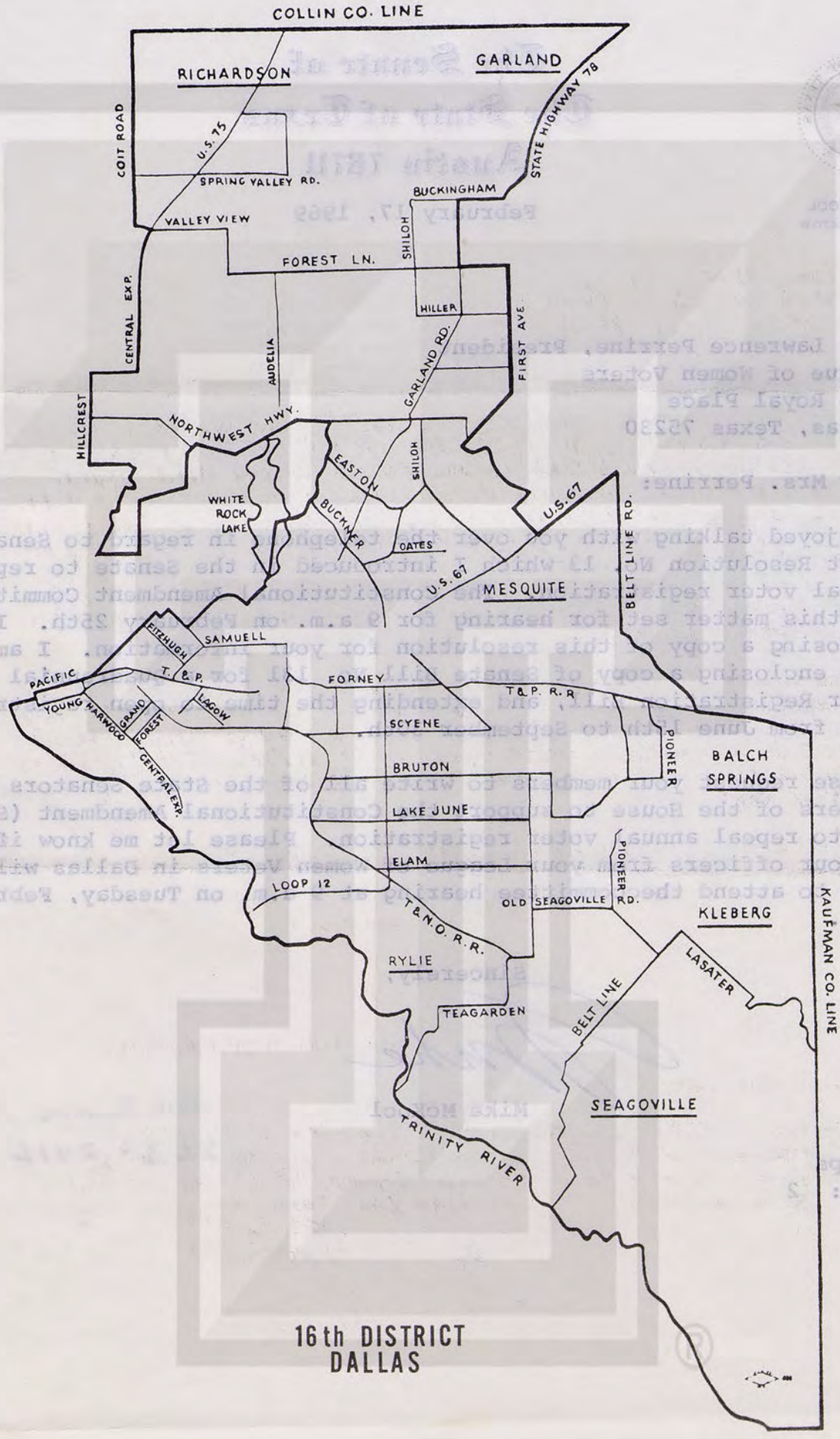
Mike

Mike McKool

State Senator

[redacted]

MM:eps
Encl: 2



16th DISTRICT
DALLAS

February 15, 1969

Mrs. Francis B. May
[redacted]

Dear Janice,

Senator McKool called me yesterday to urge that the Dallas League get busy pushing his SB 131 and SJR 13 on voter registration. He said that he had talked to you about these. In particular, he hoped that some of us could come to Austin for a 9 a.m. meeting on Tuesday, February 25, of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments and indicate our support for SJR 13. This certainly seems to me to be in line with our League position, but your Newsletter which came today indicates that we are not yet in a position to support it. Is this correct?

We will be glad to sound out Judge Sterrett and some of the legislators about the TRL proposals for legislation to authorize county commissioners to employ a county ~~xxxxx~~ administrator and to establish a merit system. It would be helpful if we had a copy of the proposed bill or bills. Have you received this yet?

To Diana

Our Dallas Legislative Chairman is Diana Clark (Mrs. Winthrop Clark, 3504 Harvard, Dallas 75205 - telephone 214-LA8-0690).

Cordially,

Mrs. Laurence Perrine

cc - Mrs. Winthrop Clark

Diana - Will you look into the business of subscribing to Texas Metropolitan Study Newsletter, please. (and getting the back issues for December-February if you haven't found them elsewhere). The address is: Texas Research League
[redacted]

TO: Local League Presidents, Program Vice Presidents and Legislative Chairmen

FROM: Mrs. Francis B. May, Legislative Chairman

LWV of Texas
February 1969

RE: Legislative Newsletter as of February 12, 1969

GENERAL NOTES:

The 61st Texas Legislature convened in Austin for opening ceremonies on Tuesday, January 14. The House of Representatives elected Gus F. Mutscher of Brenham Speaker; and the Senate elected Don Kennard of Fort Worth President Pro Tem. The following day Governor John Connally gave his farewell message to the Legislature in which he emphasized the need to modernize state government by constitutional revision. Later in the day a book summarizing the six Connally years was distributed to legislators; the single legislative recommendation was constitutional revision.

Governor Preston Smith and Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes were formally inaugurated on Tuesday, January 21. The day and evening were filled with festivities, featuring a parade and six inaugural balls, somewhat reminiscent of the days of Governor W. Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel.

The new Governor addressed the Legislature for the first time on January 23. Of interest to League members were his comments on constitutional revision. He declared that he was for constitutional revision, but that he thought any complete rewriting of the document, including the product of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission, would be defeated at the polls. However, he advised the Legislature to consider the proposed document submitted by the Commission. He said that he would favor removal of deadwood from the Constitution at this time, to be followed by article by article revision later. He said that in his opinion the Constitution should not be revised solely because it was long, it was old or it had been amended from time to time. Also of League interest was his suggestion to define "conflict of interest" for legislators as a means of smoothing the way for voter acceptance of more pay for legislators. Another point of interest was his endorsement of the $10 billion Texas Water Plan.

Much of the excitement (if it can be so described) of the first three weeks of the session, during which the houses were getting organized, concerned rules and committee assignments.

The House rules, adopted the first day, are considerably different from those of two years ago. Instead of reducing the number of committees to 25, the number was actually increased to 45 from 44. Several committees were abolished and others added. Among the new committees are Governmental Affairs and Efficiency to help relieve the overworked State Affairs Committee; Youth Affairs; Interim Activities; and Higher Education. (The Committee on Privileges, Suffrage and Elections, known affectionately by the League as "PSE," was renamed the Elections Committee.) The new rules deleted seniority in assigning committee members, deprived standing committees of subpoena power, deleted the provision for interim studies by standing committees, and reduced the number of calendars. For details consult the House Journal for January 14.

The Senate approved important changes in its rules and in the joint rules (the latter have not yet been adopted by the House). The new rules prompted Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes to say that this was the most important step since statehood. The most widely hailed change was the limitation on conference

(OVER)

committees, limiting them to adjusting differences between bills passed by both houses. Among the important Senate rules changes concerned open meetings by the nominations committee (the nominations committee held open hearing for the first time this week) and the executive sessions of the Senate. The rules now permit a Senator at any time to divulge his vote and the reasons therefore in an executive session. One rules change, adopted by a 17-14 vote, increased to 2/3 from a simple majority the vote required for the re-referral of bills to committees. Opposed by the liberals, it represented a strengthening of the power of the Lieutenant Governor. The number of Senate committees was increased from 25 to 27, with the abolition of two and the addition of four.

Committees were appointed by the Speaker and Lieutenant Governor, respectively, during the third week of the session. There were many surprises.

In the House the chairmanships went to veteran members, many of whom represented small towns and rural communities (including the new Urban Affairs Committee). The most important committees and their chairmen from the standpoint of handling League legislation are as follows:

Constitutional Amendments, John Traeger of Seguin

Counties, Joe Shannon of Fort Worth

Elections, J. W. Stroud of Dallas

Public Education, George Hinson of Mineola

Governmental Affairs and Efficiency, Don Cavness of Austin

Rules, Dick Cory of Victoria

State Affairs, Rayford Price of Palestine

Urban Affairs, Charles Jungmichel of La Grange

In the Senate more liberals were appointed chairmen than before and only a few chairmen of last session kept their old posts. The most important "League" committees and their chairmen are as follows:

Constitutional Amendments, Joe Christie of El Paso

County, District, and Urban Affairs, Ralph Hall of Rockwall

Education, A. W. Aiken, Jr., of Paris

Jurisprudence, Charles Herring of Austin

Privileges and Elections, Jack Strong of Longview

State Affairs, William Moore of Bryan

Water and Conservation, Tom Creighton of Mineral Wells

By the middle of the fifth week of the 20-week session, 300 House bills, 16 House Joint Resolutions, 130 Senate bills and 12 Senate Joint Resolutions had been introduced, not counting concurrent and simple resolutions. Many familiar bills were among them, including liquor by the drink (a constitutional amendment may finally resolve the issue), horse racing, a teacher pay raise, and the minimum wage law. Governor Smith's tax and spending proposals were not ready yet, but it is a certainty that new revenue must be found to balance the state budget. The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committees have been holding hearings during the first few weeks of the session on the budget.

LEAGUE NOTES:

Since the committees were late in getting appointed and organized, bills and resolutions were late in getting introduced. Bills of League interest abound, but the Program chairmen have not yet had an opportunity to examine them thoroughly. There will be no designation, therefore, in this first newsletter of support, opposition or for information only except when the bills fall solely within a study (not action) item.

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

HJR 3 by Cory

Committee on Constitutional Amendments

This proposed resolution would eliminate much of the deadwood from the Texas Constitution in accordance with the proposal of Governor Smith in his first message to the Legislature. Mrs. Ralph McKinlay, TCR chairman, has compared the deletions recommended by the Cory proposal with those recommended by the Constitutional Revision Commission. Fifty sections recommended for deletion by the Cory measure are also recommended for deletion by the Commission. However, the Cory measure recommends the deletion of four sections, including the County Home Rule Amendment, not recommeded for deletion by the Commission. In addition the Commission recommended the deletion of 39 additional sections not recommended for deletion by HJR 3. A hearing on this measure is expected the week of February 17. The League has supported similar measures in the past.

TEXAS EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

SJR 3 by McKool FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Committee on Constitutional Amendments

The purpose of this measure is to provide for an orderly transition in the office of Governor by authorizing appropriations for certain expenses, such as those incurred in preparing the state budget, by a new governor-elect (not an incumbent) between the election and the inauguration. Retiring Governor Connally recommended this in his farewell address.

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

HJR 8 by Solomon, Hinson, et al
SJR 11 by Aiken and Connally

Committee on Constitutional Amendments in the House and Senate, respectively.

This joint resolution introduced as companion measures in each house provides for annual legislative sessions. The session during the odd-numbered years would be limited to 120 days (30 days for the introduction of bills and resolutions, 30 days for committee consideration, and 60 days for debate). The present limitation is 140 days. The second session during the even year would be limited to 60 days and would be limited to budgetary matters and emergency matters submitted by the Governor.

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE (continued)

HB 133 by Nugent et al

SB 70 by Wilson

Committee on State Affairs in the House and Senate, respectively.

This bill defines "conflict of interest" for members of the Legislature and employees and other state officers and employees. It enacts a code of ethics to serve as a guide to conduct as a basis for discipline. No special procedures and no separate agency are provided for enforcement. The bill was passed by the House two years ago but died in the Senate.

STATE-LOCAL RELATIONS

HB 196 by Wright

Committee on State Affairs

Supported in part by the League of Women Voters two years ago, this bill would establish a Local Government Assistance Agency in the State Executive Department and a Municipal Incorporation Review Board empowered to approve or disapprove proposed new municipal incorporations.

HB 199 by Wright

Committee on Counties

Supported by the League of Women Voters two years ago, this bill would authorize counties to pass subdivision regulations with enforcement powers. It is not a zoning law. (A bracket bill, designed for Bexar County, has been introduced by Dramberger and others which would include zoning powers.)

HB 196 and HB 199 contain recommendations made by the Texas Research League two years ago. The TRL has come forth with new recommendations for metropolitan areas this year. For details consult the December, January, and February issues of their Metropolitan Newsletter. Bills containing their recommendations for COGs are expected to be introduced this week (February 10). Bills concerned with county reorganization have no sponsors yet.

VOTER REGISTRATION

HB 211 by Stroud, Price et al

Committee on Elections

This bill contains some of the recommendations of the House interim committee established during the special session last summer to study the election laws. This bill would provide for year-round registration by adding two registration periods to the present single period which lasts from October 1 to January 31. The new second period would be from February 1 to March 31 and the third, from April 1 to October 1. A person would have to be registered four days before the election in which he wanted to vote, if he registered during the first period. He would have to be registered 30 days before an election if he registered during the second or third periods. The bill requires counties to send renewal notices so that the voter may re-register by this method.

VOTER REGISTRATION (continued)

SJR 13 by McKool, Harrington, et al

Committee on Constitutional Amendments

This resolution repeals the annual registration requirement provided for in Section 2 of Article VI of the Texas Constitution. Registration would still be required. The amendment would be submitted to the voters in November of this year.

SB 131 by McKool, et al

Committee on Privileges and Elections

We would graduate from annual to quadrennial registration under this bill. The quadrennium during which our registration would hold good without the need for renewal would begin with the presidential election year. The registration period would be from November 15 through March 31 each year. In addition in the even-numbered years an additional registration period would be from June 15 through September 30. A person could apply for registration by person or by mail. Registration certificates could be signed by the person or his agent. The bill would become effective only upon the adoption of an amendment repealing annual registration.

NATIONAL PROGRAM: Water Resources

HB 67, HB 69 by Braun, Kubiak et al

Committee on State Affairs

These two bills, known as the "Braun bills," were passed by the House two years ago. They would make corporations subject to injunctive action and criminal penalties for polluting the water or air contrary to law. They do this by including "corporations" within key definitions of present penal statutes, particularly the public nuisance laws, and make necessary additions thereto. Local enforcement by law enforcement agencies of violations of the law by corporations would be a necessary result of the bills.

HB 200 by Swanson et al

Committee on State Affairs

SB 6 by Cole and Herring

Committee on Jurisprudence

SB 6 was the subject of a spirited hearing before the Senate Jurisprudence Committee on February 11. It was compared with the Braun bills with Representative Rex Braun present and testifying against SB 6. Like the Braun bills, SB 6 also provides criminal penalties for violation of the pollution laws by corporations. It retains present provisions permitting "variances" by state administrative agencies, matters not explicitly covered by the Braun bills. The bill was sent to a subcommittee, chaired by Senator A. R. Schwartz of Galveston, with instructions to report back by February 25.

SB 147 by Herring and Cole
Committee on Water and Conservation

Introduced February 11, this bill would revise the Texas Water Quality Act of 1967. The LWV supported the Texas Water Quality Act of 1967 two years ago.

HJR 99 by Clayton et al
Committee on Constitutional Amendments

This proposed amendment broadens the power of the Texas Water Development Board to contract for water resources and facilities and to sell, transfer, and lease. It eliminates the interest limit on Texas Water Development bonds and the termination date and the procedures for curtailment of financial assessment by the Texas Water Development Board. It is one of numerous measures on water resources which the League will be examining for possible support.

NATIONAL PROGRAM: Human Resources

SB 2 by Schwartz, Mauzy et al

Committee on Education

This bill contains the recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Public School Education. The League will be supporting certain sections of this bill as they correspond to the four areas outlined for you by Mrs. Edward C. Fritz, Human Resources chairman, in her January Post Board Report. Representative DeWitt Hale of Corpus Christi has agreed to sponsor the bill in the House.

In addition to this bill there are numerous others of possible interest to the League in the human resources area. They include a series of eleven bills (HB 250 - 259, HB 261), introduced by Representatives Evans and Graves to remove from the statutes all references to segregation of the races. Then there is the perennial Equal Legal Rights Amendment, prohibiting discrimination on account of sex, which has already cleared the Senate Constitutional Amendments Committee. The minimum wage bill has also been introduced in both houses, and this session has the support of both the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor.

NATIONAL PROGRAM: Electoral College FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY

SB 107 by Grover

Committee on Privileges and Elections

This bill would require the election of one presidential elector from each congressional district and the election at large of a number of electors equal to the number of U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives elected at large. The nominations would be by party convention. The bill also provides that presidential electors are bound to vote in accordance with the plurality vote of the district which elected them or, if at large, of the state as a whole.

SB 204 by Angly, Davis et al

Committee on Elections

This bill makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or jail term, for presidential electors to vote for a party other than the party which the elector represented on the ballot.

November 23, 1968

League of Women Voters of Texas
1841 Bingle Road
Houston, Texas 77055

Diana Carol Dear
Dear -

Dear State Office:

May we please have 40 extra copies of the Legislative Opinion Report and 40 extra copies of the Legislative Biography Report forms so that we can more easily share this information with other Leagues in Dallas County? Please mail these to my home address: 7616 Royal Place, Dallas TEX 75230. (Incidentally, please correct my address plate to show this zone number.)

Also, will you please send 16 copies of each of these forms to the Irving League and 16 of each to the Richardson League so that they can more easily make copies of the information on the Dallas County legislators whom they are interviewing?

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laurence Perrine

cc - Mrs. May
Mrs. Shlipak
Mrs. Ogden

Dear Carol & Joyce,

I hope this method of sharing the interviewing via carbon copies is OK with you. We would very much like to have the information on all the Dallas County legislators, and assume that you would too. If you have ideas as to how we could work together on the actual interviewing (without making twice as much work), please get in touch with me or with Bobby Graham. If I counted right, I asked for enough extra copies of the forms so that we could send copies to each other & to Garland & have one to scribble on.

Catherine

TO: Local League Presidents (copies enclosed for Legislative Chairmen and Program Vice-Presidents)

FROM: Mrs. Francis B. May, Legislative Chairman

LWV of Texas

RE: Official State Legislative Interviews -- 61st Legislature November 1968

Enclosed are lists of State Senators and Representatives in the 61st Legislature with their district numbers and names of local Leagues within their districts. Also enclosed are copies of the Legislative Opinion Report Form (Form 1) and the Legislative Biography Report Form (Form 2). Local Leagues with an assignment to interview a Legislator are urged to fill out the forms and return two copies of each to the state office by January 1, 1969.

In many instances there is only one local League within a district. If your League is one of these, you are automatically assigned to make the official interview. In those districts where Leagues share the same Representative or Senator, the League assigned to undertake the official interview is indicated by underlining (senators) or by being mentioned first (Representatives). We urge all Leagues within the same district to exchange ideas and participate in some manner in the interview process. If a League in a multi-League district cannot undertake the interview, arrangements should be made for another League in the district to fill in as a substitute.

It is well for League interviewers to be well versed in State Program, League procedures and League purposes. Please bear in mind that the primary purpose of these interviews is to obtain opinions and advice from our State Legislators. It is all right to inform the Legislator of our positions, but this is not the primary purpose of the interview.

We cannot stress too much the importance of your filling in the forms and returning them to the state office. They are invaluable to us in our work with the Legislature during and between sessions. Please remember that January 1 deadline!

* * * * * *

LWV of Texas
Presidents Mailing
November 1968

SENATORS IN THE 61ST LEGISLATURE FROM LEAGUE COMMUNITIES

The 61st Legislature convenes January 14, 1969

League Selected for Official Interview *Not in Senate last Regular Session

LEAGUE	DISTRICT	SENATOR
Abilene	24	David Ratliff
Amarillo	31	Grady Hazlewood
Austin San Marcos	14	Charles Herring
Bay Area Baytown Houston	11	Barbara Jordan
Beaumont South Jefferson County	4	D. Roy Harrington
Brazosport Dickinson Galveston LaMarque Texas City	17	A. R. (Babe) Schwartz
Brownsville Edinburg Harlingen	27	James S. Bates
Corpus Christi	20	*Ronald W. Bridges
Corsicana	3	Charles Wilson
Irving	8	*O. H. (Ike) Harris
Richardson	16	*Mike McKool
Dallas	23	Oscar Mauzy
Denton Dallas	23	Ralph Hall
El Paso	29	Joe Christie
Houston	6	Criss Cole
	15	Henry Grover
Bay Area	11	Barbara Jordan
Pasadena	7	Chet Brooks
Longview Tyler	2	Jack Strong
Lubbock	28	H. J. (Doc) Blanchard

(OVER)

LEAGUE	DISTRICT	SENATOR
Midland Odessa	25	*W. E. (Pete) Snelson
Pasadena	7	Chet Brooks
San Antonio	19 26 (21)	V. E. (Red) Berry Joe J. Bernal (Wayne Connally) optional
Tarrant County	10 22	Don Kennard Tom Creighton
Victoria	18	William N. Patman
Waco	13	Murray Watson
Wichita Falls	30	Jack Hightower

PROVISIONAL LEAGUES (No Official Interviews)

Brazos County	5	William T. (Bill) Moore
Garland	16	Mike McKool
Hunt County	9	Ralph Hall

* * * * *

LWV of Texas
November 1968
Presidents Mailing

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 61ST LEGISLATURE FROM LEAGUE COMMUNITIES

The 61st Legislature convenes January 14, 1969

League Selected for Official Interview

*Not in House last Regular Session

LEAGUE	DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
Abilene	62-1	Grant Jones
	2	Frank Calhoun
Amarillo	74-1	Walter Knapp, Jr.
	2	Hudson Moyer
	75	*Tom Christian
Austin	39-1	*Harold Davis
	2	*Maurice Angly, Jr.
	3	Don Cavness
	4	Bob Armstrong
Bay Area	23-1	*R. C. (Nick) Nichols
	2	Lindon Williams
Baytown	23-3	Joe Allen
	4	Rex Braun
	5	Lauro Cruz
	6	Curtis M. Graves
Beaumont	9-1	Rufus Kilpatrick
	4	Will L. Smith
Brazosport	19	Neil Caldwell
	20	*Joe A. Hubenak
Brownsville	46-2	*Henry Sanchez, Jr.
	3	*J. A. Garcia, Jr.
Corpus Christi	45-1	*Francis Farenthold
	2	*Carlos Truan
	3	*Joe Salem
	4	DeWitt Hale
Corsicana	26	Jack R. Hawkins
Dallas	33-1	William Braecklein
	2	Ben Atwell
	4	*Dick Reed
	5	*Zan W. Holmes
	7	Griffith Moore
	10	*Joe Hawn
	12	James H. Clark, Jr.
	14	Fred Orr
	15	*Joe Golman
Denton	50	*Walt Parker

LEAGUE	DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
Edinburg	47-1	Raul Longoria
	2	Felix McDonald
	3	A. C. (Bud) Atwood
El Paso	67-1	Tati Santiesteban
	2	John E. Blaine
	3	Paul O. Moreno
	4	Raul Muniz
	5	*Tom Niland
Galveston Texas City Dickinson LaMarque	21-1	Ed J. Harris
	2	Dean Neugent
Harlingen	46-1	Menton J. Murray
Houston	22-1	Jack Ogg
	2	*W. E. Will Lee
	3	Cletus Davis
	4	Russell Cummings
	5	W. R. (Bill) Archer
	6	*Jim Earthman
	7	*Edmund E. (Sonny) Jones
(See Bay Area & Baytown)	23-1-6	
	24-1	Tom Bass
	2	*Ray Lemmon
(See Pasadena)	3-6	
Irving	33-3	John Wright
	6	Joe Ratcliff
	11	Chris Semos
Longview	13	John Allen
Lubbock	76-1	Delwin Jones
	2	Elmer Tarvox
	3	*R. B. McAlister
Midland	70	*Tom Craddick
Odessa	68	Ace Pickens
	69	Richard Slack
Pasadena	24-3	Arthur Vance
	4	Jim Clark
	5	Bill T. Swanson
	6	*Jamie Bray
Richardson	33-8	Dick McKissack
	9	J. W. Stroud
	13	Jack Blanton

Representatives of the 61st Legislature From League Communities (continued)

League Selected for Official Interview *Not in House last Regular Session

LEAGUE	DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
San Antonio	57-1	Jake Johnson
	2	R. L. (Bob) Vale
	3	Bill Finck
	4	James Nowlin
	5	A. L. (Tony) Dramberger
	6	Lamoine Holland
	7	*David Evans
	8	*Glenn Kothmann
	9	Guy Floyd
	10	Frank Lombardino
San Marcos	40	Gerhardt A. Schulle
South Jefferson County	9-2	J. D. Weldon
	3	Carl A. Parker
Tarrant County	52-1	Jack McLaughlin
	2	Joe Shannon, Jr.
	3	W. C. (Bud) Sherman
	4	*Bob Burnett
	5	Tommy Shannon
	6	Doyle Willis
	7	Dave Finney
	8	Cordell Hull
Tyler	14	Billy Williamson
	15	Fred Head
Victoria	43	R. H. (Dick) Cory
Waco	35-1	Bob L. Thomas
	2	Tom Moore, Jr.
	36	Bob Salter
Wichita Falls	60-1	Vernon Stewart
	2	Dave Allred

PROVISIONAL LEAGUES (No Official Interviews)

Brazos County	18	Bill Presnal
Garland	33-1-15	(See Dallas, Irving, Richardson)
Hunt County	25	James D. Cole

* * * * * *

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
1841 BINGLE ROAD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055

Presidents Mailing
November 1968

Form 1
Legislative Opinion Report

Please return two copies of this report to the state office by January 1, 1969.

Interview with Sen./Rep. _____ District No. _____

by _____

for League of Women Voters of _____ on _____, 1968.

Other Leagues represented: _____ _____ _____.

This Legislative Questionnaire is designed to guide you in invterviewing your Representatives and Senators about prospects for Legislative Action on State Program Items during the 61st Legislature.

_____ _____ _____ _____

LEGISLATURE

1. Does this legislator support annual legislative sessions? Would he support annual sessions if the salary were raised to compensate him for the extra time spent in session? Would he have run for office if the sessions were annual?

2. Does this legislator favor changes in the committee system? If so, what changes? Does he think any changes will be made this session?

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

3. Does this legislator support revision of the Texas Constitution? Does he indicate how he might act on the proposed new constitution of the Constitutional Revision Commission? Would he favor an article-by-article revision?

(OVER)

VOTER REGISTRATION

4. Does this legislator favor changes in the present Voter Registration laws?

5. Would this legislator support year-round registration? If not, would he favor reopening the lists after the second primary or in September before the general election? What changes other than these would he support?

STATE-LOCAL RELATIONS

6. Does this legislator favor new state legislation to define the legal status of Councils of Governments or otherwise provide by law for them?

7. Does this legislator favor changes in constitutional provisions concerning county home rule? optional plans for counties? removing the constitutional tax limit on urban counties in return for their providing urban services county-wide?

WATER RESOURCES

8. Does this legislator think the Texas Water Quality Act of 1967 is adequate? If not, what changes would he support in the next session?

HUMAN RESOURCES

9. Will this legislator support any of the recommendations made in the Report of the Governor's Committee on Public School Education? If so, which ones?

OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

10. What does this legislator consider to be the major legislative issue, goal or responsibility of the coming session?

11. What is his primary area of interest?

12. What is his attitude toward the League?

* * * * * * * *

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
1841 BINGLE ROAD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055

Presidents Mailing
November 1968

Form 2
Legislative Biography Report

Please return two copies of this report to the state office by January 1, 1969.

This form is to be filled in by the local League. Please do NOT ask these questions of your Representative or Senator, either directly or by mail. If you are unable to complete this data sheet, please return it with as much information as you have available.

Biography Report for 61st Legislature

Name: Sen. / Rep. _____ District No. ____

Local Address: _____ Party _____

_____ Age _____

Education: _____

Occupation: _____

When was he first elected to this office? _____

Other experience in government -- what, when and where _____

_____

_____

Any other political history of importance such as party leadership or vigorous but unsuccessful candidacy _____

_____

Is he generally considered to be aligned with any particular faction or interest in the Legislature or state government? _____

_____

What are his major areas of government interest? If you use one particular source of information, such as campaign speeches, previous record, or participation in organizations, please indicate this. _____

_____

_____

(OVER)

Legislative Biography Report - November 1968

Please give any other pertinent or useful information that you have available, such as his community interests and degree of active participation and interest group support or opposition during his campaign. Also, please give your evaluation of this Legislator.

Your comments and judgment concerning this member of the Legislature and your evaluation of his responses are very important. They supply us with our most valuable information.

Reported by _____

for the League of Women Voters of _____

Date _____

January 3, 1968

Mrs. Francis B. May
[redacted]

Dear Janice,

The following League members from Dallas will be attending the Lobby School:

Mrs. Colin Macdonald
Mrs. Winthrop Clark
Mrs. Peter Williams
Mrs. E. A. Pillsbury
Mrs. B. F. White
Mrs. W. P. Goode
Mrs. W. D. Austin

Emma Chenault

In addition, I assume, to Joe Ratcliff, one Dallas representative will attend:

Mr. Jack Blanton

This makes a total of 8 reservations for us.

Best wishes for the Lobby School and New Year.

Cordially,

TO: Local League Presidents and Legislative Chairmen

LWV of Texas
December 1968

FROM: Mrs. Francis B. May, State Legislative Chairman

RE: Plans for Lobby School on January 7 at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin

As you know the LWV of Texas Lobby School will open its doors to students on January 7 in Austin at the Commodore Perry Hotel.

We think you will be pleased to hear that we have assembled a blue-ribbon faculty for the school.

Speaker-elect of the Texas House of Representatives, Gus F. Mutscher, will be our guest speaker at the noon luncheon.

The morning panel on lobby legislation will be composed of James K. Presnal, Austin attorney and lobbyist for State Farm Mutual; Walter Caven, lobbyist for the Texas Railroad Association and other interests; and Representative Joe Ratcliff of Dallas.

In the afternoon Mrs. Mary Kate Wall, attorney and leading experton Texas election laws who is now in the Secretary of State's Office, will discuss Texas Election Laws.

The afternoon panel on "Boobytraps" will be composed of Stuart Long of the Long News Service at the Capitol; Dr. Clifton McCleskey, Professor of Government at the University of Texas and author of the text, The Government and Politics of Texas; and Glenn Ivy, Director of the Governor's Committee on Public School Education.

I think you will agree that the Lobby School promises to be one of the highlights of the League year.

We definitely need to have an early estimate of the number of League members (and any guest legislators) who might be attending the luncheon. Please send the number of persons from your League who might be attending by December 16. We understand that changes in reservations will be made after that date, but we still need the early estimate. We will need to have a close approximation of the number of persons who will attend the luncheon by January 4.

Although we said in the Texas VOTER to send the number of reservations to the state office, it will expedite matters to send the estimates to me directly at home. Address:

[redacted]

We hope to see you on the 7th!!

* * * * * *

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LWV of Texas
December 1968

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[redacted]

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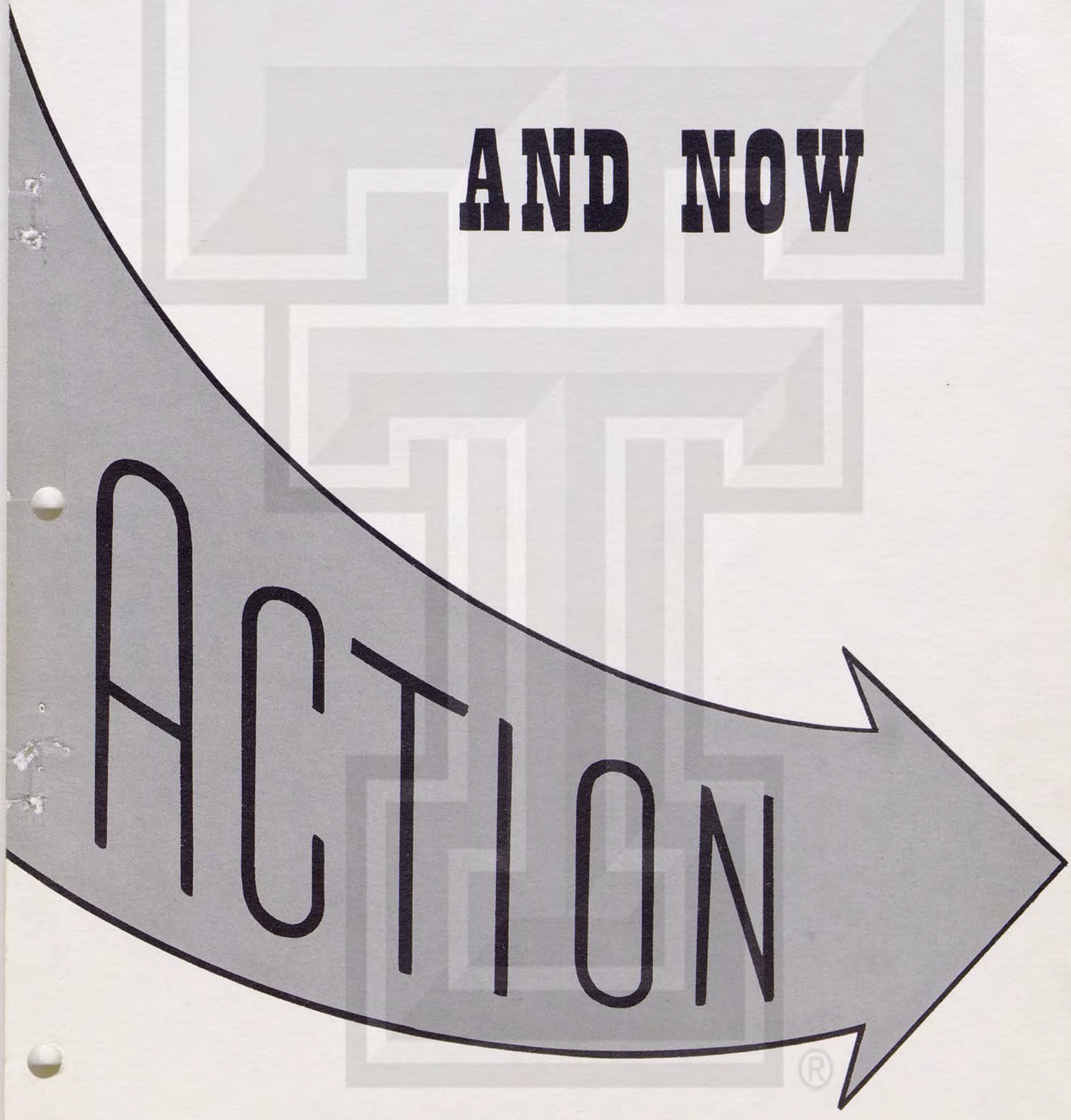
* * * * * *

PRESIDENT'S FILE

AND NOW



League of Women Voters of Texas

Boards + Commissions pg 23 of 106

AND NOW ACTION
March 1973

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

AND NOW ACTION is designed to prepare every League member in the state for the ACTION we must start planning for NOW.

Action is what League program is all about. For over twenty years we in the Texas League have worked for the opportunity to have a voice in revising the Texas Constitution. The opportunity is here. We now turn from the mechanics for revision to the nitty-gritty of revision--the issues. The challenges we face in the next few months call for an all-out effort to develop public support for the League's positions and to influence the decision-making in the revision of the constitution.

AND NOW ACTION is the tool to prepare League members for a piece of the action. Designed as a series of "position papers," it provides background material on program issues, states League positions, and differentiates between those involving constitutional change and those involving statutory change. It also includes general information on the constitutional aspects of state finance and education.

Let's share our commitment to a good constitution for Texas with citizens throughout the state. Be prepared by being informed. Then be active!

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Support of measures to promote revision of the Texas Constitution.

The Texas Constitution, adopted in 1876, strongly reflects the political environment at that time. In the turbulent post-Civil War Reconstruction period, Texas was ruled by carpetbaggers, who, unlike the majority of Texans, had not supported the Confederacy; they governed under the constitution of 1869. When the supporters of Confederate ideals regained power, they drafted a new constitution with strong safeguards against abuse of power. This constitution of 1876 was designed to prevent the state from governing--in contrast to the U.S. Constitution, which permits governing.

The Texas Constitution is long, detailed, all-inclusive, inflexible, ambiguous, and unorganized. The legislature frequently proposes amendments in an attempt to cope with current problems. Over two hundred have been adopted by the electorate in less than one hundred years.

League interest in Texas constitutional revision grew out of a "Know Your State" survey begun in 1948. The last half of the study project was devoted almost exclusively to a section-by-section examination of the state constitution.

After completing this survey of Texas government in 1954, the League reached consensus supporting general revision of the constitution, to be preceded by thorough review and adequate research. League members agree that the research should be an official research program authorized by the legislature. In order to achieve its goals of constitutional review and revision, the League began working to build public opinion for revision, to secure research in state government, and to generate support for a constitutional commission to conduct the research.

In 1957 the question arose of how to prepare League members and others to give thoughtful consideration to the report of the Texas Legislative Council, which had been directed by the legislature to make a thorough study of the constitution and assess the need for revision. The League set itself the task of formulating a set of constitutional principles to use as yardsticks in judging a state constitution. In the course of their study, League members considered statements from the Principles of the national League of Women Voters and from yardsticks or current agendas of various state Leagues, plus the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and the report of the State Organization Committee of Connecticut. Following the consensus reports of local Leagues to the state board in January 1958, nine principles were adopted at the

state convention in March 1958. A tenth principle was adopted by the presidents council in 1959, and an eleventh, a bill of rights, was added in 1971 by the state board, feeling that it had been implied in previous consensus statements.

These eleven principles for a good constitution are not positions but criteria to use in assessing the need for revision of an existing constitution or in evaluating the merits of a proposed constitution. They are:

1 a bill of rights
2 a framework of basic law
3 a clear separation of powers with responsibility definitely assigned
4 qualifications for voter eligibility and guarantees of fair elections
5 provisions for justice with a minimum of delay
6 a coordinated finance structure capable of flexibility
7 maximum home rule for municipal and county government with coordination of overlapping functions
8 provisions for support of public education
provisions for support of public health and welfare services
provisions for amendment and revision
basic policies regarding state employee selection, retention and promotion

Article XVII, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution states that the legislature at any biennial session, by a vote of two-thirds of all the members, may propose amendments to the constitution, to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the state, and adopted if a majority of the votes cast are for the amendment. The possibility that steps could be taken toward revision of the Texas Constitution in any session of the legislature clearly pointed out the need for League members to be knowledgeable about methods for revising the constitution. In 1962, after studying the pamphlet, "How to Revise the Texas Constitution," League members agreed that a constitutional convention preceded by qualified research is the most desirable method for general revision.

When a constitutional revision commission was appointed in 1967, League members, fearing they would be unable to support the commission's revised constitution because their support position specified revision by a constitutional convention, reviewed their consensus on methods of revision. Wishing to be flexible so that any possibilities for revision could be considered, a new position was agreed on early in 1969:

> Support for revision of the Texas Constitution within League principles and standards, preferably by constitutional convention, although alternate methods can be supported.

A constitutional amendment calling for the members of the 63rd Legislature to sit as a constitutional convention beginning in January 1974, after a constitutional revision commission, appointed by the legislature, has studied the need for constitutional change and made recommendations, was approved in November 1972. While the League gave all-out support to the passage of this amendment, support of the constitution that follows depends on whether or not it can meet League criteria.

VOTING RIGHTS

Support of improved procedures for registration of voters in Texas. Support of uniformly enforced election procedures, clearly stated election laws, and the right to a secret ballot.

Constitutional Provisions

According to the Model State Constitution, "the issue of citizen control of government permeates all questions of constitutional structure. A major goal should be to make citizen control more effective. A major tool of citizen control is the electoral process. The state constitution should protect firmly the essential political rights of the citizen, leaving to legislation, within a broad constitutional framework, responsibility for prescribing detail of the electoral process."

The next paragraphs outline the changes sought by the League of Women Voters in the suffrage article of the Texas Constitution and summarize court rulings that have modified several of its present provisions.

The League supports automatic restoration of voting rights to felons upon completing their sentence and/or probationary period. The Texas Constitution disqualifies from voting all persons convicted of any felony, subject to such exceptions as the legislature may make. At present, a convicted felon may regain his voting rights only if he requests and receives a full pardon, which includes restoration of voting rights, from the Board of Pardons and Paroles. However, the League believes that a formerly qualified voter who has served his prison term should without further action be invested with all rights of citizenship. In recent years criticism of the disfranchisement of convicted criminals has grown. In most states, among them Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, and Virginia, the governor has the power to restore a former convict to full civil rights; in other states, such as Connecticut, a special commission possesses the right and in Colorado, Hawaii, and Oregon, felons regain the franchise immediately upon release from prison. Felons may vote in New York if they have been released after serving their full sentence or have completed parole.

Action to protect the right to vote of every citizen is a program bylaw of the national League of Women Voters. Therefore, the Texas League believes that the disqualification from voting of "all paupers supported by any county" should be removed from the state constitution. Disfranchisement of indigents is legitimatized in seven states (Delaware, Massachusetts, Missouri, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia.) Among these states, which specifically disqualify "paupers" as voting registrants, the term "pauper" is variously defined. Missouri and Texas disqualify any person kept at any poorhouse or other asylum at public expense. This contention reflects the lingering but sharp class feeling that those who contribute so little economically to the community should be denied the right to select governmental officials, a position that is out of harmony with the idea of self-government.

Recent court rulings and congressional legislation have affected some provisions of the suffrage article (Article VI) of the Texas Constituion:

Residence. Section 2 of Article VI stipulates that a person must have resided in the state one year and in the county for six months to qualify as an elector in an election. The passage of the 1970 Amendments to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Dunn v. Blumstein have established nationwide standards affecting the rights of all citizens to register and vote. Compliance requires abolition of all durational residency requirements for voting in any election--federal, state, or local. Registration is to be kept open until at least 30 days before an election, as 30 days appears to be an ample period of time for a state to complete whatever administrative tasks are necessary.

Registration. Another provision in Sec. 2 of Article VI requires that voters register annually. In a decision rendered on January 7, 1971, a three-judge federal district court held in the case of Beare v. Smith that the requirement for annual registration is invalid. The 62nd Legislature enacted a registration system eliminating the features of the former law that the district court had declared to be objectionable. The League concurs with the Model State Constitution provision that the legislature provide by law for registration of voters. In other words, the constitution should address itself only to the method for registration control and not specify the details.

Property ownership. Sec. 3 of Article VI adds a property requirement for voting on local bond issues and expenditure of funds. However, the U.S. Supreme Court recently held in furtherance of the one man-one vote doctrine that limiting the vote on bond issues to voters who are also real property taxpayers is unconstitutional (City of Phoenix v. Kolodziejski; Cipriano v. City of Houma). Until and unless the Supreme Court changes its mind, Section 3 appears to be inoperative.

There are two other provisions found in most constitutional suffrage articles. Citizenship is an unexceptionable requirement for voting in

every state. Persons determined to be mentally incompetent are almost always denied the right to vote on the ground that such individuals are incapable of rendering a rational decision in the voting booth.

Statutory Provisions

The League of Women Voters feels that the legislature should be given the responsibility and the necessary authority to build a statutory framework essential for a proper electoral system. The specific details of election administration are thus left to legislation. The League emphasizes these major points in developing a proper electoral system. The best voter registration system is one that provides a balance between these important elements:

Adequate safeguards against fraud (personal registration and issuance of registration card, signature identification at the polls, and accurate and current registration lists, periodically revised)

Uniformity and Ease of administration (good administrative methods)

Voter convenience (reregistration by voting and year-round registration with no fee)

No declaration of party affiliation when registering (In order to help establish a strong two-party state, League members think a declaration of party designation should not be required at the time of registration.)

The League's criteria for election administration include:

Clearly stated election laws and procedures that uniformly and regularly produce honest and accurate results

Safeguards against fraudulent practices

Protection of the secrecy of the ballot

Convenience to the voters

Impartiality of treatment for all voters

Reasonable costs for conducting elections.

Therefore, the League supports uniformly enforced election procedures, clearly stated election laws, and the right to a secret ballot. Stressing the need for improving election procedures, its position emphasizes these points:

Revision of the election laws to ensure enforcement. Language should be precise and easily understood by laymen so that it is not open to differing interpretations by various officials. Procedures and personnel should be adequately described to provide for uniform adminstration of the law. Substantive revision is needed.

Recodification of the election laws to eliminate obsolete matter and clarify ambiguous provisions. Inconsistencies and outdated references should be removed.

Supervision of local elections held by all governmental units by a single county election authority responsible to a central state authority. Lack of central control has been identified as a source of election problems. Jurisdiction of the central election office should be extended to all elections in the county--general elections, city elections, school elections, special district elections, etc.

Requirement of uniform training for all election personnel. Training should not only be uniform throughout the state, but should also be mandatory.

Automatic restoration of voting rights to felons upon completing their sentence and/or probationary period. This provision may be constitutional or statutory, depending on the wording of the suffrage article in the constitution.

Provision for unitary primaries. Party primaries are recognized as an integral part of the election process. A consolidated or unitary primary is preferred to cut costs and prevent dual party voting.

APPORTIONMENT

Action for apportionment substantially on population of congressional districts and of all elected state and local governmental bodies.

Americans are agreed that every vote cast should be counted-and counted only once. Otherwise election by the majority has no meaning. Recent years have witnessed a growing determination to equalize citizens' votes in another way: by removing the sharp variations between the number of people in voting districts. Without this kind of equality, some of those elected speak and vote for a small constituency, some for a large. Some people are overrepresented, other underrepresented.

Constitutional Provisions

Sections 25, 26, and 26a of Article III of the Constitution of Texas determine the apportionment of seats in the legislature. However, the limiting exceptions in these sections have been removed by the courts as violations of the one man-one vote rule.

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The Model State Constitution of the National Municipal League suggests including the provision that all districts be "so nearly equal in population that the population of the largest district shall not exceed that of the smallest district by more than ___ per cent." It also suggests that, following each decennial census, the governor appoint a board to make recommendations concerning the redistricting of the state. The Constitution of Texas, in Section 28 of Article III, assigns the apportionment task to the state legislature. If that body fails to act, it provides for an agency (composed of the lieutenant governor, Speaker of the House, attorney general, comptroller, and commissioner of the General Land Office) to redistrict the legislature.

Legislative Implications

In 1965 the Texas Legislature passed a resolution memorializing Congress to call a constitutional convention to reverse the one man-one vote ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court. Resolutions to rescind this have been introduced but not passed. The League would support a resolution to rescind the earlier action, such as has been done in other states. In 1970 the Kansas state legislature voted to rescind the pro-amendment resolutions it had passed in 1963 and 1965. In 1971 the Idaho legislature voted to rescind its resolutions memorializing Congress to call a constitutional convention to enact an amendment allowing state legislatures to apportion one house of their legislatures on a basis other than population.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Support of the conservation and development of water resources and of improvement of water and air quality. Evaluation of measures to achieve and maintain a physical environment beneficial to life.

Historical Background for League Positions

Since 1956, the League of Women Voters has been studying water resources on the national level. In 1959, national consensus was reached, giving support to long-range planning for conservation and development of water resources and action to promote improvement in water quality. The national League's early voice-in-the-wilderness concern for water resources was expanded in 1970 into a study of environmental quality, and water support positions were incorporated in this item. Specifically, under the national consensus, the League supports overall, long-range planning of water resources development; managing water resources on a river-basin or regional basis; federal financing of water development with cost-sharing by state and local government and private users;

improved coordination between agencies and departments; procedures that supply information and encourage intelligent weighing of alternative plans; citizen participation in water resource decisions; limited financial assistance (government incentives) to accomplish water pollution control. Under the national program, local and state Leagues express their views on almost every aspect of water issues.

In 1970 the League of Women Voters of Texas initiated a state-level study on water planning and reached the following consensus:

State government should have the responsibility for water planning and developement in Texas.

Development of adequate water supplies should be ecologically sound.

Additional water resources should come from within the state..

Maximum use of present water supplies should be made through reuse, conservation, and more efficient water and land use.

Water should be available for all users whenever feasible; however municipal needs should come first.

Unlike League positions on water, those related to air quality are relatively new. In April of 1971, the League of Women Voters of the United States determined by consensus that "control of air pollution is a responsibility to be shared by all levels of government--federal, state and local." Further, that "while the federal government should have the major role in setting standards, each lower level of government should have the right to set more stringent standards. Enforcement should be carried out at the lower levels of government, but the federal government should have ultimate power to enforce standards if the lower levels do not meet this responsibility. Pollution control should be considered a cost of doing business, but citizens as consumers and taxpayers must expect some costs to be passed on to them. The public should participate in decisions on all phases of air pollution control."

On the state program level, the consensus on air quality in Texas, which was adopted in 1971, adds to the national consensus:

Support of state government action for control of air pollution in Texas, which includes:

- Power to set and enforce standards stricter than those required by the federal government
- Adequate funding to carry out research, planning, and enforcement

Local and regional governments to be allowed to set and enforce standards stricter than those of the state

Encouragement of citizen involvement in the enforcement process.

Constitutional Ramifications of League Environmental Quality Positions

Most authorities on state constitutions agree that an affirmative constitutional command to protect the environment is desirable, but that specific restrictions and procedures should be statutory in nature. The League concurs in this opinion. While both state and national League environmental quality positions are fairly explicit and detailed, League members agree that such specifics should not appear in the revised Texas Constitution.

Unlike some sections of the present Texas Constitution, the one dealing with the environment (Article XVI, Section 59) is not entirely to be faulted. According to the Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, "Texas has an affirmative call to protect the environment...adopted in 1917. It is limited to conservation and development of natural resources, but then the problem of pollution was not the issue in 1917 that it is today." In order to assure relevance to contemporary life, the League of Women Voters of Texas would hope that the environmental article to be included in the revised constitution would set forth a public policy of the state to provide and maintain a healthful environment. To be omitted from the constitution would be parts (b), (c), and (d) of Article XVI, Section 59, since these deal with the creation of conservation and reclamation districts, levying of taxes for same, and regulatory procedures for the districts, all of which provisions, in the League's opinion, are more properly statutory than constitutional.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Support of measures to combat poverty and discrimination in Texas. The League of Women Voters of Texas supports measures to equalize educational opportunity in the state.

Specifically, the League believes that:

level of state support to Texas public schools should be raised to insure that all Texas school children receive a high quality education. Local enrichment funding should be limited to 10% of the state program.

revenue should be raised by a state supervised property tax, a state income tax, a state corporate profits tax, or any combination thereof.

In levying the property tax: taxable property should be assessed at full market value; state supervision should insure equitable and uniform assessment and taxing procedures; professional training should be required for tax assessor-collectors.

funds to local school districts should be allocated on the basis of weighted pupil needs.

local district capital outlay should be supplemented by the state to equalize facilities.

The above consensus was arrived at after a concentrated study, dating from the adoption of public school financing as an emergency study item at the Waco Council, April, 1972, through the consensus deadline of January 15, 1973. Besides the usual resource committee meetings, most Leagues scheduled one or two unit discussion meetings plus a community meeting, where experts in the field of public school finance were heard from.

Because of the complexity of the subject, it was difficult to arrive at a detailed consensus covering a number of specific points. Only the points mentioned in the consensus statement were cited by a substantial majority of the Leagues taking part in the consensus.

Leagues were agreed that the level of state support to the local school districts should be raised substantially beyond the present Foundation School Program. A majority mentioned full state funding, but many of this majority did not spell out exactly what they meant. At the same time, they indicated they would allow local enrichment of 10%. However, because of the number of Leagues wanting to keep a joint state-local system of school financing, the state board felt that a consensus had not been reached on the point of full state funding.

Many Leagues indicated they did not want the better school districts penalized by an equalization program. This would indicate that local Leagues would like to see a state program encompassing 80% to 90% of the costs of public school education.

Leagues were aware that the assumption of such costs by the state would call for additional revenues. Leagues were divided in their preferences as to which taxes should be used to raise these monies. Those Leagues preferring a state income tax and/or a state corporate profits tax mentioned that if a property tax were retained for the financing of public school education they would like to see certain reforms (discussed below). Those Leagues preferring to finance educational costs by a property tax wanted the tax reformed. They mentioned that if additional taxes were necessary, they would prefer a state income tax and/or a state corporate profits tax. Leagues seemed to be saying, "We know that the kind of equalized educational program we would like to see in Texas will cost more money, and we are flexible as to how this money is raised."

In describing how the property tax should be reformed, local Leagues were almost unanimous in wanting property to be assessed at full market value. They wanted tax assessors to be professionally trained. They wanted uniform assessing procedures and a uniform tax rate. In order to assure these reforms Leagues felt that state supervision over the property tax was necessary. Suggestions ranged from setting up a separate state agency to do the job, to the setting of state guidelines and enforcement procedures, but with no recommendation as to how these should be implemented.

In allocating funds to the local school districts, local Leagues again almost unanimously chose the weighted pupil method. This method breaks down the educational process into programs by which the educational and developmental needs of pupils are measured. It recognizes that it costs more to meet the needs of some students than others. It assumes that pupil-teacher ratios are less and operating and capital outlay costs are greater for special education programs. For example, if a weight of 1 is given to the cost of educating regular pupils in elementary school and it is found that it costs twice as much for compensatory education programs, then the full-time pupils with a need for compensatory education are given a weight of 2. Other programs receive other weights, according to their costs. Funds are then allocated to the local school districts on the basis of their weighted pupil needs.

Finally, local Leagues agreed that the question of capital outlay must be dealt with, if educational opportunity is to be equalized. While no specific method of equalizing capital needs was suggested, most Leagues felt that the state should eventually assume responsibility for these costs.

Legislative Action

At this time, the outlook for legislative action is not clear. Three definite recommendations have been made: one by the State Board of Education; one by

the Texas State Teachers Association; and one by the Senate Committee to Study Public School Finance. There has been no rush to file any bills, as the general agreement seems to be to wait until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on the Rodriguez case. If this means that a special session of the legislature must be called to deal with the question of public school financing, then so be it.

The state board will have to examine the various bills that are introduced, and then decide if any can be supported under the League's consensus. The major issues that the League will have to contend with when lobbying are: (1) the attitude that there must be no new taxes and no increase in taxes; (2) the reluctance of those entrenched interests that are benefiting by the present system to change to another system where their position might be less favored or weaker; (3) the realization that none of the suggested plans to date comes to grips with the question of equalization of school facilities.

Constitutional Action

Article VII of the Texas Constitution deals with education. It contains some 21 sections. The first one states that it is the duty of the legislature of the state to support and maintain a system of public schools. The remainder provides that certain permanent school funds be set up; that certain taxes be designated for the support of public schools; that universities be established and supported by certain taxes and monies, etc.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has no consensus positions specifically related to the sections of the education article, However, some experts recommend a short, permissive type of education article in a constitution, affirming the duty of the state to provide education. This type of education article would more nearly fit League principles for a good constitution.

The situation in regard to Article VIII on taxation is similar while it contains some language in line with League consenus (e.g., the stipulation in Sections 1 and 2 that taxation should be equal and uniform), it has a complex welter of other provisions upon which the League has no consensus.

Any League action on its public school financing position, therefore, will have to be legislative rather than constitutional.

Welfare

National Statement of Position

Members of the League of Women Voters of the United States believe the federal government bears a major responsibility for providing income assistance to meet the basic needs of all persons in the United States who are unable to work whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available.

Criteria for Income Assistance

The federal government bears the responsibility for financing basic programs of income assistance and for setting income and eligibility standards for these programs. Supervising the administration of assistance is the responsibility of the federal government, but administrative offices should be close to the people participating in the program.

- Eligibility of all low-income individuals for assistance should be based on need. Eligibility should be established through simplified procedures such as a declaration of need, spot-checked in a manner similar to that used in checking the validity of income tax returns.

- Benefit levels should be sufficient to provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. Minimum income standards should be adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living, and should be revised periodically to take into account changes in the purchasing value of the dollar. There should be increasing emphasis on cash assistance, but in-kind assistance (e.g., food stamps, housing subsidies, medical aid) should be continued to help assure that these needs are met. Until a federal welfare program achieves an adequate level of benefits, some states will need to supplement federal payments. Participants should not receive lesser benefits under a revised program than they are now receiving.

- Privacy of participants should be protected. All administrative procedures should be conducted with respect for the rights and dignity of the individuals.

- Work should be encouraged; participants' total income should increase as their earnings increase. Counseling, realistic training for actual jobs, and financial incentives--not a requirement to work--should be the links between job programs and income assistance.

Criteria for Supportive Services

Supportive services should be available--but not compulsory--for participants in income assistance programs. Most important among these are child care, counseling, family planning, health and legal services. Fees for supportive services should be based on ability to pay, free where necessary. Facilities and services for participants should be the same as for the general public. The federal government should exert leadership in setting standards for eligibility, for the quality of services, and for adequate funding. Participants in the programs should be included in program development and implementation, and the administration of social services

programs should be responsive to the needs of the people being served. Wherever possible, these services should be conveniently located in the neighborhood.

State Addition to National Statement of Position

In the fall of 1970, local Leagues in Texas studied welfare under a national program item. At the same time, the state League added two consensus questions onto the national questions, so as to have a further basis for action on state welfare issues peculiar to Texas. The result was the following support positions:

> *The removal of the ceiling on welfare spending from the state constitution. The Provision of supportive services for welfare recipients, including health care, child care, family planning, and legal aid.*

In the second position on providing supportive services for welfare recipients, local Leagues were saying that if these services were not provided under federal or federal/state programs, they would like to see them provided by the state.

In 1971 the Texas League supported a proposed constitutional amendment to remove constitutional limitations on assistance payments to some categories of welfare recipients. This amendment was turned down by the voters.

The state welfare picture has been rather clouded for the past several years as state officials have waited to see what sort of legislation would emerge from the U.S. Congress. The passage of the 1972 Social Security Amendments (H.R. 1) in the fall of 1972 has not contributed much to the clarification of the state welfare picture. State officials are waiting to see how interpretation of regulations by the Secretary of HEW will affect the state situation. Even though cash payments to the three adult categories will be federalized commencing January 1, 1974, many policy questions about supportive services to these recipients remain to be decided.

Legislative Action

At this writing, it remains unclear as to what sort of legislative action will be upcoming in the current session of the Texas legislature in the area of welfare. Many questions will be resolved in the appropriations process.

Local League members would do well to start talking to their legislators in general terms regarding these points under the national welfare consensus: (1) until a federal welfare program achieves an adequate level of benefits, some states will need to supplement federal payments; (2) participants should not receive lesser benefits under a revised program than they are now receiving; (3) supportive services should be retained or expanded, if possible.

(More detailed information on the 1972 Social Security Amendments and their relationship to League consensus positions is being prepared by the state League.)

A major impediment in trying to obtain state legislative action is the reluctance of the general public to support any programs that call for increased expenditures and, therefore, increased taxes. Community education will be necessary to give the true situation as it now exists for all categories of welfare recipients.

Constitutional Action

Sections 51 and 51-a of Article III concern grants of public money by the legislature and assistance grants and medical care for the needy, respectively. Sec. 51 prohibits the grant of public money to any individual, group of individuals, municipal or other corporations, except where provided. Sec. 51-a sets forth an exception allowing grants for welfare and medical care in order to receive matching federal grants. It also sets the limitation of $80 million on assistance payments during any fiscal year.

Since the League of Women Voters of Texas supports the removal of the welfare ceiling from the constitution, League members should be starting to familiarize themselves with these sections of the document and to work toward excluding both sections from a new constitution. Sec. 51 falls under that category of sections encompassing special limitations. It obviously represents a reaction against an era of graft and corruption. However, there are ways of combating graft and corruption other than to deny the legislature the power of making grants. Today, one method of stimulating local governments to make needed improvements in many areas is to give them matching grants. If the state of Texas is to assume a leadership role vis-a-vis its local governments, then a section such as Sec. 51 should not be included in a new constitution.

Sec. 51a should also be deleted. Its provisions are more statutory than constitutional. Even as statutory law, some provisions of this section would need changing to make it current with the situation that now exists following the passage of the 1972 Social Security Amendments.

A Human Relations Commission for Texas

In the fall of 1970, local Leagues studied human relations commissions, both state and local, trying to identify those elements that make for an effective commission. The Governor's Committee on Human Relations, which had been established in June 1969, was evaluated. The consensus arrived at pinpointed the factors in setting up a human relations commission that the local Leagues believed important if it were to be successful in combating discrimination,

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports:

> *An effective Human Relations Commission for Texas, including such features as: permanent, independent status; investigative and legal enforcement powers; an adequate budget, funded independently of the governor's office; equitable representation of racial and ethnic groups; and a staff adequate to perform its duties and trained in human relations work.*

Local Leagues felt that the problems of discrimination and intergroup tensions in Texas were so important that most gave first priority to the factor of permanence in setting up a human relations commission.

Instead of the commission being a part of the governor's office, with its funds coming from those allocated to the governor, Leagues felt that the commission should be independent of the governor's office and that the legislature should appropriate the commission's funds as a part of the regular appropriations process, along with those of the other agencies and departments.

Leagues felt that the commission, to be effective, needed investigative and legal enforcement powers. The subpoena power was the only specifically mentioned power. However, Leagues were agreed that when conciliation fails, the commission needs enforcement powers to adequately combat discrimination.

As to the size of a budget needed by the commission to do an effective job, no figures were mentioned by the local Leagues. There was agreement that Leagues wanted to see more than a token effort.

Leagues felt that commission members should be widely representative of the major racial, religious, and ethnic groups in the state. They felt that the number of members should be fewer than the present 50 on the Governor's Committee, but there was no agreement as to how many. Some Leagues mentioned that care should be exercised to select true minority leaders for commission membership.

As to staff, local Leagues felt it important that the staff have training in human relations work. However, this stipulation would not preclude the use of paraprofessionals or other untrained persons whom experience had shown to be effective in this type of work.

Leagues were also asked as to what programs the commission should first undertake. Many Leagues thought that the commission should work with the news media to educate the public about its own existence, devise broad educational programs to reduce tension, and help local communities to set up their own local commissions. Other programs most frequently mentioned were: working to enforce fair housing laws; working to enforce minimum

building codes; expanding vocational education opportunities; expanding counseling services; and combating discrimination in employment.

Legislative Action

Legislation to create a permanent, effective human relations commission has been introduced into the 1973 session of the legislature. This marks the third session in which such a bill has been introduced. The League has testified and lobbied in favor of each of these bills.

Action for a permanent human relations commission is not a top League legislative priority for this session but it still remains a very important issue in the human resources area. Its importance will be increasingly apparent as state and local programs begin to feel a greater impact from the federal government's decision to switch from categorical grants to revenue-sharing. As federal activity and control deminish, the urgency for state antidiscrimination laws and a state agency to implement these laws will increase. Those local Leagues that have the womanpower should feel free to include lobbying for an effective human relations commission in their work schedule.

Constitutional Action

Since the creation of a state human relations commission is a statutory matter, it is not an issue for constitutional action.

Other Human Resources Concerns

Besides the three specific areas of consensus under Human Resources on the state level, there are a number of other Human Resources consensus positions arrived at through study on the national level. These concern the areas of employment, education, and housing. The "Statement of Human Resources Position," as revised and announced by the national board, January 10, 1969, delineates these positions. Local League members should familiarize themselves with these positions, as action is possible under them both at the state and local levels, provided League guidelines are followed.

STATE-LOCAL RELATIONS

Support of more flexibility and adequate powers at the local level; comprehensive regional and state planning, including regional planning councils.

Increased interest in strengthening local government and in improving state-local relations has resulted from problems of urbanization. Existing authority provided under (1) enabling legislation for regional planning councils (RPCs) and (2) the general interlocal contracting law have enabled RPCs to perform a wide variety of services for member governments and their residents. But the state of Texas must search for means to correct structural, functional, and fiscal weaknesses of the local governments themselves, to enable them to become stronger partners in serving citizen needs.

Constitutional Provisions

Recognizing that local government in Texas continues to have an important role to play in the overall governmental structure, the League of Women Voters supports measures to provide adequate and realistic powers for cities and/or counties enabling performance of services without overlapping costs and taxation, in preference to single-purpose districts. The cities of Texas have fared fairly well with their home-rule status and annexation powers, but the counties have been stifled and have ambiguous responsibilities. In Texas, counties are legal subdivisions of the state, with limited powers and duties. Although the state constitution spells out more than 125 provisions relating specifically to county government, counties have not had the authority necessary to function adequately in modern-day Texas. Consequently, over 1600 special districts have sprung up throughout the state. These districts include airport authorities, hospital districts, housing authorities, river authorities, local water districts, soil conservation districts, and mosquito control districts. The indiscriminate creation of special districts has complicated the process of governmental coordination, precluded effective citizen control and participation, and added substantially to the overall cost of government. The purpose of the local government article in the Alaska Constitution is to provide maximum local self-government with a minimum of local government units.

A rapidly changing age requires flexibility, so the League of Women Voters believes that counties and municipalities need a flexible governmental structure, together with legislative and financial powers adequate to provide local services. Regardless of the governmental form, local responsibility and participation can best be assured if the people have

a broad range of discretion in determining the form of government that is in their best interest. County residents should have several options in choosing a form of government that suits their needs and preferences--including the merger of neighboring counties, optional charters for administrative reorganization, and county home rule including provision for city-county consolidation if desired by the people in the county.

Comprehensive regional and state planning is supported by the League of Women Voters. All that a state constitution need do is permit local governments to combine their efforts to meet regional problems and give them the power to create regional authorities. The Intergovernmental Relations article in the Model State Constitution of the National Municipal League is quite succinct:

> Intergovernmental Cooperation. Nothing in this constitution shall be construed: (1) To prohibit the cooperation of the government of this state with other governments, or (2) the cooperation of the government of any county, city or other civil division with any one or more other governments in the administration of their functions and powers, or, (3) the consolidation of existing civil divisions of the state. Any county, city or other civil division may agree, except as limited by general law, to share the costs and responsibilities of functions and services with any one or more other governments.

Constitutional provisions on state-local relations that are heavily detailed, overly specific, or unduly restrictive prevent the flexibility needed to meet the unprecedented demands of urban life. Therefore, major sections should be removed from the Texas Constitution, including those establishing specific special districts, limiting the taxing powers of local governments, specifying the method of election and term of office for local officials, and prescribing the form of county government.

Statutory Provisions

The Model Constitution of the National Municipal League mandates the existence of only counties and cities; flexibility is preserved by not specifying other forms of local governments, such as towns, villages, special districts, etc., although the legislature is left free to create them as it sees fit.

The League urges greater accountability to and regulation by the state of single-purpose special districts. Special districts should be made accountable to some level of general-purpose government.

Recognizing the importance of coordination between the state government and the regional councils, the League believes that state government should provide financial and technical assistance to regional councils. If RPCs are to assume broad regional responsibilities, state help will be needed.

THE TEXAS EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Support of measures to increase the effectiveness of the executive department of the state government, with continued evaluation of the organization and functions of the executive boards and commissions.

Although Article IV of the Texas Constitution is entitled "The Executive Department," the powers of the governor are scattered throughout the entire document. According to the constitution, the function of the executive department is to administer the laws passed by the legislature. Although the governor is designated chief executive officer of the state, the lines of his authority are not clearly defined and his powers are deliberately limited in many ways. If the needs of modern state government are to be met the executive branch must be strengthened.

The Constitution of 1876 set the term of office for governor at two years. Although no limit on the number of terms was specified, a strong tradition developed that the governor was to serve no more than two terms and that he was "entitled" to one reelection. That tradition was broken in 1954 and since that time several governors have sought third terms. In November 1972 Texas voters approved an amendment to the constitution providing a four-year term of office for the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, treasurer, commissioner of the General Land Office, secretary of state, and certain other statutory state officers. However, the amendment set no limit to the number of terms that an executive officer could serve.

The League of Women Voters believes that the governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general should serve four-year terms, but that the governor should be limited to two terms, which may or may not be successive. A four-year term of office encourages long-range policy planning and permits the development of administrative policies that lead to a more efficient state government. It gives the governor time to demonstrate his merit and translate his plans into action. Four-year terms also make possible greater and more consistent economy in administration, reducing inevitable extravagence and expense connected with more frequent change. Less time and money is spent in campaigning. The League feels that a limit of two terms for the governor is necessary in order to avoid a concentration of power in one party.

The amendment approved in November 1972 doubling the term of office for the state's executive officers stipulated that the four-year terms begin for the officials elected in the 1974 general election. This provision means that the election of state officials will fall in nonpresidential election years. Both the League of Women Voters and the Model State Constitution favor holding the gubernatorial election in nonpresidential election years, in order to keep the state government and its problems from having to vie with national elections for the attention of the voters.

In Texas a party's candidate for the lieutenant governorship runs independently of its gubernatorial candidate. Although their names appear together on the ballot in the general election, each runs his own race, rarely aiding one another in the campaign. The lieutenant governor and governor conceivably may be of different political leanings with widely differing political views. It is not impossible that they could be of different political parties.

Although state constitutions, statutes, and judicial decisions consider the lieutenant governor an executive officer, he is unquestionably a legislative officer first and only potentially an executive one. As presiding officer of the Senate he has the power of life or death over pending bills through his power to assign bills to friendly or hostile committees. Recognizing this legislative function, the Model State Constitution does not provide for a lieutenant governor. Rather, legislative leaders are chosen from within their own houses, and succession to the governorship is through these men.

The League feels that a party's candidates for the two top positions in the state government should run as a team. The lieutenant governor would then become a spokesman in the legislature for the governor's legislative program, and in the case of the governor's inability to serve through absence, disability, impeachment, or death, his successor, the lieutenant governor, would hold similar political views.

The Texas Constitution at present is silent on the question of what happens if a governor becomes incapable of performing his duties but does not recognize his incapacity. Article IV, Sec. 16 reads:

> In case of the death, resignation, removal from office, inability or refusal of the Governor to serve, or of his impeachment or absence from the State, the Lieutenant Governor shall exercise the powers and authority appertaining to the office of Governor until another be chosen at the periodical election, and be duly qualified; or until the Governor, impeached, absent or disabled, shall be acquitted, return, or his disability be removed.

The exact meaning of "inability" as used in this connection is not easily determined. A governor in poor health might refuse to give up the office

but exercise his authority through his subordinates. The League believes that provision should be made for a transfer of authority in this circumstance. It therefore feels that provision should be made in the constitution for the succession to the office of governor if the governor becomes unable to perform the duties of his office.

The Model State Constitution provides for succession by giving the Supreme Court the "original, exclusive and final jurisdiction to determine absence and disability of the governor or governor-elect and to determine the existence of a vacancy in the office of governor and all questions concerning succession to the office or to its powers and duties."

The governor is required by the state constitution to submit a budget to the legislature. Since 1949, the legislature has had its own budget board, which prepares a separate budget for the state. The legislature has tended to prefer its own budget to that of the governor. The governor may veto specific items, but he may not adjust the amounts, either at the time of passage or during the duration of the budget. As a result, at present he has no direct financial control over state government agencies. Texas is the only state that has both an executive and a legislative budget. The League believes that the governor's budget should be the only budget presented to the legislature.

There is a noticeable and significant difference between the Texas Constitution and the Model State Constitution in their initial provision regarding the Executive. The latter reads: "The executive power of the state shall be vested in a governor..." and continues with the method for his election and his term of office. In contrast the Texas Constitution creates an Executive Department.

The provisions in the Model State Constitution that apply to the executive department are predicated on the "...time-honored American principle of concentration of administrative power and responsibility in a single popularly-elected chief executive." The provisions in the Texas Constitution that apply to the executive department are based on the principle of fear of concentration of power.

The state constitution does not provide for a single head of state but for an executive department of seven officials--governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, comptroller of public accounts, treasurer, commissioner of the General Land Office and attorney general. Although the governor is designated the chief executive officer, the other executive officials are entirely independent of him and administer their respective offices without executive supervision. The state's executive structure therefore, is characterized by plurality in top management, a long ballot, lack of a single line of responsibility, absence of coordination, and a weak executive.

The League believes that a change to a cabinet-type executive department would be a helpful modernizing change for the Texas executive department. A "cabinet" system, whereby only the governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general are elected, giving the governor power to appoint and remove the nonelective officials, would give the governor firm control over the departments in his administration. These department heads and the governor would form a unit for coordination and planning of state policy. The cabinet system would give the governor real power to carry out his program. It would also make the government more visible to the people and pinpoint responsibility for its successful functioning.

The responsibility for administering most of the laws in Texas rests with hundreds of elected and appointed executive boards, agencies, and commissions. In 1918 there were 79 separate state administrative agencies. Today it is rather difficult to determine the exact number in existence.

The innumerable agencies, boards, commissions, and departments comprising the administrative branch of our state government have arisen from rather haphazard growth in the state's functions and services with little long-range or comprehensive planning. Therefore, they present an amazing picture of administrative fragmentation and inefficiency. The creation of some agencies was required under the constitution; the creation of others was provided by statute. Some administrative officers are appointed, some are elected. Methods of appointment are inconsistent. Some agencies are controlled by a single officer and some by boards. Functions and duties of various agencies are overlapping, duplicating, or too diverse to permit effective operation through the agency established for that purpose. Funds for the various agencies come from a variety of sources and are controlled in a variety of ways.

The Model State Constitution calls for administrative departments not to exceed 20 in number with powers and duties prescribed by law. It gives the legislature power to assign new powers and functions to departments. The governor has the power to make changes in administrative structure or in assignment of functions as he feels necessary for efficient administration. The legislature is empowered to create temporary commissions for special purposes or reduce the number of departments by consolidation or otherwise.

The League believes that state boards and commissions should be reorganized along functional lines by grouping them in areas of responsibility. In nearly all studies of state government, the major weakness emphasized has been fragmentation of authority through allocation of activities among many separate agencies, which are not responsible to the chief executive. Nowhere is the problem more pronounced than in Texas.

The governor of Texas has no powers of removal. Such a procedure is regulated by the state constitution and statutes. However, the public usually holds the governor responsible for the administration of all public affairs. The governor often is blamed for mismanagement in an agency although he has no control over it. He cannot remove board appointees, much less hired personnel; he can request reports from agencies, but has no way of insisting that these reports be forthcoming.

The Model State Constitution gives the governor strong appointive and removal power. It provides that "the governor shall appoint and may remove the heads of all administrative department." The League also believes that the governor should have the power, within safeguards prescribed by law, to remove appointive officers of the executive department and appointees to boards and commissions.

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Support of measures to increase the efficiency and responsiveness of the legislature.

Constitutional Provisions

Among the provisions of the Model State Constitution that pertain to legislatures are two points basic to the consensus position of the League of Women Voters of Texas concerning the Texas Legislature. The Model advocates "...a legislature that has sufficient time and resources for informed deliberation. Such a legislature should provide opportunities for public service attractive to the most competent citizens." To this purpose the League supports annual sessions of sufficient length and scope to permit the efficient handling of legislative business and adequate compensation for legislators and elimination of salary amounts from the constitution.

The Texas Constitution provides for the state legislature to meet every two years or when convened by the governor. The League believes that this stipulation seriously hamstrings our legislators in dealing with the problems they face. Why should the legislature be the only branch of state government not operating continuously?

Biennial sessions, a carryover from the nineteenth century and its fear of government, have been discarded by more and more states. The Citizens Conference on State Legislatures reports that while in 1941 only 4 states had regularly scheduled annual sessions, by 1970 the number had reached 31.

Among the states limited to biennial sessions, more and more of them, including Texas, have found it necessary to resort to special sessions in order to conclude at least portions of their work.

The problems and work confronting the legislature are continuous. The League believes that a constitutional provision of annual sessions will enable state legislators to meet the demands placed upon them.

At the present time the Texas Constitution not only sets the salary of the Texas legislators but does so at the totally unrealistic sum of $4,800 per year. The League would like to see the salary amount eliminated from the constitution. In the past we have worked diligently for amendments to raise legislator's salaries to a realistic amount, feeling that adequate compensation would both attract better qualified people and eliminate economic pressures on legislators to secure funds from other sources. Unfortunately, such proposals have failed. For this reason, the League believes that salary amounts should be removed from the constitution and become a statutory matter. The Model State Constitution suggests that members of the legislature receive an annual salary and such allowances as may be prescribed by law but that any increase or decrease in the amount thereof not apply to the legislature that enacts the change.

Statutory Provisions

Wilbourn E. Benton in Texas: Its Government and Politics writes, "If a constitution means a flexible, written instrument by which the 'fundamental powers of government' are established, limited, defined and distributed among several departments, one may doubt whether Texas has a constitution." One characteristic of the Texas Constitution is excessive detail. The League has resisted adding to this problem by actively opposing the addition of what in substance is statutory law to the already overburdened constitution and by urging the removal of legislators' salary amounts from that document.

The League supports adequate compensation for legislators set by statute. This salary should be one that reflects the importance of the legislative position and rewards the legislator for his labor. In the past the League has supported several salary proposals, including one of $9,600 per year. The Citizens Conference on State Legislatures has suggested an amount of $15,000 for Texas lawmakers and states flatly that no legislator in the United States should earn less than $10,000.

Along with adequate compensation the League supports a number of measures to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of legislators. These include:

Pre-session orientation. At the present time Texas has a highly regarded pre-session.

Adequate professional and clerical help and improved facilities for research, information, and bill drafting, including use of electronic aids. The League believes a legislator is only as good as the information he gets.

To quote from the League's Study and Action in Texas 1971-73, "It is unrealistic to ask the modern legislator... to work hampered by lack of office space, lack of information, and lack of sufficient time and help to do the job."

The responsiveness of the Texas Legislature to the public has been a continuing interest of the League. While acknowledging that individual ethics cannot be legislated, the League supports standards that enable legislators to be more responsive to the public and that lessen conflict of interest, including the following:

Shorter campaigns to reduce campaign costs. This change would enable those less affluent to run for office and provide a more representative legislature.

All campaign contributions and loans reported, with clear identification of contributors and effective enforcement by an agency for this purpose. Where a legislator's support comes from may be of vital interest to the public.

Total expenses of lobbying filed. The area of the lobbyist is inclined to be a grey one. The League believes some black-and-white regulations would do much to help the public understand the legitimate interest of the lobbies.

A workable code of ethics which clearly defines and discloses conflicts of interest. The League supports such a code not because it feels that legislators are corrupt, but rather because it feels the citizen has a right to know what influences are brought to bear on his representatives. The League believes that the legislature's business is the people's business.

Because of its belief in the public's right to know about the work of its legislature, the League would like to see record votes taken in committee meetings and all committee meetings posted and open to the public.

Legislative Rules

The League of Women Voters of Texas has a number of support items in its legislative consensus that fall in the area of "rules." These are properly neither constitutional nor statutory provisions but rise from the constitutional directive that each legislature organize itself and establish

procedures for the conduct of legislative business.

The League's positions on legislative rules, therefore, are not germane to this discussion with one exception. The Texas House of Representatives in the 1973 legislative session has passed a bill that if passed by the Senate would convert one of the traditional legislative rules into statutory law. This bill would not allow conference committees on taxation and appropriations to change, alter, add to, or subtract from, any items in the passed bills except those that are in dispute between the houses. It is designed to prevent legislation by committee rather than by the legislature as a whole. The League supports the restriction of all conference committees to adjusting the differences in bills and resolutions passed by the two houses. However, it is open to question whether each legislature's constitutional perogative to govern its own procedures should be limited by the conversion of some of the traditional rules into statutory law.

THE TEXAS JUDICIARY

Support of an effective judicial structure for Texas.

The Present Judicial System in Texas

Provisions for the Texas judiciary, unlike those for the other two branches of the state government, are neatly set out in one article (Article V) in the Texas Constitution. Basically unaltered since 1891, this article defines the scope and form of the state's judicial system in great detail. Under Article V, Sec. 1, two kinds of courts, trial and appellate, are established and the judicial power of the state is vested in one Supreme Court, Courts of Civil Appeals, a Court of Criminal Appeals, district courts, county courts, justice of the peace courts, and "such other courts as may be provided by law."

In trial courts, evidence is taken in connection with issues that have been identified and a record is made; an initial decision is rendered on the basis of the evidence. If a litigant feels that an error of law was made or that the evidence did not justify the conclusions returned by the trial judge and jury, he may appeal on the record to an appellate court. Trial courts have one judge each and usually involve a jury; appellate courts consist of several judges and do not use juries.

Appellate Courts

The appellate courts in Texas today consist of a Supreme Court, a Court of Criminal Appeals, and 14 intermediate civil appellate courts called Courts

of Civil Appeals. The state constitution specifies the following qualifications for an appellate judge: that he be a citizen of the United States and Texas, be at least 35 years of age, and have had no less than 10 years' experience as a practicing lawyer or as a lawyer and judge of a court of record. All appellate judges are elected statewide and serve a six-year term of office. A vacancy in a judgeship on the appellate level is filled by gubernatorial appointment until the next general election. Any appellate justice or judge may be removed for misconduct or retired in case of disability by the Supreme Court upon the recommendation of the State Judicial Qualifications Commission.

The Supreme Court of Texas, which hears only civil cases, has final state appellate jurisdiction in civil matters. Generally it does not hear a case until after it has gone to one of the Courts of Civil Appeals. The court consists of a chief justice and eight associate justices. Salaries, as determined by statute, are $33,500 for the chief justice and $33,000 for each associate justice.

The Court of Criminal Appeals, which hears only criminal cases, is the highest, and only, state appellate court in criminal matters. (Texas is unusual in having two highest courts. Only one other state--Oklahoma--has a similar system.) There are five judges on the court. Salaries are the same as those paid to the associate judges of the Supreme Court.

At present the state of Texas is divided into 14 supreme jucicial districts, each of which has a Court of Civil Appeals, consisting of a chief justice and two associate justices. These courts hear appeals of civil cases from trial courts (district and county courts) operating in their district. The salary of each justice is $30,000 a year from the state, plus a supplemental amount of $8,000 or less from the counties within his court's jurisdiction.

Trial Courts

The trial courts provided for by the Texas Constitution, in order of importance in terms of litigation handled, are district courts, county courts, and justice of the peace courts. Judges of these courts are elected to their office by the voters in their geographical jurisdiction and serve four-year terms. All are courts of record except for justice of the peace courts. Vacancies are filled until the next general election by appointment--on the district court level by the governor and in county and justice courts by the county commissioners court. Municipal or corporation courts, which are trial courts created by legislative statute, are not courts of record; their judges are usually appointed for a two-year term by the city's mayor with confirmation by the city council. As on the appellate level, any judge of a trial court may be removed for misconduct or retired in case of disability by the Supreme Court upon the recommendation of the State Judicial Qualifications Commission.

The major trial courts of the state are the district courts. They usually handle both the civil and criminal business of a judicial district (which often comprises several counties), although some specialization is possible in urban counties having more than one district. Areas of litigation in which district courts have original jurisdiction include all criminal cases involving felonies and all major civil cases; they have appellate jurisdiction in probate cases originally tried in inferior courts. They share jurisdiction with county courts over minor civil cases. Their judicial district (geographical jurisdiction) is individually established by the statute creating each specific court; the districts of some district courts overlap each other.

At present Texas has 196 district courts of general jurisdiction. Additionally, some of the largest metropolitan areas have special district courts with limited jurisdiction. Currently there are 20 special district courts having criminal jurisdiction only, 23 having domestic relations jurisdiction only, and 6 having juvenile jurisdiction only.

A district court judge must be a citizen of the United States and Texas, have had at least two years' residence in the district, and have been licensed to practice law in Texas for at least four years. Qualifications for the judge of a special district court are usually the same. The salary of a district court judge is a basic $27,000 per year paid by the state, with a supplemental amount ranging from $600 to $12,000 paid by the counties of the district. Salaries for judges of special district courts vary between courts and are paid exclusively by the county; they are usually near the level of those paid to the district judges in the respective localities.

The state constitution provides for one county court in each county in the state. These 254 courts are trial courts with limited original jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters; they have appellate jurisdiction over municipal and justice of the peace courts. Each constitutional county court is presided over by a county judge "who shall be well informed in the law of the state." In other words, the qualifications for the office of county judge do not include a formal study of law or a license to practice law. The county judge has certain administrative duties in addition to his judicial ones and serves as the presiding officer of the county commissioners court. Salaries of county judges, which vary from county to county, range from $6,000 to $28,000 per year.

In some counties, largely the metropolitan ones, most of the county judge's judicial functions have been turned over by the legislature to specialized county courts. Of the 57 specialized county courts in the state, 35 are entitled county courts at law, 11 are designated county criminal courts at law, 3 are called county civil courts at law, 5 are known as county probate courts, 1 is designated as a county criminal court of appeals, and 2 are simply county courts.

Justice of the peace courts handle minor civil and criminal matters. The Texas Constitution provides for the establishment of justice of the peace courts by stipulating that each county be divided by the commissioners court into "not less than four and not more than eight justice precincts and that one justice of the peace and one constable be elected from each precinct, except in precincts having a city of 8,000 or more inhabitants, where there shall be two justices of the peace.

Because of the autonomy of these courts, few statistics are available on a statewide basis. Of the more than 1,000 justices of the peace, fewer than 50 are lawyers. There are no constitutional or statutory qualifications for the office. However, the 62nd Legislature enacted a statute requiring a "40 hour course in the performance of his duties" for any justice of the peace who is not a licensed attorney.

In November 1972 Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment requiring the commissioners court in all counties of the state to pay all justices of the peace on a salary basis, beginning January 1, 1973. Prior to this action, justices of the peace in over 100 counties had depended soley on fees, taken from fines levied, for their compensation.

Municipal courts in each incorporated city handle minor criminal matters and are mostly part-time courts. There are over 1,000 municipal courts in the state. A majority of the municipal court judges are not lawyers, since the statute authorizing the creation of municipal courts sets no qualifications for the judges thereof.

Judicial Deficiencies and Remedies

In the Texas court system the numerous trial courts have concurrent powers and over-lapping jurisdiction, and each court is independent of the others. As a result there is duplication of effort and wasting of time and money. The system does not provide prompt, economical, and equal justice for all.

A frequently discussed aspect of the Texas judiciary is the lack of coordinated planning both in regard to rules of procedure and actual administrative operation. Aside from the Supreme Court's limited authority (granted by the legislature) to supervise some rules of procedure in the lower civil courts, Texas courts are for most purposes autonomous. Thus there are wide variations in procedure, staffing, and financing among parallel courts.

The League of Women Voters supports a single system of centrally administered statewide courts with a uniform fiscal policy. This means that all courts in the state should be part of a single unified and coordinated system. The financial needs of all state courts should be viewed as a whole under a central fiscal policy. Administrative directors under the supervision of the Supreme Court should manage the nonjudicial business of the courts.

League members believe that there should be a uniform code of criminal and civil procedure formulated by the Supreme Court with legislative approval.

This means that administrative responsibility for the entire Texas court system should rest with the Supreme Court; that there should be a uniform code of procedure and practice for all courts; and that the Supreme Court and the legislature should have responsibility for establishing this code of procedure.

The League also supports a full-time judiciary whose members qualify to practice law in Texas. In other words, all judges should be licensed to practice law and their positions should be full-time ones with commensurate pay.

The League would like to see assignment of judges according to special training and docket needs. At present, only limited transfer of judges to help relieve crowded dockets is possible, and such transfer is usually voluntary. A complicating factor is that a judge is elected for a specific court by the voters of the area served by the court. Consequently, under present law, the only recourse in reducing the judicial backlog in a district is for the legislature to add a judge by adding a new court. The League believes that all judges should be assigned according to special training and docket needs and that all judges should be freely transferable at the direction of the Supreme Court.

At present, appeals from justice of the peace courts in all criminal cases, and in civil cases where judgment is for more than $20, must go to the county courts as trials de novo (new trials), since the justice courts are not courts of record. The lack of record-keeping and the unprofessional court atmosphere in the justice (and municipal) courts have bred a disrespect for trials. Many of the cases appealed from these lower courts die due to crowded county dockets, lack of cooperation between city and county officials, lack of prosecution, or lack of evidence due to long delay. In order to eliminate these problems, the League of Women Voters supports integration of justice of the peace court functions into courts of record. Specifically, League members believe that either justice courts should become courts of record with upgraded status through uniform procedures or their functions should be absorbed into higher or parallel courts of record.

The citizen's first concern with the judicial system is, or should be, the judges--their qualifications, the method of their selection, and the degree of their independence (that is, the length of their term of office).

The Texas Constitution now provides that selection of judges be by popular election. Tenure is limited to the number of times that a judge can be reelected. Vacancies in district or appellate judgeships are filled through appointment by the governor, with the consent of the Senate unless (a) the legislature is not in session and (b) an election is held to fill the vacancies before the legislature meets.

In actuality the system of selecting judges in Texas is an appointive-elective one. Since incumbent judges are usually not opposed for reelection, judicial tenure is extended, and vacancies usually occur midterm through death, resignation, or retirement. In addition to filling vacancies, the governor also appoints the first incumbants of any new district courts created by the legislature. These appointments are effective only until the next general election, but since most appointees run unopposed they remain in office. One study showed that about two-thirds of the state's district and appellate judges originally went onto the bench through gubernatorial appointment.

The League supports modification of the present appellate judge system to provide for selection by a combination of commission nomination, executive appointment, and noncompetitive and nonpartisan election. This system combines the best features of appointment and of control by the people through the election process. It provides for: a nominating commission to submit names of qualified candidates for judicial appointments to the governor; gubernatorial appointment of judges from the names submitted; and nonpartisan elections in which the voters cast a yes or no vote on the question of retaining the appointees in office for a full term. Under this system there would be no party label, and no opponents. Failure of an appointee to win approval in any election would create a vacancy, which would be filled by the same nomination-appointment process. Two main drawbacks to the present method of direct election of judges are the time expended in campaigning, if the judge has an opponent, that could be better spent in dispensing justice, and voter apathy toward judgeship races.

The League also favors compulsory retirement and effective removal procedures for appellate judges. At present there is a bewildering collection of removal powers scattered throughout the constitution. Article XV, the impeachment article, provides for removal of appellate and district court judges through impeachment or address. Impeachment involves trial by the Senate upon prosecution by the House of Representatives, with a two-thirds vote of the senators present required for conviction. Address requires the removal of a judge by the governor upon request of two-thirds of both houses. Neither impeachment nor address has ever been used against a judge in Texas.

As the result of an amendment to the constitution adopted in 1965, which was further amended in 1970, all justices of appellate courts and judges of trial courts in Texas are now under the supervision of the State Judicial Qualifications Commission. Under these provisions, justices and judges can be retired for disability or can be publicly censured or, in more flagrant cases, removed for improper conduct by the Supreme Court of Texas on the recommendation of the commission. The commission itself is empowered to privately censure justices and judges in less serious cases. The 1965 amendment also provided for automatic mandatory retirement of appellate and district court judges at the age of 75, with authorization given to The legislature to reduce the age to 70.

The League feels that establishment of a nomination-appointion-election system for appellate judgeships, in conjunction with mandatory retirement and effective procedures for removing judges who fail to measure up to required standards, will fully protect the independence of the judiciary, while at the same time assuring the public of the service of capable, efficient, and conscientious judges.

The judiciary article proposed by Chief Justice Calvert's Task Force for Court Improvement embodies a number of League recommendations. The first section reads:

> The judicial power of the state is vested in a unified judicial system composed of a Supreme Court, courts of appeals, district courts, county courts at law, and no others. All courts herein created shall be courts of record and shall have jurisdiction as provided by law. Jurisdiction of courts of the same level shall be uniform throughout the state.

The Chief Justice is to supervise the administration of all courts through a system of presiding judges and court administrators. Under rules of administration approved by the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice is empowered to transfer cases between courts of the same level and assign any qualified lawyer or judge to temporary duty on any court.

In the proposed new judiciary article, all judges are required to be lawyers but are prohibited from practicing law while in office. All judicial salaries are to be paid by the state. All judges are selected by nonpartisan election. However, the Chief Justice's Task Force is also proposing a merit system for selecting appellate judges, which it recommends be presented to the voters as a separate constitutional amendment. The proposal retains the present Judicial Qualifications Commission and all major provisions of the present judicial retirement, removal, and censure system, including mandatory retirement of judges at age 75.

The major part of the task force's proposals has been introduced in the Senate in the 1973 session as SJR 4.

According to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, Court systems in most States are highly fragmented, lack central administrative direction, exhibit disparate rules of practice and procedure, have cumbersome and unprofessional procedures for judicial selection, discipline, removal, and retirement, and are often faced with a critical lack of funding. The result is too often a disorganized, inefficient judicial system.

To rectify this situation, 18 States have unified their court systems, 35 States have instituted a central court administrator, 17 states use the Missouri Plan for selection and appointment of judges; 18 states

have unified their court systems, 35 states have instituted a central court administrator, 17 States use the Missouri Plan for selection and appointment of judges; 18 States use judicial qualifications commissions to scrutinize the performance of incumbent judicial personnel; four states have assumed all judicial costs and 22 States provide for compulsory judicial retirement on or after the age of 70. All these State reforms have resulted in a more efficient and manageable judiciary. (New Proposals for 1972: ACIR Legislative Program, August 1971, p.3)

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EDUCATION

Information Only

The League of Women Voters of Texas has no position on education except for its positions under Human Resources on public school financing in Texas.

The source for the information and opinions that follow is A Citizens Guide to the Texas Constitution by George D. Braden (Austin: Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 1972).

According to George Braden, a state constitution, if it is to have an article on education, requires only one section at a minimum and three at a maximum. The essential section is one that sets forth the duty to provide education. This duty is covered in Sections 1 and 10 of Article VII in the Texas Constitution.

A second section could guarantee some form of administrative control insulated from the normal political process.

If there is a preexisting special fund for education at the time a new constitution is adopted, a third appropriate section is necessary. Such a section should say no more than that "the School Fund shall be retained and the income used for education."

Article VII in the Texas Constitution has 21 sections on education. (Sections 3a and 7 were repealed in 1969.) In the days of the Republic, part of the public domain was earmarked for education, including land for higher education. The constitution of 1845 went beyond this step and provided that part of the annual property tax be set aside for education. A "perpetual fund" was created. The 1869 constitution set up a more generous dedication of taxes and public lands. The 1875 constitutional convention retreated from the 1869 generosity but retained the principles of tax dedication and of public domain being set aside for the support of public schools (Sections 2 and 3 of Article VII). The 1875 convention also reinstated a university fund first enshrined in the 1866 constitution. (Sec. 11 of Article VII). Braden says that with the adoption of the 1876 constitution Texas became fund-happy and remains so.

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From "The Report and Recommended Revised Constitution of the Constitutional Revision Commission (H.S.R. 429 60th Legislature) to the Members of the 61st Legislature" (December 1968).

ARTICLE VII. EDUCATION.

Introductory Statement: In addition to reorganization of sections, clarification of language, deletion of obsolete and unnecessary provisions, the major substantive changes made in this Article are:

(1) A new provision is added prohibiting segregation in public educational institutions on the basis of race, religion or national origin.

(2) Elimination of detailed provisions specifying the authorized investments for the various school funds and substitutution therefore of authority in the Legislature to prescribe the authorized investments.

(3) The requirement that the Available School Fund (terminology changed to Available Public School Fund) be distributed to the counties "according to their scholastic population and applied in such manner as may be provided by law" is changed to "according to their scholastic population or as otherwise provided by the law."

(4) The Legislature is authorized to dissolve and distribute the Asylum Fund to the beneficiaries when the only remaining tract of Asylum land is sold.

(5) The Legislature is given authority to designate institutions composing The University of Texas System and The Texas A&M System.

(6) After December 31, 1977, the Legislature is authorized to provide for the method of allocation of the proceeds of the 10¢ ad valorem tax set aside for permanent improvements at the designated public senior colleges and universities.

(7) Appropriations from general revenue funds are authorized for buildings and permanent improvements at any institution of higher learning.

STATE FINANCE AND TAXATION

Information Only

The League of Women Voters of Texas has no position on state finances and taxation with the exception of its positions under Human Resources on financing public schools in Texas.

The following information and opinions are taken from A Citizens' Guide to the Texas Constitution by George D. Braden (Austin: Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 1972).

According to George Braden, many of the sections in the Texas Constitution dealing with taxation and borrowing would be unintelligible to the ordinary citizen if they were well drafted, which they are not. Article IX, Sec. 12 has a sentence of 765 words. There are several other sentences of more than 300 words.

He lists four elements in the state's revenue and finance story:

(1) limitations on the legislature's power to raise revenue and to permit local governments to raise money by taxation;

(2) limitations on the power to incur debt and to permit local governments to incur debt;

(3) limitations on the power to spend and to permit local governments to spend;

(4) limitations on the power over financial administration.

Except for self-imposed limitations in statutelike amendments and the limitations imposed by the long ballot, the constitution is almost devoid of any control over financial administration. The only significant provision is Sec. 49a of Article III, which requires the Comptroller of Public Accounts to certify that appropriations do not exceed estimated receipts. This section was added as a means of enforcing the pay-as-you-go policy embodied in Sec. 49, which prohibits the state's incurring debt. Many experts recommend an executive budget that must be acted upon as a single appropriation. This is a "must" for a strong governor, and is in any event a first step toward creating a system of efficient financial management.

One problem of financial administration in Texas is the cumbersome fund structure set out in the constitution. There are 13 such funds.

The second problem is the earmarking of tax receipts. According to Braden, this was not a good idea in 1876. In the last third of the twentieth century it is fiscal madness to have so much inflexibility.

The constitution places no significant limits on what kinds of taxes may be levied for state purposes (the types of taxes permitted by Sec. 1 of Article VIII include a state income tax). The only exception is the stipulation that property be taxed "in proportion to its value." The state property tax is rapidly being phased out under Sec. 1e except for a small levy for one of the special funds (supporting building programs for designated colleges and universities). Sec. 1 also has a prohibition against levying an occupation tax on persons engaged in mechanical or agricultural pursuits. Occupation taxes are not normally levied on such persons.

It must be conceded, Braden says, that the bald assertion that there are no significant limits on the types of state tax that may be levied depends upon sympathetic judicial interpretations of the first sentence of Sec. 1: "Taxation shall be equal and uniform." The original constitution severly limited the size of property taxes and even spelled out the allocation of money raised. The significance of this ill-advised straightjacket imposed on the state and local governments is easily demonstrated. The original limitations were in Article VII, Sec. 3 and Article VIII, Sec. 9. Each section has been amended six times. It should also be remembered that only constitutional limitations have been mentioned. The legislature has the power to impose further limitations.

Few taxes other than the property tax are satisfactorily levied on a local level. Immovable real property can be taxed fairly by a local government and license taxes for local operations can be fair, but taxes with a wide economic impact, such as income and sales taxes, for example, should be levied over as wide a geographical area as possible. This does not work easily in Texas, however, because of Sec. 51 of Article III, which prohibits grants-in-aid to local governments.

Sec. 49, Article III, flatly prohibits state debt. Obviously, the prohibition does not work, for Texas has over half a billion dollars of debt. All that the prohibition has done is to force a referendum before issuing bonds and this could have been done by wording Sec. 49 to require a simple referendum to approve a bond issue rather than a constitutional amendment to authorize the bond issue.

The citizens should know that one of the ways of getting around a debt prohibition is to issue revenue bonds. These are secured not by the credit of the state but by revenue derived from some enterprise. The best known example is a turnpike authority that pays for its borrowing out of the tolls it collects.

It is startling to find that the constitution has only one specific limitation on the incurring of debt by local government. Sec. 52 of Article III limits a local government's bonded indebtedness for water conservation and roads to 25 percent of the assessed valuation of its real property. The section also says that "the total bonded indebtedness of any city or town shall never exceed the limits imposed by other provisions of this constitution." There are no such other provisions.

There are several practical limitations on the amount of indebtedness that local governments can incur. Interest and sinking fund (or retirement of serial bond) payments must be raised by taxes. There are constitutional limitations on the property tax rate, and other taxes can be raised only as the legislature authorizes them.

It is the bundle of limitations on spending power that has contributed most to the clutter in the Texas Constitution. In most constitutions there are two limitations on spending. One states that money may be spent only pursuant to an appropriation, and the other states that money may be appropriated only for a public purpose. Instead of sticking to the purpose for which money would be spent, the delegates to the Texas constitutional convention in 1875 focused on who would get the money. The net effect is that all sorts of public purpose programs are made more difficult because the program can be carried out only by grant or gift or credit to someone. There are 10 amendments permitting grants and loans. Some states have amended their "gifts and loans" provision not by detailed grant of power provisions as in Texas, but by simply removing the subject matter from the restriction. A typical method would be to prohibit grants to individuals except for aid, care, and support of the needy; increases in pensions; education and support of the physically handicapped and mentally retarded, and so on.

According to Braden, a more common limitation on the power to give away state money is a prohibition against paying anyone extra for what he has agreed to do. The Texas provisions are Sections 44 and 53 of Article III. In some states the prohibition has played hob with retirement plans. A "gifts and loans" prohibition can also stymie pension plans. Sec. 51 was the Texas stymie. The sensible way, Braden says, to control this particulair freeloading business is to prohibit special and local laws and to create by general law a court of claims against the state, including extra compensation claims.

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From "The Report and Recommended Revised Constitution of the Constitutional Revision Commission (H.S.R. 429 60th Legislature) to the Members of the 61st Legislature" (December 1968).

ARTICLE VIII. TAXATION.

Introductory Statement: This is the present Article VIII on Taxation and Revenue but titled "TAXATION" only in this revision in view of the inclusion in this revised Constitution of a separate Article IX on State Finances containing provisions dealing with the creation of debt or extension of credit by the State and appropriations for State purposes.

All effective provisions of present Article VIII dealing with State taxation are retained but rearranged and combined, with clarifying changes in language where necessary and deletion of obsolete and repetitious provisions.

The substantive changes made in existing provisions are:

(1) A new provision is added to provide for more effective resort to the courts by an aggrieved taxpayer claiming unequal assessment of his property.

(2) Present provisions limiting the State tax on property, exclusive of the tax necessary to pay the public debt and of the taxes provided for the benefit of the public free schools, to Thirty-Five Cents (35¢) on the One Hundred Dollars ($100) valuation, have been eliminated.

Also, the provision in the present Article on Education for taxes for the public schools, Confederate and Ranger pensions, the State Building Fund, and for the College Building Fund, have been incorporated in this Article.

ARTICLE IX. STATE FINANCE.

Introductory Statement: This new Article includes all present Constitutional provisions relating to the creation of debt or extension of credit by the State and appropriations for State purposes, except provisions authorizing obligations pertaining specifically to Education, which are included in revised Article VII on that subject. The major substantive changes are:

(1) The present Constitutional limitations on debt to supply deficiencies in the revenue is increased from $200,000 to $500,000.

(2) The statutory detail has been eliminated from the provisions dealing with the Veterans' Land Board; Texas Water Development Board; and the Parks and Wildlife Department.

(3) In connection with present Constitutional provisions included in this Article relating to Retirement, Disability and Death benefits for teachers and other employees of the State, county, municipalities and other political subdivisions, a new provision has been added authorizing the Legislature to provide for the transfer of credits and benefits between systems by all classes of employees who are paid in whole or in part by the State or any political subdivision.

(4) Deletion of the provision fixing the maximum pension for Texas Rangers and their widows at $80 per month and of the requirement that to be eligible for such pensions widows must have been married to a qualifying Ranger prior to January 1, 1957.