

Round-Up

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WOMEN VOTERS SPONSOR NEW RADIO PROGRAM

(Note: From time to time ROUND-UP will publish news of activities of Texas organizations interested in the Texas war and peace efforts. If your organization is sponsoring a forum, aiding in win-the-war legislative programs, etc. write The Editor, ROUND-UP, 917 W. 12th St., Austin, Texas.)

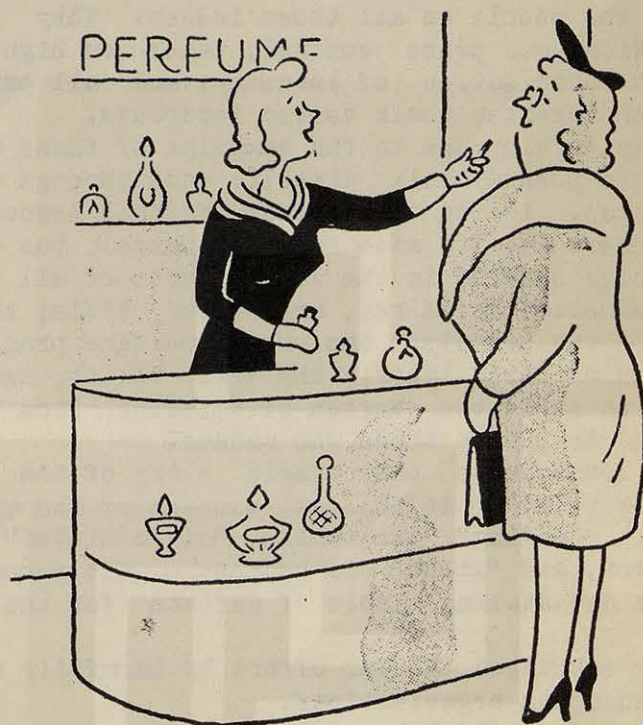
A forward step in informing the Texas public about the vital issues of the war was taken by the Texas League of Women Voters, soon to sponsor a twice-monthly radio program with the theme "Citizens Responsibilities in Peace and War" on Station KTBC, Austin.

The program will be entitled "Citizens All" and will run 15 minutes each time. The exact hour of the programs will be announced in the next issue of ROUND-UP.

A main emphasis of the program will be the need for co-operation with other nations of the world after the war.

Mrs. Robert Buffler, former director of the little Theater of Austin, and Mrs. Herbert Ash will be co-chairman of the group in charge of the program. Others on the League of Women Voters committee include Mrs. T. J. Holbrook, Mrs. D. L. Clark, Mrs. D. S. Strong, Mrs. Frank Goodwyn, Mrs. W. L. Brown, and Mrs. W. H. Curdy.

Questions about the war will be answered in dramatic form, with trained actors of the Little Theater filling the roles. Guest speakers will discuss particular problems in their special fields.



"You'll love it—It smells like gasoline."

TEXAS WOMEN ACT TO FORM

UNITED LEGISLATIVE FRONT AGAINST REACTION

It is apparent to most Texans interested in making this war a people's war to achieve a people's peace that the need of the hour is a united front of like-minded citizens to work for these ends. The reasons progressive Texans of all shades of opinion see the necessity of unity are obvious.

The first of these reasons is that the opposition to democratic prosecution of the war and equalitarian resolution of the peace is united, and has been throughout the war. There are no splits in the ranks of the men of Wall Street, the monopolists, the profiteers, the Bourbon landowners of the South, the exploiters of child labor, the poll tax politicians, the manufacturers' associations, the opponents of free education and women's rights, the union wreckers, the Negro and Jew and Mexican haters, and all the rest of the charlatans and obscurantists who constitute the imitators of Hitler in this country.

These men are united. And because they are united, the nation has seen almost unbelievable "turning back of the clock" in the means of fighting the war, means which will also determine greatly the shape of the peace. Most of this regression has occurred in the legislative halls.

In a sense it is literally true that the U.S. is "winning the military, but losing the legislative war."

For, because they are not united against the forces of darkness, the people of the U.S. seem not able to win the fight for food, the struggle against higher prices and inflation, the attempts to put taxation on equality-of-sacrifice grounds, to remove wealth as a qualification for voting, to maintain the rights of workingmen. Utilizing the "divide and conquer" technique made famous by their European counterparts, the American fascists have defeated the people on all these issues. They intend to break rationing, price control, taxes on high incomes, efficient organization of industry, and all other measures which threaten their vested interests.

An early development in the campaign of these Un-Americans was to pursue their diabolic ends through the state legislatures. Led by the radical National Association of Manufacturers and its aide Pappy O'Daniel, the anti-common man bloc secured in the legislatures of all the South the introduction of first, anti-labor bills, then bills to cripple the schools, the public welfare programs, the protection of child labor, the free ballot, and finally measures to shift the burden of taxation from those who can afford to pay to those who cannot.

All of Texas knows the tragic story of the works of this 'wreckers' gang in the last session of the Texas Legislature. "Leading" publishers, "civic minded" chambers of commerce, and "great" oil company magnates combined to roll up a devastating table of defeats for the American cause.

They sabotaged the war effort by harmfully restricting workingmen's organizations.

They left child laborers without protection.

They defeated the secret ballot, first requisite of democracy.

They seriously damaged the old age assistance program.

They did nothing to further the war effort.

In the face of this black tide of reaction, many patriotic Texas organizations battled hard and -- separately. Not united, each trying to go the struggle alone, many great groups of Texans added luster to their names by their valiant efforts. But their separate efforts failed. They were not united.

Such was the story of 1943. It will not likely be the story of 1945. Not in Texas.

July 7 the first steps to form a "united front" of Texans opposed to the un-Americans in the state was formed. Representatives of all the large women's organizations of the state met to form a joint legislative council, to work this coming year for measures which it will establish in the next session of the Texas legislature.

This council has not yet been formed. As yet only tentative plans have been made, pending action by the constituent organizations. Interest evidenced at the meeting, however, seems to point to the unanimous banding together of all the women's organizations of Texas to work for common goals.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Eleanor Damon Pace, state legislative chairman of the American Association of University Women, and Mrs. Jane Y. McCallum,

The new program is the second sponsored by the League in the last few years. Two years ago it put on one named "Battle of Production" to aid in the fight to defend this country by rushing aid to Britain. "Citizens All" will take its place among several other contributions of Texas civic groups, including "Winning the War and the Peace," sponsored by the Texas Business and Professional Women.

JESSE JONES NOMINATED
FOR PRESIDENT BY...VANCE MUSE

Jesse Jones before a defense investigating committee, speaking of the loss by fire of thousands of tons of vital strategic rubber in the East Indies: "Oh, don't worry, gentlemen--the rubber was insured."

Such an economist is the present Secretary of Commerce. His current exposure by Vice President Wallace makes it important for Texans to know the background of the Houston banker now high in the national government.

1. Jones was chairman and president of the Bankers' Mortgage Co., president of the Houston Properties Co. of New York (the title itself is suggestive), owner of the Houston Chronicle. His National Bank of Commerce in Houston has financial controls which wrap around every Texas activity. This czarism will be described in a forthcoming book.

2. In 1902 Jesse Jones organized the South Texas Lumber Co., in 1905 the Southern Loan and Investment Co., now the Jesse H. Jones Co., in 1909 the Texas Trust Co. He was vice-president of the Union National Bank, vice president of the Lumberman's National Bank, both of Houston. In 1922 he became president of the National Bank of Commerce.

3. Jones' mail affilia-

tions are the Bankers' and Manhattan Clubs, New York City; the Ardsley Country Club, the Sleepy Hollow Country Club, and the Blind Brook Country Club, also of New York.

4. In 1936 Vance Muse, now ringleader with Pappy O'Daniel of the notorious fascist Christian-American group, then member of the equally notorious and un-American Southern Committee to uphold the Constitution, boomed Jones for the presidential candidacy of the Democratic Party.

Muse suggested that the Democratic Party shunt aside President Roosevelt and substitute Jesse Jones. He conceived of Jones as the ideal representative of his group.

James V. Allred, at that time governor of Texas, exposed the move and what Muse stands for. "I refer everyone who read your suggestion," Allred wrote Muse, "to the Congressional Record of your lobbying activities in Washington as disclosed by the Carraway committee report and to your similar operations in Texas. I suggest to you and to all your gang that you get over to the Republican camp where you have always belonged."

5. Jones was originally placed in the government by Herbert Hoover.

6. In all the long days of isolationism Jones was a conspicuous optimist, as were others, e.g., Vandenburg, Ham Fish. His statements frequently were of the character of the following, made Oct. 6, 1935 in Austin, Texas: "There is no chance of America getting in another World War."

former secretary of state, and Mrs. Donald Strong of the Texas League of Women Voters, spoke. Both stressed the need for Texas women's views to be expressed in future state legislation.

The meeting elected the following temporary officers, to serve until a meeting in September: President, Mrs. Hal P. Bybee of the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers; vice-president, Mrs. McCallum; secretary, Mrs. Strong.

Among those taking part in this preliminary meeting were Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner, Texas Social Welfare Association; Mrs. Sam J. Smith and Mrs. Willie Sauer, Texas Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. Rosemary Harmon, Texas Association for Childhood Education; Miss Katherine Cook, Delta Kappa Gamma; the Rev. Paul J. Ehlinger, representing the Catholic Women of the Diocese of San Antonio; Mrs. Hal P. Bybee and Mrs. S. M. N. Marrs, Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers; Mrs. D. Bailoy Calvin, Mrs. Donald Strong, Mrs. Claude Hill, Texas League of Women Voters; Mrs. Dave Doom and Mrs. Jane Y. McCallum; Mrs. A. L. Brandon, representing the YWCA and AAUW; Mrs. W. T. Doehard, Texas Council of Methodist Women; Mrs. Raphael Weiner, Mrs. Victor Ravel, Council of Jewish Women; Mrs. Eleanor D. Pace and Mrs. G. L. Field, American Association of University Women.

The proposed council has naturally considered only tentative plans and programs. Whatever program is finally adopted will be subject to the approval of all the cooperating organizations.

It is important to note, however, that the new council will be in no sense, if present thinking continues, a new organization. Rather it will attempt to make more effective the legislative efforts of already existing groups by correlating and coordinating these efforts. By so doing the council may retain all the advantages of distinct organizations catering to various interests, at the same time channelling the work of all to common legislative ends. Great pressure from one source is always more effective than small pressure from many sources.

No official announcement of technique and procedure has been made by the new council. It is understood, however, from present sentiment and past experience that two main lines of action will be followed. These are:

1. Educational. From now until the opening of the next Legislature the council and cooperating organizations will gather material on the issues they are interested in, prepare workable bills, and in general ready their members and the public for action on the specified lines. It has been the experience of groups of this sort that to focus attention and work on a relatively small number of bills (four or five) is more satisfactory than to work on a large number. It is easy to "spread oneself too thin." This part of the program alone should be immensely worthwhile. To get citizens interested in the democratic process, to stimulate thought and discussion on the issues of the day is the first requisite for intelligent lawmaking. It is also the first guard against the dark tactics of the vested interests. Exposure of the reasons behind anti-price control efforts, anti-labor drives, the poll tax, etc. is sorely needed.

2. Political. There are usually two sorts of acti-

BUY WAR BONDS

vities which fall under this head. The first concerns the questioning of candidates regarding the issues on the organization's program and the wide publication of their views. In this way the electorate may learn how the various candidates stand, with this statement also serving as promises to be fulfilled. The second sort of activity will take place during the actual session of the Legislature. It will include all the measures necessary to getting bills passed and made into laws.

It should be pointed out that in no way does an organization of the sort outlined approach the status of a third party. Rather it is of the nature of other "non-partisan" groups.

The importance of the formation of the new council is great. But it is a first step only and it is to be hoped that others will follow. For the rest of Texas is interested in a popular front against the un-Americans as well. To name but a few groups, there are the small farmers, the small businessmen, the labor unions, and laboring man generally, the aged, the defense workers, the minority groups, the churches who will be interested in the furtherance of the same ideals which have spurred the women of the state to unity. These too should be banded together in the common fight against the anti-common man bloc. Not many organizations but one solid front should face the foes of progress, that this war may be won speedily, and usher in an era of peace and justice.

SO FAR we've had in ROUND-UP stories exposing the drive against the public welfare program in Texas, the attempt to sabotage cheap public power in the state, the fight against protection of child labor which Texas' big newspapers and big corporations led. And lots more. If you don't want to miss the news that counts, citizen, the news the big Texas papers don't like to print...better send in your buck right now, today. The address is ROUND-UP, Elgin Williams Jr., Editor, 917 West 12th St.

AND IF YOU'VE already subscribed, maybe you know a friend who's on the people's side in this war and wants to keep up with what like minded Texans are doing about it. That subscription blank below will do for him, too.

ROUND-UP, 917 West 12th St.
Austin, Texas

Please enter my subscription to ROUND-UP. I enclose \$1 for 26 issues.

Name _____

Address _____

SAVE YOUR TIRES



"...and, boys and girls, America is obviously winning the war--our industrial profits for 1943 are 30 billion as against 25 for Germany, 10 for Britain, and zero for Russia.

A MEMORANDUM

1. It is generally known now that the race riots in Beaumont and other Texas cities were started by Nazi agents.

2. The National War Labor Board has directed the Southport Petroleum Co., Texas City, Texas, to grant wage increases to its Negro employees which will "place them on a basis of economic parity with white workers in the same classification." Frank Graham, Southern member of the NWLB, stated: "Economic discrimination on account of race or creed is in line with the Nazi program..."

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

Memorandum

Eleanor:

I, too, have been doing a little file cleaning. Found this that I think should be preserved in the historical files of the League office.

If you do not want it, please return it to me. It might be useful in evaluating the growth of the League in Texas

Nita

Ruggles?

December 5, 1949

OFFICE REPORT

The State Office has a new secretary who is finding after a month that there is still much to learn about the League and the office. Mary Nagler left Sept. 1 to teach at S.M.U., and Carol Thompson worked in September and October. Because of her illness and her sudden move to Austin, Mrs. Thompson was out the latter part of October, during much of which time the President also had traveling commitments out of town. Thus, when I came to the office the first week in November, there was three weeks of back work on which to "cut my teeth". Since that time there seem to have been constant emergencies, beginning with Voters Service priority the week before the election and ending with the rush to get out reports for this Board meeting. To say we have been rushed is an understatement!

The comfort of the office in both summer and winter has been greatly increased by two gifts from Mr. Row--a window air-conditioner and a new stove. Another valuable piece of equipment is the pigeon-hole mailing box which the President made last summer after trying in vain to "beg, borrow or steal" one. This mailing box greatly facilitates our checking on who receives various mailings (all Board members, all local Leagues, etc.).

The office has two four-drawer legal size filing cabinets, barely adequate to house the rapidly growing files. A volunteer assisted Mrs. Nagler and Mrs. Row for a week in August, during which time the closets were cleaned out and four large garbage cans of old material were thrown away; i.e., extra copies of President Truman's 1946 Report on the U.N. At that time four drawers of the files were re-done, but the drawers on national material and the historic files still need to be reorganized and all the files need to be thoroughly gone over to correct misfilings. As yet we have no adequate place to display National publications for the benefit of visitors to the office.

To give you an idea of the volume of work: we average about ten original type-written letters a day; we duplicate various items, such as President's letter and reports, all material for State Board meeting, permanent materials such as State By-Laws; we have a mailing to all Board members and to all local and provisional Leagues at least once a week; we type and duplicate material for a number of the State Board members (for the State Finance Chairman, Treasurer, Voters Service Chairman, U.N. Chairman and Nominating Committee Chairman during November); we often do public relations work, such as contact with radio stations or taking calls which would ordinarily go to the Dallas League office (since it is staffed only part of the time, we quite often answer questions for it and refer people to it).

A very important part of our work in the State office is keeping track of the many League members over the state. We have recently arranged for a girl to work at least one day a week on membership files and mailing lists in order to get and keep our membership records completely up to date and correct.

Because of continuous emergencies during the past month, despite working more than my supposed half-time, and even with the President giving practically full time to the League, we still have been unable to do more than keep up with the most pressing daily business--not yet have we been able to see daylight under the pressure of back work, but we have high hopes of getting completely caught up within the next month.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Dunlap
Office Secretary

December 29, 1952

NOTE TO EDITORS: The following background material for use in editorials is supplied you by The League of Women Voters of Texas, 2509 Washington, Waco, Texas.

WHY PAY POLL TAXES?

"Shall I pay my poll tax?" That is the question before every citizen of Texas today. That is the question which will haunt him until February 1, 1953, when the time for poll tax payment is past. Other questions follow this one: Why do we have a poll tax in Texas? What elections are coming up this year? I do not approve of the poll tax, so why should I pay it?

The answer to the first question goes far back in history to the time when Texas was sparsely settled. The expense of running the state government was low. The land holdings were large and the land owners few, and these few, with the taxes on their real estate, carried the whole burden of the government's expenses.

In time the property owners rebelled and insisted that bachelors, men without real property and the "floating population" pay their proportionate shares. Their wish was granted about the time of the last constitution and a tax of "a dollar a head" was levied on every male resident of the state. The tax, sometimes called the capitation, or head, or poll tax, remains to this day.

The poll tax was deemed a fair tax in that it was levied on all residents, citizen and alien, alike. The apportionment of the money thus collected was well calculated to benefit every resident directly, for \$1.00 was directed into the state school fund, 50¢ into the state General Fund and 25¢ into the county General Fund. Many counties forego the latter and assess the poll tax at only \$1.50

When the payment of the poll tax, or the exemption thereof, became a prerequisite for voting in 1903, the idea behind the poll tax was forgotten. Texans have forgotten, too, that resident aliens are also required to pay poll taxes for which special receipts are given with the word "Alien" stamped in bold letters upon the face. Contributing to the general loss of memory is the fact that payment of poll taxes is not enforced; suits for delinquent poll taxes are never filed. The fact remains that payment of the poll tax does not entitle the payee to vote, but the citizen may not vote without having paid it.

Paying your poll tax, or exemption thereof, will entitle you to vote at all elections held between February 1, 1953, and January 31, 1954. Although this is not considered a big "election year", many elections of importance will be held.

There will certainly be school and city elections where school trustees and city commissioners or councilmen are elected. School consolidation elections or bond elections, affecting every property owner, may be held. It is very likely that an election to amend the state constitution will be called in the fall. And, perhaps, an amendment to abolish the poll tax will be included.

The poll tax, which comes next to the general property tax in age, is slowly passing out of use. Only five states retain it, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas and Virginia. Efforts to abolish it by federal law as it pertains to national elections have failed time and again; the Legislature submitted the proposition to the voters of Texas in 1949, but it was defeated. Many of the people who opposed the tax had disqualified themselves to vote for its abolition. We can abolish the poll tax only at the polls.

Whatever opinion the citizen holds, he can do nothing unless he becomes a VOTING CITIZEN by paying his poll tax.

Either way, it will PAY you to PAY YOUR POLL TAX this year.

NOTE TO EDITORS: We suggest that in using all or part of the above you add the list of elections to be held in your town in 1953: city, school, bond, etc.