

April 23, 1979



Ruth Wadlington
Justice Chair
LWV Virginia



Dear Ruth,

I have been given your letter addressed to Betty Anderson requesting information on Texas' positions on adult criminal justice. I enclose our flyer which lists our most recent positions on this subject. Our state convention earlier this month revised these positions somewhat to reflect what has been achieved. Therefore we were able to eliminate a court administration system and establishment of a state probation authority from our action issues. We are proud that we have been instrumental in the establishment of a statewide adult probation system and that I was chosen by the chief justice of the state supreme court to be one of the three citizen members of the commission.

We have chosen just two adult justice positions to be action priorities in the 1979 session of the Texas legislature. I enclose a position paper explaining these in greater detail. We do take some action on other issues listed in the flyer if an opportunity presents itself.

We are in the last stages of preparation of materials for statewide member consideration on the issue of adult corrections. For this we have indepth interviews with the head of the Texas Department of Corrections and lengthy visits to four of the 15 prison units. We will be taking consensus on penitentiary issues, parole, and community based corrections in December, 1979.

I will be attending National Council as the incoming Texas president and plan to attend your workshop on adult criminal justice. If you want to call on me for additional comments, I will be happy to respond. We have very little information, however, on the issue of federal monies effect on our state system. From news studies and articles, it has not been a particularly beneficial program, but federal mony is the only thing keeping our Jail Standards Commission in business.

Sincerely,

APR 1

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA

Ruth H. Wadlington
1620 Keith Valley Rd.
Charlottesville, VA 22901

April 15, 1979

Mrs. Betty J. Anderson
LWV of Texas
1212 Guadeloupe #109
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

I have been asked to lead a workshop at National Council on Criminal Justice. The topic is open ended except that juvenile justice will be handled in another workshop.

Some knowledge of what your league has been doing in the field would be of great assistance to me. I would like very much to have a copy of your consensus positions, whether or not you are currently engaged in further study and the type of action that the LWV of Texas is concerned with.

I have tentatively proposed the broad subject of "Criminal Justice: What are leagues doing to make it more just?" I would like to get into the effect of federal monies on the system, and what will happen when they are cut back. Another topic will be alternatives to incarceration, with sharing of League experiences with innovative programs (if any).

Any more specific information or suggestions you (or your justice chair) could give me will be greatly appreciated.

The workshop will be on May 1, and will last one hour. Perhaps I will see you there?

Many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Ruth Wadlington
Ruth Wadlington
Justice Chair, LWV of Virginia

Bcc: Jan A, Jan W., Anderson, SO

Jan A: I am returning the original request so you or whoever can go on the 25th will have it. I hope that person can have additional input as I respected their request to be brief. Also it seemed to me that the committee focus was on prevention which we really don't address per se. Feel free to add to this if necessary. Regards,

April 17, 1978

Mr. Steve Krupp
c/o Representative Mary Jane Bröde
P.O. Box 2910
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78769

Dear Mr. Krupp:

The League of Women Voters has been studying the Juvenile Justice system for the past year. As a result of the first phase--from apprehension to disposition, we have come to a number of conclusions. Those which relate specifically to juvenile crime prevention are:

- more comprehensive basic training for all law enforcement personnel who deal with juveniles. Training should include such things as: Texas Family Code, available community resources, crisis intervention, adolescent psychology, etc.
- adequate state and local programs and facilities for the supervision, treatment, and protection of status offenders.

The second phase of our study--juvenile corrections--is just beginning. We are looking at state funding for dispositional alternatives, the pros and cons of eliminating traditional correctional institutions and statewide standards and qualifications for both personnel and agencies which deal with juveniles in the justice system.

We do not believe that positive answers to our concerns mentioned above will solve the crisis in juvenile behavior but that they are steps in the right direction. Unfortunately, we have discovered in much of our study at the state and local level, that while lip service may be given to concern for juveniles, in fact, community resources and services are only the minimum required by law (if that) rather than really adequate for juvenile needs.

We hope that your committee will address itself also to the question of accountability--are services performed really helping a significant number? and would a network of public and private agencies with state supervision and coordination really benefit given the time and money necessary?

Thank you for this opportunity to participate.

Sincerely

2/16/78

The local judges do not understand the formula.

Dear Diana,

I thought I would bring you up to date on an interesting subject here, although I am not directly involved with it.

We have had an Achievement Place program for a while here in the City of Galveston. It has had a variety of houses, and is presently in a town house which is not the best arrangement. The purpose is to house about 6 kids who might be sent to a state school, or a kid would be sent to a state school by the Courts if there were not an alternative here. As you know, I guess there about 10-15 counties which have such a program.

The real problem here is funding, as of course it is everywhere, but the fact of the funding depending on the Commitment rate is what bugs everyone. A few years ago, a lot of people worked hard in setting up programs in Galveston County to serve as an alternative to the state school alternative of the TYC. Because of this our commitment rate was not as high as if we didn't have this work being done at a local level.

Now it comes down to being deprived funds from TYC because we made this early effort in Galveston County. I am not positive of these figures but I think our ratio, set by the legislature, is a commitment rate of 2.8. We lose something like \$4000 per child under this formula, and it costs more than that to put one child in the local Galveston Achievement Center. In other words, it functions like a bounty to the local government. The frustrating thing is that no planning whatsoever can be made for running a center like this, not knowing from month to month how your commitment rate will be. And the TYC does not allow any of this money to be spent for the lease of a house or telephone etc.

I am sure you know all this. But I am only letting you know of the problems here in case you want to use it as an example in all your material coming out or to come of the present difficulties in establishing an alternative program here. k

You might ask why the County does not want to spend money for the center.. Actually, they may support them a small bit. (They are presently awaiting a ruling from the County Attorney to see whether our county can spend capital improvement funds in another county if we agree with Brazoria County to set up a program similar to the Houston Village and share the expenses.) But it really ticks off Judge Holbrook, (who we like so much,) that we are one of the few counties to have such a program, as mandated, and then not getting adequate funding from the state. i.e. he is not so generous as to just say run it with county funds.

Jerry Esmond, our Probation officer, is trying to see if we can divert some Status Offender money in our Criminal Justice money to help the Achievement Center. (This is the long term program as opposed to the Youth Shelter which is temporary lodging.) But HGAC is putting it on low priority, for some reason, and that grant may be in jeopardy. I went to a meeting earlier this week to see what could be done politically about getting HGAC to raise our priority on that grant.

June Bucy (director of the Youth Shelter and active in Achievement Place) said Eleanor Sutherland did a fantastic job on the program in Dallas last week. Thank you for getting her to do it.

See you next week.

Cheers,



JUL 1 1978
June 28, 1978
Thursday PM

Dear Diana:

Was most happy and relieved to receive your nice letter today. I must admit that I was somewhat on the defensive when Jan Wilbur relayed your request for the info.

I believe Anita Marcus' remark was in regard to my paragraphs on the Houston Police Dept - Juvenile Division. I asked her to read over the material before I sent it to the printer in hopes of correcting any "too strong" verbage.

I am still very new to League and sometimes forget that we, or rather I, need to couch strong statements in more acceptable language.

Anita read over the material, as did Frances Leonard, and both gave me the go-ahead to send it off to the printer. Frankly, I did not find it offensive and/or too strong and will stand behind it all 100%.

As for my contribution to the Facts & Issues, after I saw the finished product and after reviewing what I sent you, I am extremely embarrassed!

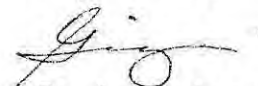
I have learned so much in the last 7 or 8 months, and have become somewhat more educated as to how the League operates that, given another chance, I would know the type of info you wanted and be more qualified to put it together in a much more sophisticated manner. But thanks anyway - I appreciate the opportunity to learn.

One more item. In talking with State Rep. Joe Allen about an unrelated matter, I brought up the drastic cut that last Legislature had made in the TTC budget and asked what he thought was the justification behind it.

It was his opinion (how well informed he is, or was, on the subject is questionable) that the much-publicized problems with Lester Roloff and his "schools" were a major reason for the decision to cut the budget. Thought you might find that little gem interesting.

Anytime I can be of assistance to you PLEASE feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,



Gigi Woodcock
2131 Lone Rock
Kingwood, Texas 77339
358-6748



NOV 13 1978

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PHOENIX



November 9, 1978

Diana Clark
Texas League of Women Voters
1212 Guadalupe - Ste 109
Austin, Texas 7801

Dear Mrs. Clark:

Many thanks for your excellent response to the Emancipation of Minors question. It was most helpful. I will be sharing it with the leagues throughout the state.

Cordially,

Meredith Corbett
Juvenile Justice
Arizona League of
Women Voters

November 6, 1978

Meredyth Corbett
LWV-Arizona


Dear Ms. Corbett:

Please forgive the long delay in responding to your inquiry re "Emancipation of Minors."

I had originally intended to respond that Texas does not have such a provision in its Family Code. Almost accidentally, I found that our Code does speak to the issue under the term "Removal of Disabilities of Minority."

This section of the Family Code (31.01 *et seq.*) allows a minor of this state who is at least 16 or 17 years of age and who lives apart from parents, managing conservator, or guardian, and who is self-supporting and managing his/her own financial affairs, to petition the court to remove the disabilities of minority for limited or general purposes. This petition must be verified by parent, guardian, managing conservator, or if none of the above is available, a guardian *ad litem* appointed by the court.

Additional guidelines of the law are: petition must give name, age, address of petitioner, name and address of each living parent, guardian, or managing conservator; the reason why removal would be in the minor's best interest; and purpose for which removal is being sought.

The effect of removal of disability is that "except for specific constitutional and statutory age requirements, a minor whose disabilities are removed for general purposes has the power and capacity of an adult, including the power to contract." (Sec. 31.07)

If another state has granted freedom from the disabilities of minority, Texas will abide by the decree or judgment if it is filed with the deed records of any county.

Therefore, to answer your specific queries: yes, the juvenile must appear before a judge, and the law is specific as to what must be provided.

Meredyth Corbett

-2-

November 6, 1978

If the juvenile can no longer support himself (or herself) a petition must be presented to the court requesting to be a juvenile again -- or go through whatever an adult does when indigent. Actually, this has never occurred to my knowledge.

If a crime has been committed by this person, the case would be heard in regular adult court unless the attorney for the defendant made a ~~motion~~ motion to have the youth tried as a juvenile. Such a motion would be ruled on by a judge -- again, most unlikely.

The Texas Family Code, in section 54.02, provides that a child alleged to have committed a felony and who was 15 or older, may, after a hearing in juvenile court, be transferred to the adult district (felony court.) Such transfer hearings, usually held at the request of the prosecution, are for more serious crimes against persons. The juvenile judge considers many factors. Not many transfers are made in proportion to the juvenile justice system.

I hope the above has been helpful. If you need more information, I will not be as tardy next time.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark, Director
Administration of Justice

DC:jl

*for: D. Clark
S.O.*



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

CHIEF JUSTICE
JOE R. GREENHILL
JUSTICES
ZOLLIE STEAKLEY
JACK POPE
THOMAS M. REAVLEY
SEARS McGEE
JAMES G. DENTON
PRICE DANIEL
SAM D. JOHNSON
DONALD B. YARBROUGH

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEXAS JUDICIAL SYSTEM

1414 COLORADO STREET, SUITE 600
P.O. BOX 12066, CAPITAL STATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
512/475-2421

Administrative Director of the Courts
C. RAYMOND JUDICE
Director of Reporting Systems
JACK L. REYNOLDS
Executive Secretary
MARYBELL DISMUKE
Chief Counsel
JIM HUTCHESON
Reporting Coordinator
WILLIAM E. BAUML

February 6, 1978

Ms. Diana Clark
[REDACTED]

Dear Diana:

Of course you have our permission to reproduce the various tables, as well as any other information, in the Juvenile Probation Report.

Please let us know if we can be of any other assistance in your important project.

I hope everything is going well with the Adult Probation Commission. I miss working with all of you but have enjoyed working with Don Stiles. Please express my personal appreciation to the commission for the very nice resolution.

Sincerely,


C. Raymond Judice
Administrative Director

CRJ:k1

January 31, 1978

Mr. C. Raymond Judice
Executive Director
Texas Judicial Council
[REDACTED]

Dear Ray:

I am in the process of producing another paper for the League of Women Voters of Texas on Juvenile Corrections in Texas. I have used a lot of the information in the Juvenile Report published by the Judicial Council for calendar year 1976.

I would like your permission to reproduce the various tables you have used to report information together with the appropriate information about the tables in a mimeographed supplement to the printed paper which will be used by the leaders in the various leagues in presenting the information to their members. Total credit would be given to the Judicial Council and extreme care would be taken to assure that the correct information would be duplicated.

May I have your answer very shortly?

With many thanks and kind regards,

Sincerely,

Diana S. Clark, Director
Administration of Justice
[REDACTED]

November 15, 1976

To: Nancy Douglas
A.J. Chair - LWV Houston

From: Diana Clark

I had hoped to get a minute to visit with you last Thursday at the Criminal Justice Conference--I hope you did make it as you had planned? But that day sort of passed in a blur and I really don't know who was there and who wasn't...at least all the speakers came, which was an unnecessary worry of mine all of last week.

In reference to your letter of the 22nd of October. I hope we can do something about victim compensation and I would like a copy of any bill you come across as soon as you get it. I'd also like to know any other details such as your contacts with sponsoring groups or legislators interested.

On the pre-trial release question. Has Jan Irby responded yet? BUT, before you get exercised about who is being released, have you checked to see whether or not those people showed up when they were supposed to in court or checked to see if they have committed any other crime in the interim in violation of the release? Also to be considered is would these folks be bailable for a price? In other words, would a JP or judge set a money bail for them? These are some of the criteria for pre-trial release and there are judges who think the crime list could be made less restrictive if other things such as roots in a community and verification of references, addresses, etc as well as having a job were carefully ~~XXXXX~~ checked.

Yes, I have heard of IMPACT from some people in Austin. I would like to get together with them sometime before the session starts to see what efforts we could make jointly on issues of mutual interest. But I must be careful not to predict what our consensus will be until after the January board meeting.

Thanks for the Adult Probation Bill draft. I guess our letters crossed in the mail. The Dallas probation director is very discouraged about his budget for next year and I hope we can support some kind of statewide system including state funding. Presently county commissioners have little incentive to push for more probation since they have to pay for it, preferring, I guess, to let the state keep prisoners in Huntsville and then pay for the state parole supervision.

Best regards,

October 22. 1976

Dear Diana-

Enjoyed talking with you on the phone the other day. I am sending you a copy of the proposed probation legislation.

We are really having problems with pre-trial here. I have been given some photostatic copies of PR bonds which are really appalling! I just cannot believe that some of these people are actually being released. I have written Jan Irby requesting information about Dallas pre-trial release.

Is there any possibility that state can do something with victim compensation this session? There is a bill being written here which will need support. I'd like to send you a copy when it is completed and see what you think about it. I am seeing more and more in doing the rape court monitoring where the victim is really left out on a limb. The woman here in Houston who is really working on a bill is Linda Cryor director of the Rape Prevention Division of the mayor's office. What are your feelings on this?

Have you hear anything about a group called Impact? Reverend Ed Trien, whom I know very well, is head of it. They are planning to do extensive lobbying about matters such as state probation, community based corrections, and possibly will work on victim compensation.

Hope you get to Houston sometime soon.

Sincerely.

Manny Douglas
Adm Justice Comm

DC

May 31, 1977

The Honorable Dolph Briscoe
State Capitol
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Briscoe:

SB 39 creating an Adult Probation Commission has been supported by League members throughout the state of Texas. Establishment of such a commission will allow for increased supportive services, such as counseling and supervision, which will aid the probationer and hopefully decrease revocations.

We believe that a statewide Adult Probation Commission would bring more equity and uniformity to the criminal justice system. We request that you sign SB 39 into law.

Sincerely,

Betty Anderson
President

[REDACTED]
July 28, 1977

Ms. Barbara Butler
[REDACTED]

Dear Barbara,

I am ashamed to be answering your letter of February 1976 a year and a half after you wrote it. There are many reasons for such a long delay--the primary one being that I did not know just how to answer.

I took the phrase "legal and moral right to plead not guilty from one of the innumerable books I had read in preparation for the study without thinking about the implications of the words "and moral". I agree with you that to equate things that are moral with things that are legal is wrong, but I do not think the phrase above makes them equal. Perhaps it would have been clearer to say "a legal right and a moral right" thereby separating them into two distinct rights. But I do not agree that having these two rights that responsibility is removed from the equation. I believe each of us views our moral rights and responsibilities differently but I hesitate to downgrade a sincerely held belief though it is opposite to my own.

In attempting to find a solution for both of us I read some of Schopenhauer's treatise on morality but, as I am not a philosopher I cannot translate what he meant to our question. I also raised your question with a small group lead by a defense attorney who is also a catholic theologian. The group agreed with my statement but could not give me any adequate answer as to why they believed the statement correct. They did add that the person should say "I am not guilty because.....". This last point was brought home to me forcefully when I watched the first Frost-Nixon discussion. Mr Nixon said directly into the camera that he was guilty of no wrong-doing because his motives were of the highest. In otherwords, his motives made it his responsibility to do what he did to protect those around him. I am sure that the other Watergate defendants who pled not guilty in the face of their voices on tape felt the same way. However, it is then left for the court of law to decide the question using all the components necessary in proving a question beyond a reasonable doubt....the necessary ingredient in finding a person guilty.

I am enclosing a reprint of a chapter of a book lent me by Helen Hunter which she received as a participant in a bicentennial seminar on justice in America last year. David Bazelon is a Federal Circuit Court of Appeals judge in Washington D.C. I don't know if it answers your question any better than I have been able to do, but I think you will be interested nevertheless.

Again, my sincere apologies for the long delay. Many nights have I awakened thinking "tomorrow I will answer Barbara's letter" Now maybe I will sleep a bit more easily although, in truth, I am not completely satisfied with my answer. I am thankful that you thought enough of the issue to raise it with me and I hope you will continue to do so should the occasion arise.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark

[REDACTED]
February 9, 1976

Ms. Diana Clark
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Clark:

I am a member of the Houston L.W.

The publication, "The Criminal Justice System in Texas, Enforcement and Prosecution," was very well done. I would, however, like to know the reasoning behind the inclusion of the phrase "and moral" in the following sentence:

"Even if the defendant is guilty, he has a legal and moral right to plead not guilty if he believes the state cannot prove its case against him."

This sentence appears on page 7 and begins on the 13th line from the bottom of the first column.

I wonder if this was an inadvertent inclusion of this phrase in that sentence. If it was intentionally included I would like to make a strong objection. The tendency to equate those things that are legal with those that are moral is repugnant to me. Every citizen has the obligation, I feel, to make moral decisions (and decisions of responsibility) beyond the fact of legality or illegality. One of the foundation stones of our democratic form of government is the concept of individual duties corresponding to individual rights, and individual responsibilities corresponding to individual privileges. When the concept of responsibility is removed from the equation, the system necessarily will be weakened.

I hope that I have not unduly belabored this point, but I do feel strongly about it. I would appreciate it if you would let me know your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Butler
Barbara Butler
[Handwritten notes and signatures]

September 9, 1976

Mr. Shack Nail
State Bar of Texas
Center for the Judiciary
P.O. Box 12437
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Nail:

I much appreciated receiving the Benchbooks for Trial Judges and Juvenile Judges, together with the notebook for the College of the Judiciary Course. They have been invaluable in helping my understanding of the judicial process and the ramifications of many parts of the Code of Criminal Procedure as it relates to evidence, pleas, and conduct of trials in general.

The League is attempting to educate its members on the criminal justice system so we may participate in measures for reform. Your material helps me translate legal terms and procedures into language meaningful to the layman.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark
Director, Administration of Justice Study


cc: D. Clark, SO



CLARENCE JONES

SHERIFF

DALLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

November 19, 1976

Mrs. Diana Clark
[REDACTED]

Dear Diana:

Thank you for your kind and valuable assistance when we conducted absentee voting for inmates in the Dallas County Detention Center on November 1st. Without your help, I am sure we could not have completed this project.

I am sorry that I have not thanked you before now, however, I am now recovering from the flu and have just recently been given your address. I was with Glenda Metzke, Mardi Jones and Sue McCormick on "Voter's Digest" yesterday and taped a program to be aired on KTVT-TV on November 27th. I enjoyed being with these ladies.

It is my hope that the League of Women Voters will help us again during the next election. It is absolutely essential that inmates who are registered to vote be allowed to do so and that they not be subjected to political pressure. I feel that with your help we were able to do this correctly.

If I may ever assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call on me. It has not been until recently that I have come to understand the good work that you and the League of Women Voters perform. I hope we can work together again in the near future.

Yours very truly,

CLARENCE JONES
SHERIFF

BY: 
Stuart Couch
Opportunity Programs Coordinator

3504 Harvard Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75205

September 21, 1976

Ms. Marjory Brown
Organization Staff
League of Women Voters of the United States
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Brown:

Your letter of August 30 about the "Justice Game" arrived in the middle of my making another one for use by a church group. Up to now, each game is more or less hand made by me although there must be an easier way. If I were to send the outline and steps and facsimile of the pieces to another league I would charge about \$5.00.

Briefly the game takes three characters--Mr Bluechip, a wealthy industrialist accused of murdering his wife; Mr. Leroy Black, unemployed with little education accused of shooting a man; and Mr. Jack Greenwall, a recidivist accused of murder--through the various steps in the criminal justice system from arrest through sentencing. There are 21 steps and as the character lands on one, a card is read describing the action transpiring at that step and directs the character to the next step. A narrator provides additional information at many of the steps and is informed about the system enough to answer questions from the audience.

Although the narration includes references to the Texas Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, the system itself is probably similar in every state. The purpose of the game is to teach citizens about the criminal justice system and to point out the various exit points available in some instances. It also addresses the reality of having different kinds of legal assistance and the advantages and/or disadvantages of knowledge about the system by those involved in it.

The game is designed to be played with 4 persons before a group; a class, a general meeting, etc.

I hope you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark

A list of the 21 steps is included.

 The League of Women Voters of the United States

1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-1770

PRESIDENT
RUTH C. CLUSEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peggy Lampi

August 30, 1976

Ms. Diana Clark


Dear Ms. Clark:

Your Administration of Justice report to the State Board, June 1975 makes reference to a "Justice Game" developed by the Dallas League.

Would you please send more information about this 'game' to us. We try to keep our files up to date with usable material for local Leagues seeking assistance with their programs.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Marjory Brown
Organization Staff

August 18, 1976

Mrs. Edward C. Malewitz
[REDACTED]

Dear Melanie,

Thank you for your comment on the proposed consensus question about trials. Could you come up with a specific recommendation for improving the question or the addition of another question. I am thinking along the lines of asking a rather general question about court administration and welcome any wording suggestions as I find consensus question writing to be the single most difficult aspect of my job as a program chairman. Of course a speedy trial law similar to the federal one does make the paperwork flow in the court system critical...the feds are just now working on it according to my source in the Eastern Division (Judge Justice's court based in Tyler). Speedy trials will have an impact in other parts of the system...bail for one. I need to know leagues general acceptance or rejection of the concept rather than specifics.

The material for the Facts and Issues has been sent to Diana Tilley and the printer. Perhaps you could get her to give you the copy when the printer is finished with it. The leaders guide proceeds slowly but should be ready at the same time as the F and I. It will contain some back-up material to what is in the F and I. When the final consensus questions are approved at the September state board meeting, a guide for them will also be prepared.

In the meantime, you and your committee might use the temporary questions as a basis for interviews of judges, probation officers, prosecutors, or defense attorneys. I have included material in the Governors proposals on denial of bail (a September Voter article) electronic surveillance, oral confessions, rules of evidence, subjects which you might wish to ask opinions of those you interview. I am hopeful the state board will allow a question on the Jail Standards; you might interview the director of that body. Our material is in a Voter article from last winter plus some material sent to supplement last years leaders guide.

I hope I have been of some help. Getting things done seem always to take longer than planned.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark

Mr. EDWARD C. MALEWITZ

2403 CASTLEDALE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78745

August 5, 1976

Dear Mrs. Clark,

The Austin Administration of Justice Committee met July 29 to discuss the questions for Phase 2 of the Study.

We feel that Item #2, 'Trials' needs further explanation and is a 'yes, but--' sort of statement. It would involve the question of Court Administration which is not mentioned and which our committee feels is important.

The Austin League program planners have put the AJ Consensus on the calendar for November. This puts our committee under a bit of pressure, and we need the Leaders Guide. Please let me know as soon as possible when we can expect this material so I can schedule our committee meetings and assignments. In a word -- HELP.

Sincerely

Melanie Malewitz

Melanie Malewitz, Chmn.

Skeleton for Criminal Justice in Texas - workshop, seminar, symposium

The problem: -Overcrowded, non-complying county jails in Texas

-Lack of funds in counties for addressing the problem

-Unwillingness of citizens to support adequate funding

-Unknown possibilities for enforcement of previous state

law and proposed new regulations by the new Jail Commission

Attacking

the problem

-A workshop or seminar in at least three areas of the

state (six or eight would be better) both urban (large)

and (small) to identify particular problems in the area

-Develop facts relevant to the area (size of crime problem,

degree of compliance or status of the particular county

jails, number of alternatives to jail available in the

area)

-Use local area speakers and panelists - e.g. county district attorney, county judge and commissioners, sheriff.

-Play You Be The Judge Game using relevant area facts

-Invite above named local officials from as many counties as possible as participants.

-Invite representatives of civic groups - Chambers of Commerce, Bar Association, League of Women Voters, Junior League, AAUW, Jaycees etc.

-Have plenty of time for dialog between the citizens and the experts.

Impact of project

-To make public officials and local area citizens aware of the problem, and

-To suggest ways toward solution of the problems

-Involve the public in the decisionmaking process

Project Staff - One state chairman directing local advisory and planning committee. (at least 6-10 people in each area)

30 April 1977

To: Diana C cc: Fumi, SO, Hunter
From: Betty A. *BA*
Re: Corpus Juvenile booklet

The Corpus Christi March 17th minutes state,

"The Juvenile Justice booklet was discussed and said to have been put in the present form deliberately. A few changes were asked for but overlooked. Mr. Miller, Director, and Mr. Ocanas, Assoc. Director, of Martineau Hall will redo the booklet, leaving out codes that will be changed, and will give the draft to the LWV for printing. They will use pictures of juveniles in the Hall, but without ~~show~~ showing their faces. A meeting will be called to check out the draft, and they will be distributed by volunteers. The cost of printing the booklets is to be ascertained. Renshaw reported a need for more members on this committee."

I'm not sure what "a few changes were asked for but overlooked" exactly means/ I thought your letter was very clear about our concern, Diana. I doubt there is anything we can do now.

Did anyone talk with Corpus Leaguers about this at Convention?

~~xxxx~~ BA

COPY

League of Women Voters

VICTORIA, TEXAS



[REDACTED]
March 28, 1977

Dear Diana:

Many thanks for saving the
AD simulation game. I'm afraid
my W committee "copped out"
on the hard work of creating a
new game.

Instead, we invited the assis-
tant DA to speak on the AD system.
At the next meeting we'll deal
with consensus questions and fill
in some gaps to help us under-
stand how the system looks to
people involved in it.

Our imaginations were willing
to create, but Uncle Sam's income

top deadline, and a few
other crises intervened.

The Facts and Issues was
excellent; some of us have gotten
turned on by library materials on
the subject, too.

Thanks again for sharing the
game. We appreciate your waiving
the fee, but are enclosing \$2.50
to cover postage and an extra-
long borrowing period.

Sincerely,
Liz Branch

March 10, 1977

Stephen C. Kilgo
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Kilgo:

We appreciate so much your kind and informative letter of February 25, 1977.

We weighed very heavily the need to be able to control such illegal activities as the sale of drugs against the possible deprivation of human liberties in considering whether to support or oppose the wiretap bill. As in so many cases, the decision was not an easy one.

I guess our long experience with governmental bureaucracy, even the best-intentioned, makes us overly cautious when it comes to providing increasing means of invading the privacy of law-abiding private citizens and that concern persuaded us to come down in opposition to the proposed legislation.

I am forwarding your concerns to the state and national levels of League, however, for I want them to know your considered and moderate views.

It is reassuring to know that citizens such as yourself care enough about government and democracy to concern yourself as you have. Please don't ever lose interest.

Thank you for writing to us.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Appel

Madeleine G. Appel, President

RECEIVED FEB 28 1977

FEBRUARY 25, 1977

TO: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON
[REDACTED]

RE: ISSUE TAKEN ON CURRENTLY PROPOSED WIRETAP LEGISLATION

DEAR LADIES;

I WAS TO RECENTLY HEAR THAT THE LEAGUE TOOK ISSUE WITH THE CURRENTLY PROPOSED WIRETAP BILL. IT WAS ALSO MY UNDERSTANDING, THAT THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS, REQUIREMENTS, AND ENFORCEMENT OF SAID BILL WAS TOO LIBERAL IN NATURE.

I AM ALMOST IN TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH YOUR POSITION TAKEN, HOWEVER RATHER THAN MERELY TAKING AN OPPOSITION POSTURE AND SACRIFICING THE ENTIRE BILL, PLEASE CONSIDER THE INSTITUTION OF THE NECESSARY CHECKS AND BALANCES TO QUALIFY THE EXISTING BILL. NEXT YEAR IS A LONG TIME TO WAIT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A CORRECTED BILL..... FRANKLY, I AM IN TOTAL SUPPORT OF YOUR DIRECTION OF CONCERN IN THIS MATTER, HUMAN LIBERTIES CAN NOT BE EXPERIMENTED WITH IN TERMS OF A QUESTIONABLE BILL, YET WE ARE EVER FORCING OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT INTO A SITUATION OF IMMOBILITY.

FORTUNATELY WE HAVE A POLICE CHIEF WHO CONDUCTS HIS DEPARTMENT WITH SAID LIBERTIES IN MIND, IF NOT CHIEF BOND WOULD NOT BE WORKING SO HARD THROUGH THE MEANS OF LEGAL TECHNICALITY TO CHANGE THIS CURRENT SITUATION. THOUGH WE ALL TOO WELL REALIZE THE SACRIFICE THROUGH ORGANIZED CRIMINALS, MURDERERS, AND THIEVES WHAT THE LACK OF SUCH A BILL FORCES US TO MAKE, FEW REALIZE THE DEVASTATING COST ON OUR ECONOMY, WHICH CANNOT CONTINUELY SUFFER SUCH LOSSES.

YES, YOUR DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT WAS OF COURSE A DIFFICULT ONE, AND WITHOUT SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS YOURS HUMAN LIBERTIES WOULD BE DEFINITELY LESS IN STATURE. THUS I SEE THE CONFIDENCE OF YOUR LEAGUE SLIPPING JUST A LITTLE, FOR YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT AS LONG AS YOU ARE IN EXISTANCE YOU WILL NOT ALLOW HUMAN LIBERTY TO BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, REGARDLESS OF HOW ANY LAW READS NOW OR IN THE FUTURE.....

AS FOOD FOR THOUGHT, AND BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL, I REMAIN;



STEPHEN C. KILGO
[REDACTED]

Clark

March 11, 1977

Martha LeBrock, President
Shirley Lowe, Program Vice-President
League of Women Voters of the Orange Area
[REDACTED]

Dear Martha and Shirley,

I was in the state office this week working on bills before the legislature on the administration of justice, when I came across your annual report to state and national. I noticed your remarks under the "recommendations" question and since they related to state program I was especially interested in what you had to say since I have been responsible for much of the new state program study in the past two years. You stated, in part"

"...since we are a small league we have a difficult time shifting around our programs at the last minute because the state league has decided to shift dates or hasn't gotten our materials to us in time for our meetings. After repeated complaints to the state league, we are still having problems getting materials on time. If the state league doesn't start being dependable, the Orange League will be forced to eliminate all state consensus from our program."

Since I have already apologized for the delay in some of the justice materials and the reasons for the delays in State Board reports dating back at least to June of 1976, I will not repeat my apologies again. However, I did think that the reasons I gave for the delays and for the addition of several consensus questions which related to the Governor's Crime program were satisfactory to leagues around the state. In reviewing the Guide to Local Calendar Planning for 1976-77, I find that I promised a leaders guide in July which actually came in late September. However, the Facts and Issues, which wasn't promised at all according to the calendar, was issued and mailed to each league the last week in August. The consensus deadline was established in that calendar for January, 1977 which did not change.

I then wondered about what you meant by "repeated communications". I had never had any communication from you, nor to my knowledge, did any other board member. I checked your correspondence file in the state office and found no communication of any kind. In fact, I never actually received your consensus forms at all. I gazed your VOTER which printed your consensus with the intention of writing you a note, but it was Christmas time, and my note never got written, so I simply used your

Voter article as your consensus to be counted with everyone else.

Next, I reviewed your board minutes in the state office file. To my horror, I saw, in your minutes of November 10, 1976 the following:

"Martha presented the consensus questions on Criminal Justice to the board for approval. They were approved with the attached memorandum. A motion was passed to attach the following" Due to not receiving Facts and Issues prior to programs which resulted in lack of preparation of the membership, the results of this consensus is generally inconclusive. Consensus is submitted only for information and is not to be considered as League consensus. The motion was made by Gail Batchelor and seconded by Kay Wika. The motion passed.."

Would you believe that no one got that letter with attached memorandum?

When I reviewed both your VOTER calendars, with your two meetings on AJ in October and November, I could not understand why you had not received your Facts and Issues in time, when they were available in the state office by the first of September. So, I next checked the publication order files. I could not find an order for Facts and Issues from the Orange League. The only order was from Mary Behnke dated October 12, 1976 for "We Support". The state office manager checked the invoice file and the bank deposits to see if we had sent you a bill for a telephoned order, or a payment from you for an order.. Nothing whatsoever turned up.

As you might imagine, by this time I hardly knew what to think. As far as I could tell we had not received a consensus report from you, we had not received the memorandum your board approved, we had not received any "repeated complaints" and we had not received an order for the publications.

Obviously there has been a tremendous breakdown in communications between you and us. For that I am terribly distressed and sorry. None of us at the state level wish to impose the slightest hardship on any league regardless of size. In fact, we most often gear our work to the needs of the smaller leagues feeling the larger ones have more resources to cope with unexpected problems. We are only here to serve you--in fact moving the juvenile justice consensus deadline was specifically so that smaller leagues would have more time to develop local information and to consider the questions. (As far as the Juvenile Justice materials go, they have been delivered precisely when promised.)

We gladly accept criticism and comments from all local leagues at any time. We know we are far from perfect. In your case, I hope you will review your publication orders, communications with us, etc. and perhaps file an amended annual report, if you feel it is warranted.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark - Director, Administration of Justice

[REDACTED]

BCC Anderson, Hunter, Leabo, SO.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1121 of Clarion
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

MAR 11 1977

March 9, 1977

Ms. Diana Clark

Administratation of Justice

League of Women Voters of Texas

Dear Diana,

I appreciated your letter and the time and depth of research that obviously went into ^{it}. I really don't know where to start in discussing the publication in question. Neither I nor anyone on the Board was happy with the book, title or anything else. The situation that existed on the board at that time made it almost impossible to do anything other than allow the book to be printed. As our local District Attorney read and approved the publication I assumed that it was at least factual even though I wasn't happy with the form.

Fortunately, the book has not been distributed to any but two elementary schools, and since their reception of the idea was so great we will undoubtedly re-do the book to be further distributed to all of the elementary schools in our city. The problems raised in the book seem to be prevalent at most schools in our city and we were asked to provide more copies. I have forwarded your letter to our local Justice chairman and she will be in touch with you as her committee endeavors to re-do the publication.

Sincerely,

Linda Stubing
Linda Stubing Pres. C.C.L.W.V.

Clarke

March 1, 1977

Mrs. Linda Stubing, President
League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi

Dear Linda and members of your Juvenile Justice Committee:

This is a most difficult letter for me to write as I do not like to be critical of anything a league does, especially something with the best of intentions. But in reviewing your pamphlet for youth Oh Boy, I'm In Trouble!! I Did It!! I Got Caught!! I find many inaccurate and bothersome things which I must share with you.

1. Nowhere do you make the age distinction between a juvenile (ages 10-17) and an adult. Yet the police procedures you outline apply to adults (see below) for the most part, yet the endings on each page have the child taken to the juvenile home, in which case the police are supposed to handle the child differently. Each jurisdiction is allowed to have their own police guidelines approved by the juvenile court. (see Family Code sect. 52.01)
2. Section 51.15 of the Family Code outlines just how photographs and fingerprints are to be taken. If the juvenile is under the age of 15, fingerprints can only be taken after a court order unless latent prints are discovered at the scene of a crime. Photographs may not be taken except by court order also. If your police department is routinely fingerprinting and photographing without such an order, they are violating the code.
3. Nowhere do you mention that a child may be tried as an adult only after a "transfer hearing" (sect. 54.02)
4. In all sections of your booklet where the offense is a Class C misdemeanor, the child may not be sent to the Texas Youth Council (TYC) unless it is a third offense. Class C misdemeanors you quote are: Penal Code sections 22.01-assault depending on degree, 31.03 Purse Snatching-dependng on value, 42.08-Sniffing Glue/Paint, and Drinking 28.03-destruction of property, depending on value, 28-04 destruction of property-reckless damage, 31.03-Shoplifting depending on value, 30.05-Loitering/Trespassing, and 42.01 Abusive language.

5. Runaways and truants are defined in the Family Code, section 51.03(b) subdivisions 2,3, and 4. But you must also look to section 54.04 of the code for disposition of such cases. Subsection 2(g) specifically prohibits the court from committing a child to the TYC for these "status offenses". If the child cannot be returned to the parents or a foster home in the community, the court may have to use a TYC facility for dependent and neglected children which are entirely separate from the other TYC facilities for delinquent children.

6. On the last page of your booklet you mention that the judge may order you to hire you an attorney. You do not mention the fact that a child is entitled to an attorney at every stage (Sect. 51.10) and must be represented by an attorney at the adjudication hearing (trial), a transfer to adult court hearing, and a disposition (sentencing) hearing. If the child was not represented at the detention hearing, if he/she is to be detained on court order, an attorney must immediately be present. Even if the child waives rights under the various sections, ~~an attorney~~ ^{waiver} must be made by the child and the attorney. (Sect. 51.09)

7. Nowhere do you mention the right of appeal of any of the court decisions by the child. Nor do you mention any other right such as to remain silent, to have an attorney, etc.

Now to some questions: Does not a city like Corpus Christie have special juvenile police officers? In most urban areas of Texas, when a child is picked up by the police, they are turned over to such officers immediately. These officers usually have specific knowledge of the guidelines used in Nueces County for handling of juveniles. Often the probation (intake) department is contacted immediately unless it is the middle of the night. You mention the "Martineau Juvenile Home". Is this the only detention center you have for juveniles? Juveniles are never supposed to be held in a cell in the city or county jail. Here you do not mention the detention hearing which must be held within 48 hours of being detained. Perhaps this is less important, but the child should know that such a hearing is held before any "trial", if the child is not released to the parents, pending disposition or adjudication.

I realize that the way that children are treated by law enforcement people and the juvenile judicial system can vary tremendously not only around the state but even within one jurisdiction. However, I do not believe that we will make any lasting impression on children by leaving out important facts.

I think in your next edition, you should discuss probation for juveniles and what a typical probation order for juveniles usually contains. Most children receive several probations before being incarcerated in county or state facilities. Such orders usually contain conditions of behavior, attendance at school, meetings with assigned probation officer, etc. and juveniles should know about them.

Finally, some personal thoughts: On the first page of your booklet you mention a "record". This is a serious thing and I believe it would be much better if you calmly stated what having a record means, such things as not being able to get certain jobs or becoming a doctor or lawyer...etc. Actually juvenile records can be sealed (see sect. 51.16)

League of Women Voters of Corpus Christie - page 3

Even without sealing, access to juvenile records is limited by the code. (section 51.14)

I have strong reservations about the overall implication that parents have to pay money to get children "out" of it. Regardless of what costs parents do pay, they are not getting children "out" of anything. "Out" as you use it seems to imply that the amount of money a family has determines the punishment. This might well be the case in some instances where the family has the resources for private rehabilitation, but the child is still under the jurisdiction of the court. And I'm sure you did not mean to imply that parents could buy anyone off, or more money would lead to a less severe sentence. Yet those implications can be read into your introduction. (I have this same reservation about "costs" mentioned in the Harris Co. booklet in referring to lawyer's fees--the implication there being that the more one pays an attorney, the better the chances are for a lighter sentence). I also have reservations about the "cost" figures assigned to a particular crime. Does this refer to the possible fine imposed? court costs? probation costs? attorney fees? or what?

And finally, you make no mention of drugs--a large area of juvenile crime. The section on drug laws in the Harris Co. booklet (which each league received last fall) has a very good section which you might review for your next edition.

Having said all of the above, I really do think you have a basically good idea in preparing a simple booklet understandable by children. Before you prepare a next edition (and I suggest you wait to see what changes in the Family Code might be made by this legislature) you might check the general tone with a child psychologist, as well as getting all the facts correct with the Family Code! You might even test a draft on some children of various ages and family backgrounds.

I know you probably wouldn't have much trouble getting a grant to redo a better publication. Do try again. And please don't think that I believe children should be pampered and excused from unlawful behavior because I most certainly don't. But I do believe that Texas has a specific code covering all aspects of juveniles in the justice system and that it should be followed carefully by all jurisdictions both to protect society and the legal and constitutional rights of juveniles.

If the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Task Force or I can be of help please don't hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark
Administration of Justice Director

c: Pumi Sugihara, Corpus Christie Advisor
bcc: Anderson, Hunter, S.O.

To: Diana C.
From: Jan W.
Date: June 11, 1976
Re: A few other things and AJconsensus additon.

I like what you and the word lady came up with on wording for the AofJ consensus statement...

Right at the moment I'm snowed and so will respond to your budget proposal a little later. In answer to the question "How do we sell the F&I and leaders guides to the LLs? Does the money come in to the TEF again?" LWV-H has ~~been~~ selling publications produced with TEF (or EF) money whenever we could. The restriction is that one can recoup the cost of producing the publication but should not plan to make a profit. And any money brought in by selling a publication funded by tax deductible money is tax deductible--so it would have to go back into TEF. I do not have a definitive answer as to whether a column in the VOTER can be funded by TEF monies. I do ~~not~~ know that fifty percent of the national VOTER is funded with EF money. It would seem we could do the same kind of thing here. I'LL ~~not~~ check on that when I correspond with national re. the state budget--which I'm planning to do as soon as Diana T. sends me some copies of the budget (adopted). I cannot say at this time whether ~~the~~ your figures are realistic...I'll have to do some figuring on that.

Helen and I are scheduled to do board training (leadership dev.) for LWV-H on Monday. I did ~~at~~ Dear Park this past Tues. and we (Helen, Jane, Jan M., and Pat Lawson) did group training for Bay Area and Pearland, and three emembers of the Deer Park LWV--Deer Park, Baytown, and Pasadena had said they were going to be there) on June 1. So I sympathize with your taking a whole day to "follow up", I have the same problem. (I know I'm in trouble when it takes me a whole hour to write to New York to adjust my hotel reservations before national convention--which it did!)

I have to write up those board training sessions, get the consensus put together (by the way Dallas did a superb job with the consensus as well as with its analysis of why this consensus--FSG--was do difficult to do), and I have set up a regional Property Tax Reform committee(?) meeting on the 23rd. Plus we are trying (my church is involved in this one) to get a COPS-like (i.e., Saul Alinsky method) group going in Houston and the people from the Industrial Areas Foundation will be down for two full days (~~9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.~~ 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.) next week. What I'm hoping is that I can make it to July 9 when I will leave Houston never to think of League of work until I return on August 9. Have I ever wished for a whole day when there was absolutely nothing to do? I would be happy for a half day right now. Who said everything shuts down in the summer! G-r-r-r-r-r! But it is all do exciting!

If I didn't really, deep-down enjoy it I wouldn't be doing it, right?

On that jolly note I will bid you adieu and get on to the next item on the agenda.

Peace!!



To: Jan W
From: Diana C.
Date 6, 1976

Re: AJ consensus addition and a few other things

Thanks for your quick response and suggestions for rewording. (You are the only one who seems to care, so far). After consultation with Word-lady Barbara (as Beth calls her) I've come up with the following:

(Support of) state assistance, including restitution by the offender when feasible, to victims of certain violent criminal acts.

Is that ok? Barbara is very careful of clauses modifying the proper words -she didn't particularly like the "when feasible" part, but I think it is necessary; otherwise it would imply that restitution must be always made - a not always feasible possibility.

Another thing: Some time or other - I think in Galveston - I asked if you could help with a proposal to TEF for the second AJ leaders guide and Facts & Issues. Here is what I have come up with for your review and comment:

Committee/director expenses	\$150.00
Leaders Guide (200 copies)	350.00
Publication costs (F & I)	1000.00
Distribution costs	200.00

Those last two figures are: 5000 copies @ .20¢ and 1000.00 plus \$200 to mail free copies to newspapers around the state and to colleges and jr. colleges that have crim. justice courses - in other words, some PR. I am guessing at what that expense would be.

My question(s) are: How do we sell the F & I and leaders guides to the local league? Does the money come in to the TEF again? (Never buy a ribbon with four colors on it) Now I think its blue) Also, I am scheduled for one column in the Sept. Voter on Bail...can this be TEF funded, and if so, should some amount be listed above? Can an article on such a subject, leading to a consensus question later on, be TEF funded. Are the figures above realistic? Do you suppose they cover SO costs of distribution to local leagues? Do you have such figures in the budget file yet?

At the rate I'm going, the whole question may be moot - there may never be another AJ F & I when it takes me a whole day to write a memo to Richardson on their bylaws and board training, with two or three more leagues to go. Did you ever wish for a day when there was absolutely nothing to do?

Enclosed is a copy of the Mock Board Meeting Groundrules and Guidelines. Helen H. and I worked out a new and better? numbering system and she redid the agenda and I did these.

I would love to be the fly on the wall at your "Touch of Assertiveness training"workshop.

Your VOTER article was good..now you can do one on zero based budgeting and shut up all the critics.

Have a restful vacation....and thank you for your help

To: Diana C.
From: JAn W.
Date: May 26, 1976

Re: Addendum to AJ Consensus Statement

including (ect) restitution by the offender

You suggest:

certain
"(Support of) state assistance to victims of violent criminal acts, ~~including (when feasible) restitution by the offender.~~"

1) I agree the consensus is strong enough to warrant some such statement being included.

2) I think it would be appropriate to include the word 'certain' between 'of' and 'violent' (i.e., ...victims of certain violent...) to comply with the "limits and guidelines" restrictions stressed by local Leagues.

3) The statement seems grammatically awkward to me. How about

{restitution}
"...{assistance} to victims of certain violent criminal acts by the offender (if feasible) or by the state."

(I have no serious quarrel with the wording you propose, but ^{merely} suggest the alternate wording for your consideration.)

4) Have a good summer!

J

[REDACTED]
March 19, 1976

Dear Mrs. Clark,

During this year I have been working with our Administration of Justice Committee, and I've found the information provided to be thorough and well presented. My congratulations on your handling of a very complicated subject.

As we move into the area of being able to take action on our consensus, I am personally concerned about the relationship between some proposed legislation which will probably result from the Texas Criminal Justice Standards and Goals and civil liberties. I am referring specifically to the sections in Goals that deal with the legalization of wire tapping, intelligence operations, and control of crowds.

May I suggest that you receive information from the Texas Civil Liberties Union on these topics, if you are ^{not} already doing so. Their executive director is John B. Duncan,
[REDACTED]

I am sending you this information as an individual League member and not as a representative of our League.

Sincerely,

June Kachtik

June Kachtik

Clark -

March 1, 1976

Merrilee Anderson
Chairman: Administration of Justice
League of Women Voters of Victoria
[REDACTED]

Dear Merrilee:

Thank you for sending me your consensus on questions 1-5 for phase one of the Administration of Justice in Texas study. You may have until September to add to or amend your consensus.

My reasons for asking for consensus after each phase of the study is to break up the mass of information into manageable sections. I believe it would be much more difficult to take a valid consensus on two 8-page Facts and Issues, with perhaps up to 20 questions. It would take a minimum of four unit meetings and I do not believe local leagues want to devote that many meetings to one subject in any program year.

It is very necessary to have consensus positions as early as possible before the legislature meets. You must realize that much of the work the league does for a session begins months before the actual session begins. It would be very difficult to wait until December or January to begin analysis of upcoming bills. Speaker Clayton has already announced a package of bills dealing with anti-crime measures, some of which sound good. Of course, other bills are introduced after the session begins, and the league reviews those relating to our concerns, but many are prepared ahead of time. Since the state board meets infrequently, our schedules, plans, and strategies must be made far in advance.

I had the experience of being resource person for a neighboring small league. I participated in two unit meetings, two weeks apart. The members had received the Facts and Issues in the mail a week before the first meeting. They experienced no difficulty in understanding the material and in answering the questions. Responses from other leagues of various sizes around the state indicate similar results. Some leagues interviewed local officials and asked them the consensus questions. I'm sure they had an interesting time making comparisons!

I do apologize (again) for the delay in getting the justice materials to you. I hope to have the second part ready by summer with a consensus deadline of November 5. This should give leagues adequate study and preparation time.

I must most emphatically deny that there has ever been a practice of using consensus from Houston and Dallas as representing the LWV of Texas. I have no idea where you got this impression, but it is totally erroneous. I will bring my Administration of Justice consensus tabulation and file with me to Council in Galveston for your review.

In my section of the November board report I mentioned the fact that if a local league had a consensus on any one of the questions dealing with issues that could be implemented at the local level such as pre-trial release, they could take action at the local level if there was no state-wide consensus. Several leagues - Dallas, Houston, Brazos County - have some local consensus

Merrilee Anderson - page 2

On which they have already taken action at the local level. I mentioned this in relation to questions 7 and 8 in the guide to consensus accompanying the questions only as a matter of information. None of the consensus leagues have already arrived at is used by the state league.

I hope you realize that if any league in Texas does not wish to lobby for things they do not understand, they are not required to do so. The only requirement is that a league not lobby against a position arrived at by the honest and valid consensus procedure of all the leagues in the state.

I would appreciate your sharing my letter with your membership in the same manner that you used to share the results of your consensus - in you VOTER. Such a serious misunderstanding must be cleared up as soon as possible so that we may continue to work together toward league success in the legislature and in our separate communities.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Winthrop A. Clark
Administration of Justice

cc: Mrs. Martha Pritchett
Mrs. Betty Anderson
Mrs. Meg Titus

Recd 2/27/76

Enclosed are answers to the Administration of Justice
Consensus Questions.

The Day Unit of the LWV-Victoria spent two meetings on
Administration of Justice. About 30 members were present
for consensus. The Night Unit had one meeting on the
study and did not have time to arrive at consensus.

Merrilee Anderson

Merrilee Anderson
Chairman, Administration
of Justice study



CONSENSUS QUESTIONS
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

1. Should all local law enforcement agencies be required to report crime information to the Department of Public Safety?

✓ Yes.

2. Should mandatory statewide police selection and training standards be upgraded?

✓ Yes. Some provision should be made to assist those communities unable to finance higher pay or those with limited personnel making it difficult to avail themselves of training opportunities.

A minority was undecided on this question.

3. What suggestions have you for coordinating law enforcement efforts between agencies?

and
Agencies should be encouraged to share equipment/ trained personnel, to coordinate services and to maintain radio communication with other units. The Dept. of Public Safety could be used to coordinate on the state level. ✓
In general, we feel we know too little except for local practices, to make recommendations for the entire state.

4. Should there be more restraints on the discretionary powers of the district attorney? Explain.

✓ Yes. Some means of public review of D.A. activities and possible recourse besides the ballot is needed, such as requiring an annual report on operation of the office. We think the laws relating to selection of a grand jury should be reviewed to assure broader representation, to possibly lengthen the interim or to limit the frequency a person can serve.

5. Does Texas need a public defender system?

✓ Yes. A public defender is superior to the present system of court appointment. Perhaps a limit to the number of years in public defense could overcome tendency toward familiarity with prosecution and/or the bench and other abuses likely to arise from long service. A set level of income should determine eligibility for public defense--owning a home should not be a disqualification. Perhaps a scale of ability to pay could be established.

A. of J.

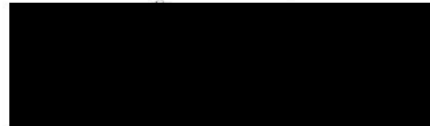
(Questions 1-5)

These were the only questions we were able to cover in this short period. The LWV-Victoria continues to object to consensus being expected in the early stages of a study. Members in attendance were unanimous in feeling that we needed a year for background before coming to consensus. If the State Board continues this practice, we would like to request that leagues be given opportunity to amend or add to their consensus statement after the deadline has passed. In this case, since no legislative action will occur for another year, leagues should be able to have some input into consensus as we go into the second phase of the study. Or, are we going to continue the practice of the Houston and Dallas leagues arriving at consensus for the rest of the LWV of Texas?

This is the exact sentiment we expressed to our board trainers last spring when we tried to explain how local leagues with any integrity cannot always act on League positions during the legislative session. To require us to lobby for things we don't understand would render us totally ineffective at other times with our legislators. We understand the need to present a united front, but think premature consensus deadlines undermine our reputation for in-depth study and thorough member understanding and participation before consensus is reached.

F204

Meredith Anderson
Chrm. A. of J. study
LWV of Victoria



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

April 22, 1976

To: Alice Sutton, President, LWV-Longview Provisional
From: Diana Clark, [REDACTED]

Dear Alice,

Jane Peterman asked me to send you any suggestions I might have to help in your Justice meeting in May. She has asked the state office to send you 2 leaders guides and some copies of the Facts and Issues plus the consensus questions and position statement. I am including a copy of the Guide to Consensus that was furnished local leagues earlier, which might help in locating the material relating to each question.

I think there is probably much too much material available for you to cover in one meeting so I have suggested below some of the most interesting parts for your chairman to use if she wishes.

IT IS ALWAYS HELPFUL IF THE MEMBERSHIP CAN HAVE THEIR COPY OF THE FACTS AND ISSUES BEFORE THE MEETING SO THEY CAN BE SOMEWHAT PREPARED TO UNDERSTAND THE TOPIC. Please try not to read the material, but put it in your own words.

Question one on crime information and statistics

Question five on public defender systems

Question 8 on pre-trial release

Question 9 on citation in lieu of arrest statutes?

Question 10 on pretrial diversion.

The guide to consensus gives some suggested questions for discussion which can help move things along.

You might want to refer to the article on County Jails in the December state VOTER when you are talking about alternatives to incarceration.

Members are also interested in the process an arrested person goes thru. This is on the first page of the Facts and Issues. The continuation of the process is included in the Leaders Guide.

Another approach used by some leagues is to send the facts and issues to members ahead of time and set up a general meeting with speakers on one or two parts of the subject. Such speakers could include the district attorney, a defense attorney, the police chief or sheriff..etc. There is really no limit, except that you do want your members to have a basic understanding of the subject. There will be another facts and issues out this summer for another meeting on courts, trials, sentencing probation/parole sometime in the fall. Please don't hesitate to

Primal Justice Plan for Texas. Don't worry; there is plenty of information in what you already have. Regards and hope you have fun. Maybe some of your members will get so interested in the subject they will want to do some research on your local system.

Diana Clark

April 12, 1976

To: Diana Clark
From: Jane Peterman
RE: A of J, Longview Provisional

Longview Provisional has scheduled their A of J catch-up meeting for May. (Their board meeting is the first Wed., membership meeting is the third Wed.) See the memo to D. Tilley re: sending materials.

Do you have suggestions for them as to how to go about preparation and presentation? A note to Alice Sutton, president, [REDACTED] would be appreciated. Thanks.

cc: State office
Anderson
Hunter
Sutton

April 12, 1976

To: Diana Tilley
From: Jane Peterman
Re: Longview Provisional, A of J material

Longview Provisional scheduled their A of J catch-up meeting for May. Would you send to Alice Sutton what was sent to Marshall/Harrison Co. If you have no record of that I suggest sending 2 leaders guides, 20 (?) facts and issues, consensus questions, and position statement.

They also need 4 more IN LEAGUE^U. (They now have 16 board members. 12 copies were taken when they organized with 12 board members.) I checked with H. Hunter and she said for you to place the order for IN LEAGUE if they are not in your office. All of these materials should be charged to C.I.B. (services to new Leagues). I would appreciate a copy of the charge.

Thanks--I didn't know how to place this on a work request.

cc: Anderson
Hunter
D. Clark
Sutton

April 15, 1976

Mr. John F. Tafolla
San Antonio Bar Association
Bexar County Courthouse
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Dear Mr. Tafolla:

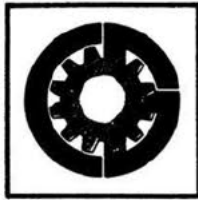
We understand that the American Bar Association, in its 19th year of nationwide observance of Law Day, May 1, has chosen the theme of 200 Years of Liberty and Law. If you will be sending a brochure of local activity, would you please include us.

For your interest we enclose a sample of the material used by our members in the first part of their study of the criminal justice system in Texas. In the fall, we will take the sample case to its conclusion and study juries, trials, courts and court administration, sentencing, probation and parole.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Keith Rodgers
President, LWV/SAA

RR:os
Enc.



WEST TEXAS
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS

1200 NORTH MESA ☼ EL PASO, TEXAS 79902

(915) 544-3827

E. RAY HILL
Executive Director

December 10, 1976

Ms. Diana Clark, Director
Administration of Justice Study
League of Women Voters of Texas
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Clark:

Enclosed is an original and two copies of the Consensus on the Administration of Justice Study - Courts, Trials, Sentencing.

If there are any questions or if I can be of assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Rhoda Witthauer vmc

(Miss) Rhoda Witthauer, Coordinator
Regional Criminal Justice Planning

RW/vmc

Enclosure

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROWNSVILLE

P. O. BOX 3643
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520

JAN 4 1977



December 28, 1976

To: Diana Clark, AJ Director, LWV-T
Re: Administration of Justice consensus

Dear Diana:

Enclosed are the copies of the AJ consensus forms. You will notice that ours is an incomplete consensus. Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, we were unable to bring our membership together for enough meeting time to finish what we had begun before the deadline. I apologize for this, but it was the best we could do.

I won't bother you any further with a list of our excuses or complaints (problems are pretty much universal in Leagues, aren't they?) However, let me wish you a New Year filled with health, happiness and peace.

Yours truly,

Frances Marquis

Mrs. Max Marquis, Jr., President

*Diana -
they sent 2
copies - one
is in so.
Joann*

Recd 3/3/76

February 29, 1976

Mrs. Winthrop A. Clark

Dear Mrs. Clark:

We have just completed our three unit meetings this past week, for our Administration of Justice Study. My four committee members join me in thanking you for the excellent material that you have prepared for this exciting, complex study.

Now that the first phase of the Study is behind us, we want to share some of our observations with you. Unfortunately, the material arrived much, much too late for us to be able to schedule two sets of units for the Administration of Justice. We all felt as if two sets of units were crucial, in order to first just educate our members to this complex system. Even though we did have four articles of background interest in the Voter, we have found that most of our members still need verbal explanations at the units. Therefore, we found that we were terribly rushed for time, in that we had to first explain the system, and then address ourselves to the Consensus Questions. The panel, on February 10, composed of our Police Chief, the District Attorney, a District Judge, and a Defense Attorney, served to stimulate interest, and educate our members to a small extent. However, we still felt compelled to go into much greater explanations, before proceeding with the taking of consensus.

Not only did we feel that there were just too too many questions, but we also would have liked to have seen more attention directed at the problems within the police and sheriffs system. We really were only able to touch the surface, in terms of the depth of problems that exist in that area. Hopefully, more attention will be able to be given to this area, in the next year's study. One other area that loomed very large in our minds, is that of speedy trials. We have constantly been told in our interviews, that if we had speedier trials, we would have fewer problems with the recidivists, the bail system, etc. Therefore, we felt compelled to address ourselves to this area in the optional question of number 12.

All in all, I think that we felt terrible frustration in having to give superficial treatment to so so many questions. We believe that fewer questions in the next studies would be much more advantageous.

I am enclosing, attached to our consensus answers, some additional notes to amplify some of the answers for you. I also am enclosing the newspaper clippings that I have been collecting over the past few months. I do hope that you have been receiving Galveston's Voter, so that you have already read our articles.

My personal thanks to you for providing me with the most exciting experience I have had as a member of the League of Women Voters!!!!

Sincerely yours,

Lynn Stahl

RECORDER's NOTES Concerning CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. No further comment.
2. We do recommend that standards should be raised to a minimum of 400 training hours, and that any training above this, should vary according to the population and crime rate of the community. Any requirement for college degrees should take into consideration the size of the city, and its crime rate.

There was very strong agreement that psychological tests given by qualified professional be administered to all applicants for the law enforcement programs. Hopefully this will ascertain the applicant's stability and motives, BEFORE he/she is accepted into the system.

Various suggestions from various units:

- 1) Establish a statewide junior college degree program for police science.
 - 2) Salaries will have to be raised to be commensurate with the stiffer requirements in police selection and upgraded training standards.
 - 3) There is question as to the requirement of city residency to be eligible for the city police.
3. The court administrator would hopefully ameliorate the problems that we found existing in Galveston County, in scheduling the courts, in making up the docket, and in notifying witnesses and defendants of court appearances. We also hope that a court administrator would help with the problem of interruption of appointed counsel for the indigent defendant. In Galveston County, we have found that indigents have two different appointed lawyers - one for the justice courts and one in the higher courts. We would like to see the Court Administrator supervise assignment of CONTINUOUS counsel for the indigent defendant, throughout the system.

We also had to make the recommendation of a reasonable (minimum) amount of time between arrest and setting of bail, because there exists an unfair time lag in transporting accused felons from mainland city jails into our island county jail, where bail is set. Over week-ends, particularly, people are sitting in city jails, just waiting to be transported into the county jail, so their bail can be set, and they can procede from there.

4. No further comment
5. No further comment
6. No further comment
7. We have found that Bondsmen often turn a client back into jail, through seeking a warrant from the judge, on heresay that client is going to "jump" bail. The client has had no voice in the matter, and merely forfeits his bond fee, and then finds himself sitting ~~back~~ into jail.
8. If our full state had pretrial release programs throughout the state, we could encourage cooperation between agencies on a statewide level. If a Dallas resident committed a crime in Galveston, the defendant could be interviewed and accepted by Galveston's pretrial release agency, and then sent back to Dallas to carry on with his life, until he had to return to Galveston for his trial. The Dallas pretrial release agency could receive his semi-monthly calls, and monitor the defendant, during the pretrial period.
9. No further comment
10. No further comment.
11. No further comment
12. No further comment.

March 11, 1976

Mrs. Lynn Stahl
League of Women Voters of Galveston
[REDACTED]

Dear Lynn:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter about the justice study. As you might imagine, no one is more aware of the shortcomings due to timing than am I. In fact, that plus too many questions, is an overwhelming consensus! I hope my plans for the next phase of the study will give each local league to investigate the situation in their locale to supplement the state material.

Problems within police and sheriffs system must, I think, be investigated at the local level. State law only provides a framework for these agencies, and that is one reason why I did not provide more information in my state material. It is up to local study committees to decide how much local material they want to provide. Here again, ~~since~~ the leaders guide with the questionnaires probably came too late for you do much in the way of interviewing local officials.

Your interest in speedy trials will be covered in the next phase of the study. Here again, though, you will have to find out from your District Attorney and District Judges, the time frame from arrest to trial in your own district. State material can only cite the laws and indicate some ranges of time from a few representative locales. In fact, if you should have this information in the next month or so, I would use Galveston as one example of a time frame in comparison, say, with Dallas (if there is much difference)

Your VOTER articles were particularly good. Did your members have the FACTS & ISSUES ahead of your meetings too? Usually it is impossible to cover every fact necessary to come to a consensus verbally at a unit meeting. Members must take some responsibility for preparing themselves ahead of time if printed material is available.

Lynn Stahl - page 2

The newspaper clippings were very informative. It is great that Galveston is having such good success with its pre-trial release system. Since your consensus approved of such a system, you now are able to lend your support locally should the County Commissioners decide to do away with it or underfund it. The Wichita Falls justice chairman sent me some clippings on pre-trial release in their county indicating a lack of support from their county officials. I will try to find a way to let that league know about Galveston's success and see if they can have some positive input in their community.

Your final sentence indicating your exciting experience (albeit with frustration) with the justice study is beautiful music for my eyes. It gets a bit lonely sometimes sitting at the typewriter wondering if what I think is interesting and important will seem the same way to those of you out there around the state. I am very glad that I am able to transmit my enthusiasm to another, and I am very appreciative of your comment.

I look forward to meeting you in Galveston.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Winthrop A..Clark

Your additional notes attached to the consensus answers are quite helpful. I am tabulating all such comments for background to action in the future.

Mrs. R. Ken Carpenter
3200 Shell Avenue
Midland, Texas 79701
October 18, 1976
November 8, 1976

Mrs. Winthrop A. Clark


Dear Diana:

Am I ever embarrassed! Our president asked me to draft a letter to you regarding the mix-up on materials and consensus on the AJ study. The board wanted it included in the local VOTER, an idea that I was not enthusiastic about, but then I am not actually on the board. Result was I gave the rough draft of the letter along with the consensus report and recorders notes to the VOTER editor with instructions to her to pass them on to the secretary as soon as she finished with them, so the secretary could type the letter on League stationery and send it all in. I just found out today, now that the VOTER is already out, that the secretary did receive the materials, but she just thought they were copies for her notebook and had not typed up the letter! So it would appear that our local league has a few communications problems too--and unfortunately they began with me! So please take the following official letter--which I wish I had never written--with a large grain of salt!

You will find enclosed our consensus report and the recorders notes--~~s~~kimpy. The unit meetings were held October 7 and 11.

We regret the incompleteness of the report, but there simply was not time to cover all the questions in one meeting. Our League had planned only one set of unit meetings on this topic, believing there were only the eight Consensus questions sent out in June, and of course, no others were received during the summer.

When we belatedly realized the consensus deadline had been changed, our program vice-president, Lois Christensen, called you on August 20 to find out if the F & I, Leaders Guide, etc. would be out in time for our October unit meetings. She says you assured her all materials would be received in reasonable time--that the Dallas units were also scheduled for October.

Admittedly, 1 copy of the new consensus questions was sent to our president, who passed it to Mrs. Christensen to give to me. Unfortunately, due to an oversight, I did not receive it until 10:30 p.m. Oct. 6. The Leaders Guide arrived at Mrs. Christensen's on DPM, on Oct. 6, and she brought it to me that afternoon.

It does seem to us that since the state board knew that both Dallas and Midland had these AJ units scheduled for October, that the state office should have taken action to keep us informed. There were no Leader's Guide, no Sept. VOTER and no new consensus questions by the middle of September, though the F & I did arrive by then. We could

have been warned via telephone or 1st class mail of this delay. Or the state office could have made the effort, under these circumstances, to mail these items as soon as they were off the press, by 1st class mail direct to me or Mrs. Christensen. Incidentally, the September VOTER finally arrived after both unit meetings were over.

We hope that there will be prompt improvement in the LWV-Texas meeting their deadlines, communicating with local leagues and/or keeping local leagues informed of such drastic delays.

Please understand we are not criticizing you personally, Diana. I know you have spent untold unpaid hours on this project and you have produced some excellent materials. It is obvious you put your wholehearted effort into this, and we all appreciate your hard work. There is just a timing and communications problem which I feel the entire state board must bear and must work to solve.

Yours sincerely,

Lois Carpenter

AJ Chairman, LWV-Midland

Louise T. Cummins

6511 PEORIA AVENUE - LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79413

October 12, 1976

Dear Diana:

I appreciate very much your taking time to write to me and explain the State Board's action on the question of the death penalty. I had been very concerned when I saw that the question was included. I believe that your explanation is reasonable and I understand your thinking. It will probably be very difficult to do because it is hard to discuss a law only on the merits of its legality when the question is so emotional. This has been the problem which has confronted the supreme court. We will, however, try our best to keep within the guidelines you have set forth.

Thank you again for your letter of explanation. Your work on this program item has been outstanding. I know it is not easy to condense the vast amount of material into a workable Facts and Issue but you have really done a fine job.

Sincerely,

Louise

De

1/2 call

Barbara Minton

October 1, 1976

To: Yvonne Pugh
League of Women Voters of Waco

From: Diana Clark, Director of Administration of Justice

Thank you for your note of September 11 and your comments on the consensus questions. By now you should have received (via your president) the final questions the state board approved at its Sept. meeting. You will note the addition of several questions directly relating to what will probably be recommendations by the Speaker's Task force to the upcoming legislature on revision of several laws relating to denial of bail, denial of probation, enhancement of sentences, etc. Included in the next general mailing to local leagues to go out from Austin the first week in October is some additional background information on, a repeat of the December, 1975 VOTER article on county jails and a general guide to the consensus questions.

I am a little puzzled about receiving some answers from you on the proposed questions from June. Has your league already taken the consensus? If so, I will keep your answers until the deadline of January 15 and you will have until then to amend or add consensus on the additional questions.

Now to answer some of your other questions. On a courtwatching kit--no we do not have one as yet. It is a project I am interested in, but I do not know when it will ever get done. I suggest you write to Glenda Matzke, Administration of Justice director for the Dallas league for copies of their courtwatching project which would include forms for the observers to use, outline of instructions to the observers, and general things to watch for in such a project. Glenda's address is 6922 Vivian, Dallas 75223.

The state league has no positions vis a vis parole at this time. If the A of J study is adopted as a continuing program at the state convention in April, Parole and Corrections both at TDC and community based would be a logical next step to study. In that study, we most probably would do some comparison of costs in incarceration etc. We already have a position on diversion -pretrial-, not post-trial. We also have a position supporting uniform bail amounts. (see the new state program flyer "We Support" for all the AJ positions to date.)

I am glad you are having a speaker from the Jail Standards Commission. You will note a consensus question on supporting such a commission. However, I do not foresee us having a position on specific standards which would take much more study time than we have.

Clippings on what is happening in criminal justice in your area are helpful.

Sincerely,

Sept. 11, 1976

Dear Diana,

I have worked on the Administration of Justice Study for the last year and have wanted to communicate with you on several matters. Did State League ever publish a Court Watcher's Kit? Last spring several of us were interested in this project, but from the material we did receive we decided to postpone until we received a kit.

The questions on Bail, trials etc. did not reach me until yesterday. They are of interest to me and hopefully we'll return them in time to be counted.

I am a member of Cure (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) and in addition to our local Cure Chapter we have formed a tax exempt organization called Conjoint to render services to offenders.

at-offenders and their families.
The unfairness of the bail system
is evidenced daily. Two high
schools boys picked up at noon
(identical charge) - \$50 one
judge - \$100 another. We are
taking a position against a new
prison & our reason being
Mr. Estelle's comment that 40%
of those in TDC could be released
if we had community programs
for them. That would clear
more than enough space for those
who would fill the new prison
slots. I attended a sub-committee
hearing of the legislature last
month, at which time Mr. Estelle
presented his new prison budget.
Said he'd rather see more parole
or community programs, but neither
the legislators, nor their constituents
would tolerate this. Will the
League take a position? Will
we compare effects and cost of
incarceration ^{TDC} vs. community based?
It will be too late after the first
appropriation is made and
the system is further perpetuated.

If you have any special suggestions as to ways to interest others I'd appreciate it -

Mr. Brindley, a member of the Jail Commission will speak to us next month. Wes is in the process of planning for a new jail.

What types of clippings (newspaper) are of interest to send?

Gyome Pugh

LWV of Texas
June 4, 1976
LL Presidents
DPM
II. C. 1.
Program-State
Administration of
Justice

TO: Local League Presidents (forward to AJ chairman)
FROM: Diana Clark, Administration of Justice Director
RE: Proposed Consensus Questions for Phase 2 of Study of Criminal Justice in Texas

NOTE: These are proposed questions, approved by the state board, but subject to minor changes at the September board meeting. Comments before then by local Leagues will be welcome.

BAIL

1. Should bail be denied for a person arrested while out on bail for a prior arrest? Y ☒ N U

TRIALS

2. The Texas Criminal Justice Standards and Goals recommends that the period from arrest to beginning of trial should not be longer than 90 days. Do you: ☒ agree disagree

SENTENCING

3. The Texas Criminal Justice Standards and Goals recommends that all sentencing by a jury be abolished. Do you: ☒ agree disagree *depends who will do sentencing*
4. Do you favor mandatory fixed sentences? *separate sentencing* Y ☒ N U
5. Do you favor the death penalty as presently defined in the Texas Penal Code? Y ☒ N U
6. Should the Court of Criminal Appeals be given the power to review sentences? Y N ☒ U
7. Should there be more specific sentences for crimes committed with a firearm? Y N U

PROBATION

8. The Texas Criminal Justice Standards and Goals recommends that probation services be made available statewide; that the state provide financial aid to counties for establishment and improvement of such services; and the establishment of an Adult Probation Board under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary. Do you: ☒ agree disagree

*Let's get back to gun control -
I would like to separate probation
from justice system so that the
probationer could receive help
without the feeling that they are
inconvenienced or take not from any
help at all - Probation could be a
advisory service for probationer.*

[REDACTED]
April 10, 1976

Mrs Winthrop Clark
[REDACTED]

Dear Diana,

Enclosed is some material dealing with a Workshop on Criminal Justice which the Denton League held in February. I am a little late in getting this to you but had hoped the Denton Record-Chronicle would publish a report of the survey they carried for us but no luck.

We did get nice community cooperation, however and I thought you would be interested in the enclosed. As you will see we used the consensus questions in the paper. We also distributed them to those who attended the workshop. The results were compiled but the news paper did not print the results.

Thank you for bringing so much good material to us.

Yours very sincerely,

Johnie
Johnie Christian

April 13, 1976

Mr. Carol Vance
District Attorney
Harris County Courthouse
301 San Jacinto
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mr. Vance:

The League of Women Voters of Texas is studying the Criminal Justice System in Texas with the aim of informing our members about the system as it exists today and making them aware of possible changes to be made in the future- all with the aim of public participation and support in the neverending quest of reducing crime and equality of justice for all.

I have seen the booklet you prepared for the secondary students of Harris County and I would like to have a copy for reference and to show to others as an example of what can be done to introduce what is a rather complexx subject to the general public.

If there is any charge, I would be happy to pay it.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Winthrop A. Clark
Administration of Justice Chairman





League of Women Voters of Lubbock

Lubbock, Texas

Dear Diana,

This morning I had a phone call from a reporter from our local newspaper who told me that the Lubbock County Sheriff had been interviewed and said that he would not object to a "civic" group like the LWV doing an investigation of the jail. As background, I should say that the Brown Berets have claimed that prisoners have been mistreated and there have been incidents of sexual abuse. The city's Human Relations Commission set up a committee to investigate last summer. They found some of the allegations to be true. The Sheriff and County Commissioners claim that the city's HRC has no authority to investigate the county jail. The reporter's question to me was whether we had done a study of the jail, and would we.

Betty Anderson suggested that I write to you and ask if the Dallas League had done anything on jail investigation. Do you see it fitting in with the Ad. of Justice study? If so, do you have suggestions for carrying it out? Have Leagues outside Texas done jail investigations? As you can see any information would be helpful.

We had good member discussions at our consensus units last week.

Yours truly,
Linda Mcowan, President

March 11, 1976

Linda McGowan President
League of Women Voters of Lubbock
[REDACTED]

Dear Linda:

I apologize for the long delay in answering your questions about doing an investigation of the Lubbock County Jail.

I talked to the Dallas people, but they had never done more than a survey of the county jail. Because of the federal court case others had done a great deal of work and it seems unnecessary for the League to get involved in this particular way.

I cannot find any information on specific league investigations. However, Corpus Christie had gotten their sheriff to give them a tour of their jail with the press; the first such tour for anyone in over nine years. You might write to them for their information..

Even though you might not find out much from other leagues I would encourage you to go ahead. Since the sheriff said he would not be adverse to the league doing such a study, you have made progress already. It speaks well for the league in Lubbock that you are considered impartial and fair.

I have no specific advise for how to proceed.. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee 78 Beacon Street Boston, 02108 has an Administration of Justice Project which contains some sample questions which might help you start. Check with a local church to see if they have a copy of the project. If not, I will copy the pertinent sections for you. I think your best bet is to formulate a questionnaire with the help of someone in the social sciences, ^{and} or a criminal attorney. The advise of an attorney in any case would be helpful. For exx-prisoners, the jail chaplain or a friendly probation officer might find you some who would be willing to be interviewed. Checking out these persons stories is probably the hardest part but it should be part of the process.

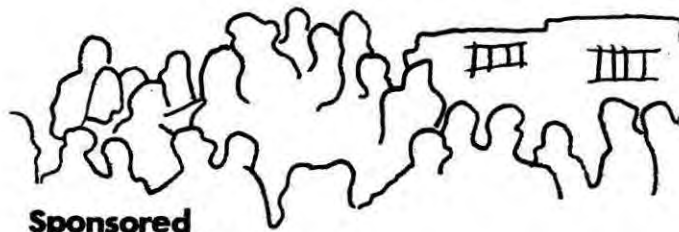
Another source of help might be the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in Texas - John Albach, Director, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Good luck!

Sincerely,

Diana Clark

FIRST PEOPLE'S CONVENTION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



Sponsored
by

CURE

A Lobby to Stop Crime
Through Criminal Justice Reform

**September
27 & 28**

**Walker
County
Courthouse
Huntsville, Tx.**

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**convention
schedule**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9AM-1PM...Registration

- fee for convention is \$5.00 or a CURE membership card.
- experts in the areas of jail, prison, law and parole will be available to hear particular problems.

**1-2:30...Opening of
Convention**

2:30-4:00...Workshops

police and courts
jails and prisons
parole

**4:30-6:00...Workshops
Repeated**

enables participation in a different workshop.

8 PM.....Social

Holiday Inn, 145 & State 30

for more information on con-
vention - write: CURE

1926 Newning Ave.
Austin, Tx. 78704
Phone 512-447-8052

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

**9AM.... Address by W.J.
Estelle Jr.
Director of Texas
Department of
Corrections**

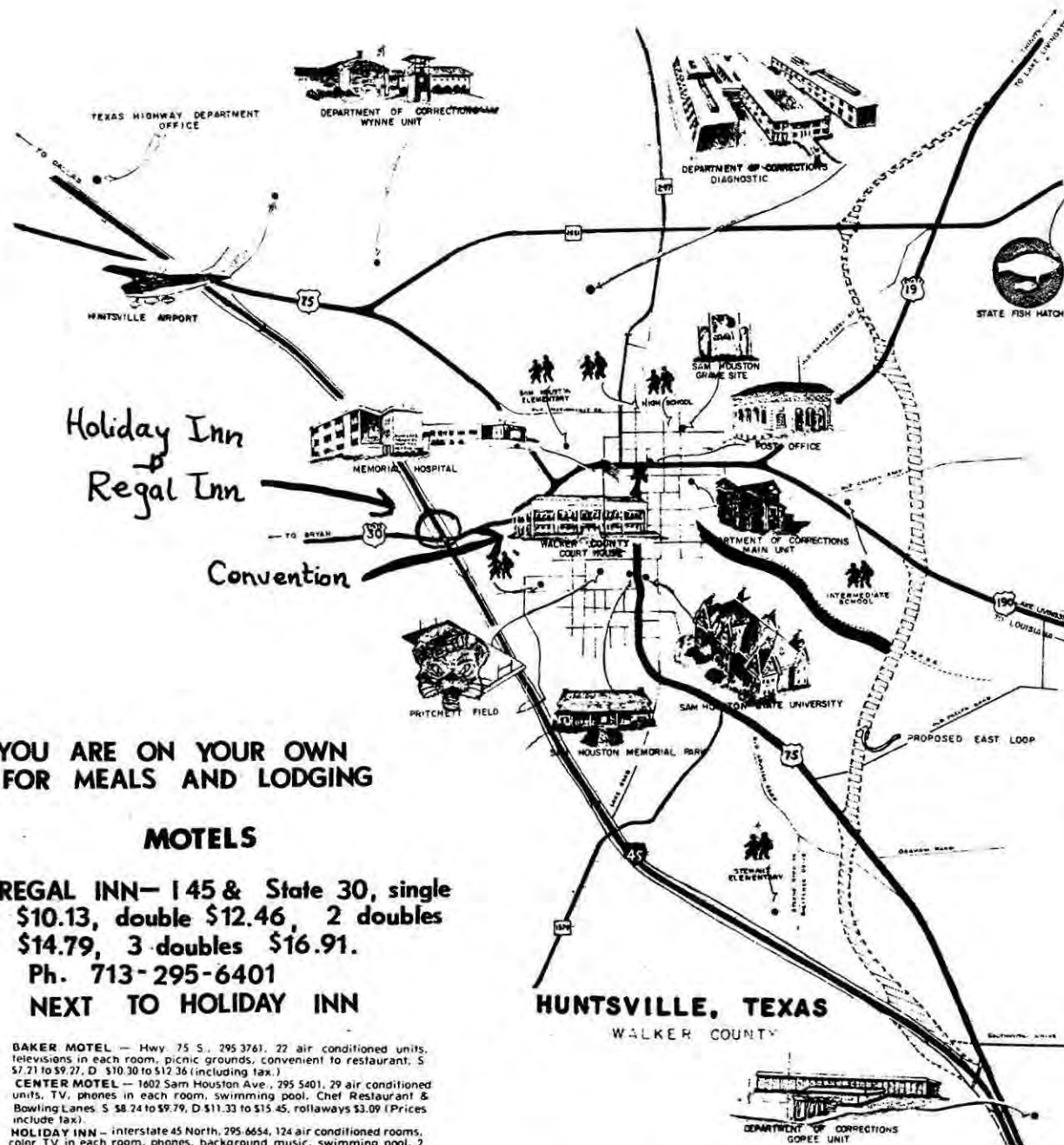
10:30....Regional Meetings

11:15.....Business
 — reports from workshops
 — convention resolutions
 — election of four CURE board members

INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVENTION

Judges, Members of Parole Board & Commission, Jail Administrator, County Commissioners, Wardens, Members of Prison Board, Prosecutor, Chaplains.

**THE PRISONERS ARE AN
IMPORTANT PART OF THIS
CONVENTION. THEY ARE
WHY WE ARE HERE!
VISIT A PRISONER SAT.
MORNING OR SUN. AFTER-
NOON.**



**YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN
FOR MEALS AND LODGING**

MOTELS

REGAL INN— 145 & State 30, single \$10.13, double \$12.46, 2 doubles \$14.79, 3 doubles \$16.91.
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CENTER MOTEL — 1602 Sam Houston Ave., 295 5401, 29 air conditioned units, TV, phones in each room, swimming pool, Chef Restaurant & Bowling Lanes. S \$8.24 to \$9.79, D \$11.33 to \$15.45, rollaways \$3.09 (Prices include tax.)

HOLIDAY INN — Interstate 45 North, 295 6654, 124 air conditioned rooms, color TV in each room, phones, background music, swimming pool, 2 conference rooms, 2 banquet rooms, restaurant & club open to public. S \$12.75, D \$18.75.

HUNTSVILLE SANDS MOTEL — Interstate 45 South, 295 5446, 24 air conditioned rooms, color TV, phones, pool, adjacent restaurant. S \$8.00, D \$15.00.

HUNTSVILLE TRAVEL LODGE — Interstate 45 South, 295 9151, 77 air conditioned rooms, executive suite, conference rm., banquet room to 250, color TV in every room, swimming pool & kiddie pool, park area with swing sets, sauna bath, putting green, Queen size beds with pos. mat. tresses, restaurant & club with live entertainment, family rates, honor major credit cards.

MOTEL PINES — Highway 75 South, 295 5466, 15 air conditioned rooms, cable TV, phones, picnic grounds, rates \$8.00 to \$10.00.

FRIENDSHIP INN — Interstate 45 North, 295 5725, 50 air conditioned rooms, color TV, private terraces, AM & FM radio, conference room, banquet room, beautiful grounds, swimming pool & kiddie pool, restaurant & club with live entertainment Fri. & Sat., rates \$11.00 to \$20.50, rollaways \$3.00, cribs free.

HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS
WALKER COUNTY

Special thanks to Mr. Don Reid, Judge Amos Gates and the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce for arrangements.

The League of Women Voters of Sherman

2428 NORTH RICKETTS
SHERMAN, TEXAS 75090

January 23, 1976

Dear Diana,

Thanks for your interest in our justice study.

Yes, we were surprised that our attendance was high in December, and we are even more delighted that our attendance has been higher in each successive meeting since September.

Our "Mighty Justice Art Players" presented the same - or similar - skit that you included in your materials, so sorry, it was nothing original. They did a good job, and the topic was so stimulating, that we had a hard time ending the discussion.

I think that you have done a great job of organizing and condensing all your material into a very useful form for a League that is just beginning a study. Thanks!

We have a newly appointed, more progressive Sheriff here, who just this week reported to the County Commissioners that our county jail needs several improvements in order to meet state requirements. Coincidentally, we had just gone to him a couple of weeks earlier to arrange for a LWV jail tour!

Thanks again for your interest.

Yours truly,

Nana Rylander

XX

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August 21, 1975

Ms. Frances S. Dodds
Director of Planning
Office of the Governor
Criminal Justice Division
P.O. Box 1828
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Ms. Dodds:

Mrs. John Anderson, President of the League of Women Voters of Texas, joins me in thanking you for providing each local league in the state with a copy of the 1975 Criminal Justice Plan for Texas.

I am in the process of preparing additional material for local league leaders as a companion to the Criminal Justice Plan. In the section describing agencies of the state, I plan to include a section on the Criminal Justice Division and on the regional and area councils.

I have attached a draft of this section and I would appreciate any corrections, comments, or additions you might care to make.

I would also like to know at what part of the year is the planning process begun for ^{the} subsequent year. My purpose in this request is to see when the best time would be for the League of Women Voters to discuss with you or Mr. Clay additions to Substrategy A1-a to expand citizen awareness of the crime problem and crime prevention to include public awareness of the system -how it works now and some ways it might be improved. We believe that citizens support for crime reduction as it is called for in Mr. Flowers' eloquent introduction to the 1975 Plan would be broader for such an expansion. An understanding of the system is one of the goals of the league's present study.

Mrs. Anderson and I would be happy to come to Austin at the appropriate time to discuss our ideas and yours.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Diana S. Clark
Director - Administration of Justice study.

enclosure



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

DOLPH BRISCOE
Governor

ROBERT C. FLOWERS
Executive Director

June 25, 1975

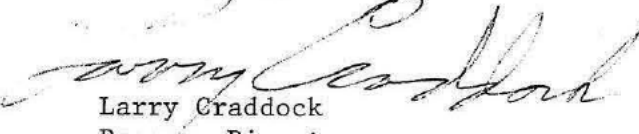
Mrs. Diana S. Clark
League of Women Voters of Texas
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Clark:

A contract has been signed for publication of the Standards and Goals Report, and portions of the report should already be at the printer for typesetting, with the remaining portion of that report to be finished shortly. We anticipate that publication will be prior to September 1st.

I will be happy to furnish you with the copies you may need when they are available.

Yours truly,


Larry Craddock
Program Director
Corrections

LC:dc



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

DOLPH BRISCOE
Governor

ROBERT C. FLOWERS
Executive Director

June 16, 1975

Mrs. Diana S. Clark
[REDACTED]

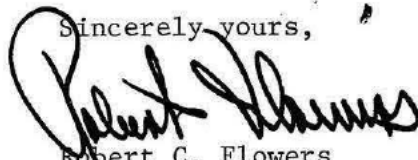
Dear Mrs. Clark:

Thank you for your interest in Governor Briscoe's Criminal Justice Division and its work in Texas. We are pleased that the League of Women Voters is undertaking a study of the state administration of justice and look forward to both assisting your study in any way we can and benefiting from its results.

We will be most happy to have copies of the 1975 Criminal Justice Plan for Texas distributed to your local leagues. I have asked Ms. Dodds to contact you regarding this. Mr. Craddock should be in touch with you shortly regarding the Standards and Goals reports. Those documents will be more limited in availability.

If we can be of assistance in any way, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,


Robert C. Flowers
Executive Director

RCF:rd



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

DOLPH BRISCOE
Governor

ROBERT C. FLOWERS
Executive Director

June 16, 1975

Mrs. Diana S. Clark
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Clark:

We will be happy to send copies of the 1975 Criminal Justice Plan for Texas to each local League of Women Voters. If you will send individual labels, we will take care of packaging and mailing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances S. Dodds".

Frances Smith Dodds
Director of Planning

FSD:rd