

TO: BOBETTE, JO, AND ALL THE OTHER LOVELY LADIES OF THE PROGRAM CORE,
PLUS KATHY
FROM: BETTY C
RE: LOGOS, CARDS FOR THE CONVENTION

Would love to have Will Pendley design some bumper stickers, posters, yard signs, etc. for us. Could he have some samples ready by the first of April for my committee to look over. Then we could make some recommendations for the April Post Council Board Meeting. Then Board would have to make some kind of decision then, if we are not going to have another Board meeting before September.

W Please send me Pendley's address, so I can send him a note of thanks.

Cards for convention: I don't think cabinet form of government has a chance. Do we want to spend money on cards pushing it. It was a low priority item. What do you think Helen?

I don't like the do-gooders card. Guess I have always thought of myself more as the Sinful Sally type. The others are great.

There are 181 delegates.

I have no objection to a new League logo on the stationery. Will try anything once.

Now comes the painful problem of money. I am sorry to always be sounding like Scrooge, but we have had quite a few expenses already and still have two months to go. By the way, everyone please send your vouchers to Carol if you went to Austin to testify, so we will know exactly how much money there is left in the TCM account. Could the printing department of the college print these cards for us and at a ~~much~~ cheaper price than a professional printer? What do you think Bobbette? The ~~Gal~~ Galveston Community College has printed the last two Veters Guides for the Galveston League and have done a beautiful job for much less money. How many cards are we talking about? Twelve cards for each delegate (with sayings) comes to 2, 172 cards, plus the blank cards with just the logo on them. I have the feeling we are talking about a lot of money. If the cards are not ready till the 20th. of February there will be less than a month and a half to use them. I would like to see some price quotes before we give the printer the go ahead.

Jo, I will be in Edinburg-McAllen from Tuesday thru Sunday at 1:00. If necessary call me there. I am staying with Marthax Stever, the Edinburg president.

Bobbette, many thanks for your hard work.

January, 1973

VERY LAST MINUTE HAPPY NEW YEAR NEWS: Mrs. John C. Kidwell has accepted appointment to fill the unexpired term as Program Vice-President. She will serve until Annual Meeting in May. Thank you, Georgia! [REDACTED]

And Mrs. Delbert A. Taebel, new League member from Arlington, has agreed to serve as Legislative Chairman. Thank you, Kay. [REDACTED]

Date: December 4, 1972

To: Mrs. Jay G. Stanford, Chairman, Texas Constitutional Revision Committee, LWV/TC

From: Mrs. J. E. Johnson, Jr., former Chairman, TCR Committee, LWV/TC*

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent the Tarrant County LWV at the Citizens for Texas luncheon in Austin December 1. The luncheon was, first, a victory celebration for the passage of Amendment 4. It was attended by about 50 people, including the President and several State Officers of the League. The Lt. Governor-Elect, Hobby; the Speaker of the House-Elect, Daniel; and a good representation from throughout the state were there.

Both Mr. Hobby and Mr. Daniel indicated that they would give first priority to enabling legislation for the Constitutional Commission. Nelson Wolff (second term legislator from San Antonio) has a tentative draft of this already in the pre-session hopper. The legislative proposal will be that the (1) Governor, (2) Lt. Governor, (3) Attorney General, (4) Speaker of the House, (5) Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, and the (6) Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals would constitute an appointing commission to appoint 36 (?) citizens who are not elected officials to prepare a proposed constitution for presentation to the legislature when convened as a Constitutional Convention in '74.

Jim Wray, of the Advisory Committee on Inter-Governmental Relations, reported on the research work that is in progress, principally an Annotation of the present Constitution--each section would have its history, current interpretations, court rulings, etc. There would also be impact studies. Work has also started on a Guide to the Texas Constitution for non-members of the Commission, apparently a "lay" version of the annotation.

The character of the Commission was discussed--"Should it be a blue ribbon commission of experts? Should there be specific directives that it include geographic/racial/ethnic representation?" Dr. John Bebout commented that it was more important in his opinion that the Commission be broadly representative, as "experts" could have input as research and staff. He also commented that he felt that no one really wanted to call himself an expert on the Texas Constitution even if they had worked as hard on it as the LWV and others like himself had done. (That was comforting.) Tom Vandergriff, who presided, expressed the strong hope of the group who had been working on the proposal that the six men charged with appointing the Commission would act in concert rather than each appointing six.

The enabling legislation must be acted upon by the Legislature, and it is most important that guidance from constituents be given now so that any changes in the proposal can be made. There was general agreement that Citizens for Texas should continue to exist and expand as it would be exceedingly important to keep a high level of public involvement to aid dialogue between the Constitutional Commission and citizens, to have the citizens informed and prepared to evaluate any changes that the Convention might make and, of course, be prepared to work knowledgeably for the passage of the final document when it comes up for citizen approval.

I am in a state of euphoria! Having followed TCR since '52 and before, I think I had ceased to believe that it was a possibility in my lifetime. Now I'm a believer! I am so excited at the possibilities. (When have we had the Lt. Governor and the Speaker right there giving this first priority?)

The League membership and particularly the Speakers Bureau should have regular progress reports so that these years of study can bear fruit. The time is now!

*Slightly abridged from original due to space limitations. Ed.

WANTED: A LEAGUE HOME AWAY FROM HOME(S)

The local League needs a home of its own, somewhere in Tarrant County. League business is now being conducted from the homes of the Board of Directors and off-Board Chairmen. The League has a telephone number which is connected to an answering service, but no address to call its own. And League machines, materials, and files are strung from Benbrook on the west to Arlington on the east; from Hurst in the north to Wedgewood in southwest Fort Worth. This is no way to do business!

If you should hear about or see a likely looking place for a local League office, please get in touch with someone on the Board of Directors. We couldn't afford to pay much rent, but at least we could look into the situation before we say yes, no, or maybe. Possible locations include shopping centers, church buildings, libraries--and don't be afraid to make a suggestion because you never heard of a League having an office there before! We're very flexible. Perhaps you'll be offered free space for an office in lieu of a contribution as you make a finance call this spring. Don't laugh--that's what happened in San Antonio!

OEF--OVERSEAS EDUCATION FUND

The Overseas Education Fund of the League of Women Voters is now 25 years old. The OEF was first set up in answer to requests from volunteers in war-torn countries to the U. S. Government. Our government felt the League of Women Voters could help such people as they wanted to know how to get going using democratic processes and they needed leadership training.

A program was set up that continues today. Adult education, consultants we send abroad and programs for students, leaders, and interested groups go on all the time.

During the past ten years, focus shifted from work with foreign leaders to work with organizational members. Group work and techniques was the program emphasis. The decade of the 70's will see our LWV working to help solve those common concerns all have.

Mrs. W. T. Prickett, President

SPECIAL THANKS

Many of you are not aware of the number of hours some of our Leaguers give to League work. One of the outstanding examples of this League trait is Mrs. R. F. Apple, your Program Vice-President for the past year and a half.

Phyllis has been a tremendous help in seeing to it that our Tarrant County League has had great support and material for every study under her direction. The Public School Finance study was almost all her work, at a time she was very busy getting a house sold and a household in order so that she and her family might join her husband, who has taken a job in Illinois.

It is with great regret that we prepare to see them go. Our heartfelt thanks will go with them.

--Bettye Prickett

WHERE LEAGUE MONEY GOES: Service Answers 128 Calls

For the convenience of the community, the League has a phone number listed in the telephone book. Abel-1 Answering Service answers the phone, takes a message, then notifies the appropriate Board member, who then takes the necessary action.

During the month of November, 128 calls were received. Most dealt with the election: Where can Voters Guides be secured? Where do we vote? Am I eligible to vote? Do you have a speaker on the amendments? Do you have any poll watchers?

A vote of thanks should go both to the answering service and to the women who followed up the requests.

Mrs. Howard D. McMahan
Treasurer

THE TARRANT COUNTY VOTER

Published 10 times yearly by the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County, Texas

Mrs. T. A. Kissinger, Editor
Mrs. Edwin Langford, Art Editor
Mrs. Roy A. Redman, Distribution Chairman
Staff: Mrs. Wm. R. Bowes, Mrs. Hubert Strom, Mrs. Wm. H. Sanborn, Mrs. Wes M. Taylor

November 25, 1972

Dear Veta:

I shall certainly make the supreme effort to meet that plane in Austin Dec. 1 at 8:53 a.m. -- and if not me, maybe Nancy. I will see Nancy Monday, as she and I and Barbara Ruud are meeting Janice May's government class at TU from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday afternoon to tell them about the League's legislative activities. We will meet for lunch, so I will get a chance to talk the arrangements over with her. We will see what we can do about arranging interviews with the VIPs, or whatever.

This past Monday I visited Mr. Mark's office at ESI to arrange subscriptions for League members who want to subscribe to "Texas in Action." He almost insisted that we wait to consider getting office space in the Westgate with them, as the offices next door are being vacated Jan. 1 and they are going to take them over. I told him our budget didn't allow rent over \$100 (it allows \$150) but he said the advantages would be great as we would have ready access to information we wanted! It is also so much closer....1 block from the Capitol. I can't quite see upholding my dignity while riding a bicycle! I asked Nancy to check with him on Friday, and if she hasn't gotten an answer by then, I shall call him Monday. We could always have a picture taken in front of the building if the office isn't ready! I'll see what we can dream up. Also what Nancy can involve Betty in while we go elsewhere.

Jim Ray's office
to pick up
copies of bills
on Con. Com. & SLR?

MEMORANDUM FROM:

League of Women Voters of Texas

DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER • DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

Confidential

November 22, 1972

Dear Chris;

I am planning to take the 8:15 A.M. Continental out of Houston[^] and arrive in Austin at 8:53^{AM} Flight number 73. Betty is coming with me. However, can't Nancy keep her busy while we do these other little ^{chores} ~~chore~~ together if you can set them all up.[?] Then we three can go to luncheon as I feel you should be there as Legislative Chrm. ~~and then~~ We leave ^{on} ~~at~~ T.I at 4:15 P.M. to return. So get on your horse and see what you can get going as I will make the midnight effort to get up and on that plan. Also if you can how about we doing the opening of the ^{Legislative} office all at the same time. A picture on the bike or anything clever so as we can get the most for our money??? Let me know, however I still have to come in at that early time - ~~reason~~ no other plane till 1 P.M. Love, Veta

over

Chris,
Sent 11-26-74 I need a list of the
members of the 63rd Legislature.

Can we get this pronto from
our new legislative service?

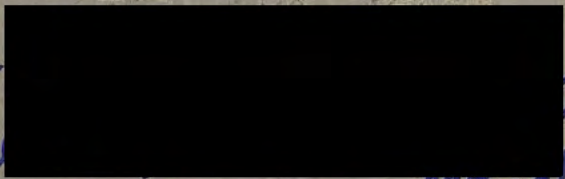
Would you suggest sending
the F&I on School Financing and
the TCR letter to their home
or are they all receiving their
mail in Austin?

Thank you for your help and
I'm sorry I cheated you on your money.
I've notified Carol J. and you should be receiving
a check soon.

Ann

Hey love
now about
coming in for
this ticket - I'll pay
for it - let me
know & I'll give
you time I hear
live - where I plan
to go. live
let's live
it up

Congress for Texas



Where I plan
to go. live
let's live
it up

Congratulations

You did it!

I know you all experienced a much
deserved surge of pride last Tuesday
night as it was apparent almost from the
beginning that for the first time in more
than 50 years Texas would have an oppor-
tunity to draft a new Constitution.

More your calendars now as a
victory celebration will be held

December 2, 1972
Friday
Austin Texas

Further details will be sent to you in the
next 5 to 7 days as to the specific place
and the cost of the luncheon tickets. This will
be a time to get to know one another better and
to react to several proposals for the Constitution
Commission. Be sure to notify everyone who
worked in your local efforts as everyone who
was a part of the campaign is invited.
Ann Chappell

Hey love
now about
coming in for
these tickets - I'll pay
for them - let me
know & I'll give you
time to hear - Love
Vita
etc. When I plan
to go - live
let's live
it up

Congratulations! You did it!
I know you all experienced a much
heightened surge of pride last Tuesday
night as it was apparent almost from the
beginning that for the first time in more
than 50 years Texas would have an oppor-
tunity to draft a new Constitution.

Mark your calendars now as a
history celebration will be held

December 1, 1972
Friday
Austin Texas

Further details will be sent to you in the
next 5 to 7 days as to the specific place
and the cost of the luncheon tickets. I have
a time to get to know one another better and
to react to several proposals for the Constitution
campaign. Be sure to notify everyone who
is in your local efforts as a delegate
to the campaign is invited.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION
CITIZENS FOR TEXAS
Envoy Room
Villa Capri Restaurant
Friday, December 1, 1972
12:00 noon

I would like to make reservations for the following representatives
and/or guests:

NAME

TITLE

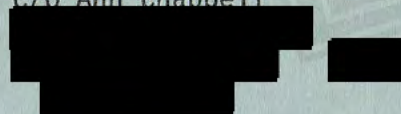
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

to attend the Friday, December 1 Citizens for Texas Victory Luncheon.

Tickets for the luncheon \$5.25

Please send advance check (payable to Citizens for Texas) with registration
form to:

Citizens for Texas
C/O Ann Channell



by Tuesday, November 28, 1972.

Signed by: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Nov. 7, 1972

Jaycees Support Amendment

Texas Jaycees are among the many groups taking sides on the issue of constitutional revision which Texans will vote on Tuesday.

To dramatize their belief that the Texas constitution is too old — it was adopted in 1876 and has been amended 201 times — the Jaycees announced a plan to caravan from San Antonio to Austin in antique cars Sunday to present their resolution to the legislature on the Capitol steps.

But when the Jaycees showed up at the Capitol Sunday to present the resolution to Reps. Ben Bynum of Amarillo and Dave Finney of Fort Worth, there were no ancient cars.

"They were too old, just like the constitution," a Jaycee spokesman said Sunday, explaining that the cars broke down between San Antonio and Austin.

But an Austin Jaycee, when asked where the cars were so they could be photographed, admitted Monday, that the cars never left San Antonio; the owners didn't want to drive them that far, for fear they wouldn't make it.

Instead an Austin antique car club agreed to supply the cars which would caravan from South Austin to the Capitol.

In a last minute hitch, the Austin club was not able to supply the horseless carriages.

Instead the Jaycees converged on the Capitol with more modern means of transportation, but stuck to their contention that voters should "get Texas out of the horse and buggy days and vote for Amendment 4."

LWV of Texas
November 1972

To: State Board
From: Betty Conner
Re: Pre-Board Report - TCR

If Amendment 4 passes then the Board must consider names of people that the League would like to see as members of the revision commission. Please bring the names and addresses of anyone you would like to suggest. The immediate project would be to lobby with legislature to have these people appointed to the commission.

The State Convention would be a great place to have members of the commission report on what is being done. This could be done in a series of little meetings, plus a speaker at one of the luncheons, etc.

The majority of the local Leagues have done a fantastic job with the Amendment 4 Campaign. The press coverage has really been great.

How do we keep up to date on what the Commission is doing? Can the Capitol Corps be expanded to do this? We need to put forth a lobbying effort with the commission. Each program chairman will need to have a statement prepared if her portfolio pertains to positions the League would like to see in a new constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

I have talked to a member of the staff of the College of the Mainland in Texas City, who is interested in starting a county wide Foreign Policy Association Issues and Answers Series this winter. One of the eight programs will be concerned with Trade. I will work with him in coordinating this program with the local Leagues to encourage interest in our Trade Consensus. Perhaps this could be done throughout the state.

JUDICIAL

A letter was written to Judge Calvert asking that a League member be a member of his court reform group. Helen Hunter is already serving on a Houston Committee of a similiar nature, so she will be the League contact with Judge Calvert.

To: Local League Presidents & TCR Chairmen
From: Betty Conner, TCR Chairman
Re: Lobbying with your legislators regarding the
Revision Commission

LWV of Texas
November 1972
Presidents Mailing
(2 copies direct
to president)

Once again my thanks to everyone for a great effort in the Amendment No. 4 campaign. Hope you enjoyed the brief rest period, because now the work will really begin. Our first concern is the Revision Commission which the legislature must appoint as the first step in the constitutional revision process. Each League is asked to immediately lobby with their legislators on the following four points:

1. The League of Women Voters of Texas suggests three people to be appointed to the Commission. Dr. Janice May, former state Board member who had been TCR Chairman and Legislative Chairman and is presently an instructor of government at the University of Texas, Austin. She is the author of articles on the need for revision in studies published by the Texas Urban Development Commission. Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, president of the LWV of Texas, former TCR Chairman on the state Board, a member of the Board of Directors of Citizens for Texas, a statewide organization which supported the passage of Amendment No. 4, and a member of the Speakers Advisory Committee. Mrs. Martin Braunagel, Program Vice President of the LWV of Texas and former staff consultant. Mrs. Braunagel has been actively involved in constitutional revision for the last twenty years.
2. That the Revision Commission be appointed immediately so that they will have sufficient time to do a thorough research and study.
3. Composition of Commission. That it be composed of interested and qualified private citizens who have experience or knowledge of state constitutions, the functioning of state government, the legislative process.
4. Size of Commission - 25 to 30 people. This is a sufficient number to do the required work, with the addition of a staff which was provided for in the wording of the amendment.

If your local League has a person in your community that you would like to suggest as a member of the Commission, add their name to the ones already suggested. It is extremely important that some League members be a part of this Commission. Do not miss any opportunity to use the techniques and experience you gained from the Lobby School and legislative session as you talk to your legislator....during the legislative interview, at your League's holiday party, over the phone, an official League letter, etc.

It certainly is a lot of fun to be successful!

#

**NORTHERN
PACIFIC
RAILWAY**



Copy to Vito, Lois & Betty C.
w/ note asking about
coming for Dec. 1 ^{Arizona} for Jan
winter luncheon in
Austin - It will be
interesting to hear
who their proposals
for the commission
will be - - -

Austin Statesman November 9, 1972

Constitution Change Big Task

Texans finally authorized first steps toward remodeling the Texas Constitution adopted in 1876 and amended more than 200 times.

The Legislature elected Tuesday, which takes office in January, by edict of the house joint resolution adopted as an amendment to Article XVII of the Constitution, must appoint a constitutional revision committee. The commission will study proposed changes — there is a volume of information ready from past studies — and report its recommendations back to the legislature by November of next year.

In 1974, the even year of the two-year legislative term, the lawmakers will meet at noon on the second Tuesday in January, as a constitutional convention.

It was the Legislature's part in the proposed

revision that brought strong opposition against the amendment. Warning was often expressed that the Legislature would be dominated by special interest groups seeking protection in the new Constitution. No doubt there will be much pressure on both the lay committee and the legislative committee. Any type of constitutional revision convention would be under pressure of sorts.

Therefore, the citizens who draft the work sheet for the Legislature, and the lawmakers who will put it in language that goes to the voters for final approval, will have one of the most responsible tasks — an assignment equally important to that assumed by the authors of the constitution of 1876.

Rewriting of the Texas Constitution will be one of the major news events of 1973-1974.

SAM WOOD

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Oct. 7, 1972



TEACHERS MEETING —
Bob Newbill, assistant director of public relations for Texas State Teachers Association, will meet with the Eanes Education Association Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Eanes Elementary School. He will serve on a panel to discuss the subject of Constitutional Convention.

OCT. 29, 1972

Hobby, Daniels

Back Proposal

HOUSTON (AP) — William P. Hobby Jr., Democratic lieutenant governor nominee, and state Rep. Price Daniel Jr. endorsed on Thursday aims of a citizens committee to rewrite the state constitution.

Hobby and Daniel appeared with Houston lawyer Leon Jaworski, past president of the American Bar Association, to urge adoption of Amendment 4 in the Nov. 7 general election.

C I T I Z E N S F O R T E X A S

[REDACTED]

November 16, 1972

Mrs. Chris Brasher
[REDACTED]

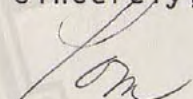
Dear Chris:

Thank you for your help in passing Amendment No. 4. All of us involved in the Citizens for Texas organization appreciate your efforts.

With passage of the Amendment, our work on constitutional revision has only begun. The months ahead will hold additional challenges if we are to see our success at the polls translated into a modern constitution for Texas. In order to celebrate the passage of Amendment No. 4 and to begin to plan the work ahead, a luncheon meeting of Citizens for Texas will be held on Friday, December 1, at the Villa Capri Restaurant in Austin.

I hope you will send in one of the attached reservation forms and plan to be with us on December 1. Please feel free to bring anyone from your area who worked for passage of Amendment No. 4.

Sincerely,


Tom J. Vandergriff
Chairman

TJV:tdb

Enclosures

CITIZENS FOR TEXAS

Congratulations! You did it!

I know you all experienced a much deserved surge of pride last Tuesday night as it was apparent almost from the beginning that for the first time in more than 50 years Texas would have an opportunity to draft a new Constitution.

Mark your calendars now as a victory celebration will be held

December 1, 1972
Friday in
Austin Texas

Further details will be sent to you in the next 5 to 7 days, as to the specific place and the cost of the luncheon tickets. This will be a time to get to know one another better and to react to several proposals for the Constitutional Commission. Be sure to notify everyone who worked in your local efforts as everyone who was a part of the campaign is invited.

Ann Chappell

LWV of Texas
November 8, 1972

Dear Local League Presidents & League Members:

I'M SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU! Twenty-four years of patience, tenacity, and thousands of woman hours have finally given us our first victory in Texas Constitutional Revision.

Be sure and read your next State Board Report because this is only the beginning and there's much work to be done by all of us to assure a new or revised Constitution that will best serve the needs of all the people in Texas.

Cordially,

Betty

To: Local League Presidents & League Members
From: Betty Conner, TCR Chairman

I could search the dictionary and not find sufficient words to thank the dedicated and determined League members who made our Amendment #4 campaign a success.

Now the work really begins - to lobby with our legislators so that qualified people are included on the Revision Commission and to testify before the commission on what the League would like to have in a good constitution.

Thank you for your help.

1-28-72

Architects Support Amendment

Capitol Staff

The Texas Society of Architects went on record Wednesday in favor of a proposed constitutional amendment which would bring about constitutional revision.

The proposition to let the 63rd Legislature sit as a constitutional convention in 1974 will be on the ballot in the general election in November.

"We feel the proposal, as it will appear on the ballot, is the proper means in initiating needed changes in the constitution," TSA president Preston Geren of Fort Worth said.

Geren said the proposal includes provision that any changes adopted by the Legislature as a constitutional convention would have to be submitted to the voters.

"The growth and shift in population and the many technological changes that have occurred since 1876, the date of the present constitution, raise the question as to whether the Texas Constitution with its many details is the most appropriate instrument for government under present conditions," he said.

TGR
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Texas was formerly a part of Mexico and subject to the laws of Spain, but the entire territory was also claimed by France as a part of her American possessions. In 1803 France ceded to the United States all her territories bordering on Texas, and in 1819 the Sabine and Red Rivers were, under a treaty between the United States and Spain, established as the eastern boundary of Mexico.

In 1821, after many years of unsuccessful revolt, Mexico succeeded in breaking its bonds with Spain, and in 1824 the Republic of Mexico adopted a Constitution which along with defining the powers of the Federal Government, recognized Coahuila and Texas as a single state. This was supposed to be temporary.

Because of widespread objections to the government under the Constitution of Coahuila and Texas, a Convention of Texans met in April 1833 to take measures to secure a separate state constitution. This Constitution was drawn up and submitted to the Mexican Congress for approval. Stephen F. Austin's mission to Mexico City to bear the petitions of the Convention and proposed Constitution resulted in his imprisonment and was a significant development in the chain of events which led to the Texas Revolution.

In 1834 the Constitutional government of Mexico was overthrown; Santa Anna was proclaimed dictator and Mexico fell into a state of civil war. Uncertainty of government, resentment of corrupt military rulers and repudiation of the Mexican Constitution caused increased dissatisfaction on the part of Texans and in 1836 Texas declared its independence, established the Republic of Texas and adopted the constitution of 1836.

In 1845 the man who was President of the Republic of Texas, Anson Jones, called the Texas Congress to meet on June 16, and at the same time called a Convention to meet on July 4, to discuss offers by the United States to annex the Republic of Texas as a state. Both Congress and the Convention voted for annexation. A State Constitution, drawn up by the Convention, was ratified by the voters in October of 1845 and accepted by the United States Congress on December 29, 1845, date of Texas' legal entry into the Union. Transfer of authority from the Republic to the State was not made until February 16, 1846.

The new Constitution was almost twice as long as the Constitution of the Republic of Texas. The framers used the Constitution of 1834 as a working model but drew heavily on the newly adopted Constitution of Louisiana, the Constitutions of other Southern states, and on the proposed Constitution for the State of Texas drawn up in 1833.

The longest division of the Constitution was the Article on General Provisions. Most of its thirty-six sections were limitations on the legislature. Creation of banks was prohibited; the legislature was forbidden to authorize individuals to issue bills, checks, promissory notes or other paper to circulate as money and the state debt was limited to \$100,000 except in case of war, insurrection or invasion.

When Texas seceded from the Union on the eve of the War Between the States, the Constitution of 1861 (a modification of the Constitution of 1845 to conform with Texas' membership in the Confederate States of America) went into effect. A few substantive changes were made giving slavery greater emphasis and protection.

At the close of the War Between the States, Andrew Jackson Hamilton, Provisional Governor of Texas, issued a proclamation calling a Constitutional Convention to

meet in Austin on February 7. The result of its deliberations was the Constitution of 1866. Though four required points concerning secession, abolition of slavery, status of freed men and repudiation of war debts were incorporated and the new Constitution ratified, Republican Congressional leaders invalidated the document and over the President's veto military governments were established throughout the South.

The Congressional Reconstruction Act of 1867 required that there be framed and ratified, new constitutions granting Negro suffrage and ratification of the fourteenth Amendment. This produced the longest and most unsatisfactory of Texas Constitutions. The Convention assembled in 1868 and delegates gave much time to matters over which they had no jurisdiction such as dividing Texas into two or three states; hearing complaints of lawlessness and chartering railroads. Ten days prior to adjournment, the delegates got down to the business of writing the Constitution, and broke up in confusion on February 8, 1869, having obtained only 45 of the 96 delegates' signatures on the partially assembled Constitution. The Convention work was gathered up under orders of the military officers and published as the Constitution of 1869.

The governing regime was one of oppression, corruption, graft and blackmail. It sought to centralize the government, and vested extraordinary powers in the Governor. Both militia and police were under the control of the Governor. This might not have been so bad except that some of the worst desperados in the state were accepted by the force.

When the voices of moderation finally prevailed, and Texas was given the opportunity to oust the carpetbag regime, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1875 determined to include in the state's basic instrument as many safeguards as possible to prevent the recurrence of such widespread and flagrant abuse of power.

Thus when the Constitutional Convention of 1875 drew up the new Constitution, the Constitution of 1845, rather than 1869, was used as a working model.

In the earlier Texas Constitutions, as in the Federal Constitution, the writ of habeas corpus was subject to suspension in case of rebellion, invasion, or when public safety might require. In view of their experiences, the framers of the 1876 document provided that in Texas the writ of habeas corpus may never be suspended. Furthermore, they stipulated that military power would always be subordinate to civil authority and the Bill of Rights was inviolate.

The Convention was determined to cut the governor's power to prevent a future renewal of executive despotic control. It decentralized executive authority by vesting power in other executive officers, most of whom were to be elected. It reduced his term from four to two years, debarred him from holding other office or commission and prohibited him from practicing any profession for profit while in office. It also reduced his salary and limited his powers by setting forth his duty in great detail.

To reduce the cost of government, the new Constitution provided for biennial sessions of the Legislature. The salary of the legislators was reduced from \$8 to \$5 a day for the first 60 days of the regular session and to discourage long sessions provided that it be reduced to \$2 a day for the remainder of the session. To prevent, insofar as possible, personal gain and profit by members of the legislature as a result of the office they hold, it was provided that no member may be interested in a contract with the state or county, authorized by a law passed during his elected term.

Matters formerly left to the discretion of the legislature were now carefully spelled out including many rules of legislative procedure.

The authors of the present Constitution connected centralization with increased financial expenditures and wishing to reverse this trend, they set forth the major items for which taxes could be raised. What actually happened over the years was the exact opposite. As the state grew, the legislature responded to the peoples' demand for additional governmental services to meet the state's economic and social needs. New agencies were created or new functions attached to existing agencies often poorly adapted to handle them. With haphazard growth came haphazard financing, and taxation in Texas today is a far cry from "revenue sufficient for the economical administration of the government" envisioned by the Convention of 1875.

The judiciary had also been subjected to severe criticism. Since the 1869 Constitution had given the governor the power to appoint the judges, the 1876 Constitution provided that all judges were to be elected by popular vote with terms from two to six years, and reduced their salaries. A more essential change was the return of the county courts.

Taken as a whole, the 1876 Constitution satisfied the majority of the people of Texas. It was an extremely human document which reflected both national and state history. Its writers were not preoccupied with ideas of perfection. The issues facing them were great and perplexing; and the method of their solution was not to seek a constitutional document which itemized men's highest aspirations but rather to find practical answers to meet the challenge of the times.

The authors of the Constitution were experienced enough, shrewd enough and disillusioned enough to recognize no government could be based on the theory of generosity or goodness of men. Therefore they wrote into the Constitution as many limitations on potential temptations toward evil and selfish ends as they deemed necessary to maintain a reasonable amount of honesty and justice and a moderate amount of efficiency in state government. The main effort of the Constitutional Convention in 1875, without question, was devoted to the restraining of individuals in government positions from wrong doing.

Although the final document was exceedingly detailed, lengthy, and somewhat repetitive, it provided a fairly adequate government at the time of its adoption. But as the population and industries of Texas began to grow, bringing with them changing economic and social conditions, it was found that the governmental machinery was not adequate to meet situations unimagined by the framers of the 1876 instrument. So much administrative detail had been incorporated into that document it was necessary to alter time and again, the fundamental law in order to keep abreast of the times. Fortunately, the Constitution makers had provided a rather simple method of amendment. Nevertheless, the fact that 201 amendments have been approved (with more to be voted on in November 1972) would indicate the time has indeed arrived for a complete review of the Constitution of 1876.

In 1957 under the auspices of Governor Beauford Jester, a revision attempt was made utilizing the services of the Texas Legislative Council with a group of dedicated citizens as an advisory committee. Two members of the state Board of the League of Women Voters of that time, were among those serving. The Citizens Advisory Committee entirely without compensation spent four years studying each section of the Constitution and recommended both substantive and non-substantive revision. The Texas Legislature Council, entirely without funds until 1959 when the 56th Legislature appropriated \$50,000 for research did not start extensive revision work until 1960. Because of insufficient funds and the short period of time left before a final report was to be made, the Texas Legislative Council

decided that a thorough research job was not possible. Therefore a simplified format was employed. The final report recommended that no Constitutional Convention was needed at that time; that the document was sound and reflected the governmental philosophy of the people; that 50 deadwood provisions be eliminated and that a study be made of the judicial article.

The 57th Legislature was not favorably disposed toward constitutional revision so there the matter lay until the House of Representatives of the 60th Legislature by simple House Resolution, established a Constitutional Revision Commission to make a revision of the Texas Constitution. However, the completed document, which was supported by the Texas League of Women Voters, failed to win 2/3 approval of both houses in the 1969 Legislature.

In 1971, the 62nd Legislature passed HJR61, a constitutional amendment which if passed by the voters, would set up the 63rd Legislature as a Constitutional Convention. This body would convene in January, 1974, after comprehensive study and report by a Constitutional Revision Commission, which would meet in 1973. This amendment, which will be No. 4 on the ballot, is the one Texas will vote on November 7, 1972.

The purpose of the study was to determine whether the Texas Constitution was sound and reflected the governmental philosophy of the people. The study was conducted by the Texas League of Women Voters and the Texas Historical Foundation. The study was completed in 1971 and the results were published in a report titled "The Texas Constitution: A Study of Its Soundness and Relevance to the People of Texas". The report recommended that no Constitutional Convention was needed at that time; that the document was sound and reflected the governmental philosophy of the people; that 50 deadwood provisions be eliminated and that a study be made of the judicial article.

Although the final document was not as detailed as the original, it provided a fairly accurate statement of the state of the constitution at the time of its adoption. It was a good starting point for the study. The study was conducted by the Texas League of Women Voters and the Texas Historical Foundation. The study was completed in 1971 and the results were published in a report titled "The Texas Constitution: A Study of Its Soundness and Relevance to the People of Texas". The report recommended that no Constitutional Convention was needed at that time; that the document was sound and reflected the governmental philosophy of the people; that 50 deadwood provisions be eliminated and that a study be made of the judicial article.

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Texas has had six Constitutions, all the products of Constitutional Conventions.

The first Constitution was adopted in 1836 when Texas was a Republic. The next in 1845, was in anticipation of annexation to the United States. The third in 1861, after Texas seceded to join the Confederacy, then in 1866, when Texas rejoined the Union. In 1869, under the military rule of the reconstruction period the fifth Constitution was adopted. The present Constitution was written in 1876, and reflects the political environment at that time. In the turbulent post-Civil War Reconstruction period, Texas was ruled by people, who, unlike the majority of Texans had not supported the Confederacy. When the supporters of Confederate ideals regained power, they drafted a new constitution with strong safeguards against what they considered abuse of power. The Constitution of 1876 was designed to prevent the state from governing - in contrast to the U. S. Constitution which permits governing.

Let's take a brief look at the provisions of the Texas Constitution:

Bill of Rights: Differing very little in purpose from the bills of rights of the federal and other state constitutions, the Texas Bill of Rights nevertheless reflects the very special determination of the Constitutional Convention of 1875, that the natural rights of Texans would never be violated. There are 29 sections in the Bill of Rights. They include such important provisions as Section 2 - The people have at all times the "...right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such a manner as they may think expedient," subject only to the limitation of preserving a republican form of government; Section 3 - "All free men, when they form a social compact, have equal rights..."; Section 8 - "Every person shall be at liberty to speak, write or publish his opinions on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege...."; Section 18 - "No person shall ever be imprisoned for debt."; Section 19 - "No citizen of this state shall be deprived of life, liberty, property, privileges or immunities, or in any manner disfranchised, except by the due course of the law of the land."; Section 27 - guarantees the people the right to assemble peaceably, and the right to apply to the government for the redress of grievances or other purposes.

The Texas Constitution provides for the traditional separation of powers among the three branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. Article II declares that the powers of government in Texas must be divided into three distinct departments, each with its own separate capacity. Article III contains most of the basic provisions covering the Legislative Department of the state government.

The legislature is composed of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The Senate consists of 31 members; the House of not more than 150. Representation in each house shall be reapportioned after each federal census. A 1948 Constitutional Amendment created the Legislative Redistricting Board (composed of the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Attorney General, Comptroller and Commissioner of the General Land Office) which must reapportion the state senatorial and representative districts if the legislature refuses to do so. The actions of this Board have been in the headlines during the summer and fall of 1971, with several suits contesting their decisions. The Constitution provides that the legislature shall meet every two years and at other times when convened by the Governor. The method of procedure of business is provided: bills shall be introduced during the first 30 days, committee hearings shall be held during the second 30 days, and the final 60 days shall be spent in legislative action on the bills and resolutions which are pending. Each house may alter these rules by a four-fifths vote of its membership.

Throughout the Constitution are found specific requirements or limitations for almost every conceivable act of the legislature. Though some sixty sections of the Constitution contain obligatory directions to the legislature, most are qualified in some way with exceptions. Sample mandatory provisions: The legislature shall provide by law for compensation of officers. It shall pass laws to give courts power to change venue. It shall enact vagrant laws; it shall prohibit lotteries. By far the greatest number of constitutional provisions relating to the conduct of the legislature are restrictive or limiting in nature, a reflection of the distrust of the legislature held by the framers of the Constitution of 1876. Sample restrictive provision: The legislature is restricted in the conduct of its own proceedings. It is limited by a long list of purposes for which taxes may or may not be levied. It shall not pass local or special laws on a long list of subjects. It shall not appropriate funds nor pledge the credit of the state for a any private purpose.

Legislative Reforms - The Council of State Governments, an organization founded and supported by the states, has established committees to study the procedures and functioning of state legislatures. Some of the recommendations of the Committee on Legislative Processes and Procedures, with comparative features of the Texas Legislative, follow:

1. Undue limitations and restrictions upon the length and subject matter of legislative sessions should be removed.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION specifies a biennial regular session that may not exceed 140 days; special sessions may be called only by the governor.

2. Annual salaries sufficient to permit competent persons to serve without financial sacrifice should be provided by statute and not fixed in the constitution.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION provides for annual salaries not to exceed \$4,800 per annum. Per diem is provided for the first 120 days of a regular session and for the 30 days of any special session.

3. Skilled and essential full-time legislative employees should be appointed on the basis of merit and competence.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION makes no mention of such employees.

4. Legislative committees should be reduced in number and organized with regard to related subject matter, equalization of work, and co-operation between legislative houses. Committee meetings should be scheduled and announced, and a public record of committee action kept.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION does not give direction on this subject other than the provision that all bills and resolutions must be submitted to committees before floor action. Specifically, it does not provide for a record of committee action. (The most important work of the state legislature is conducted by committees yet the citizen has no way of finding out what happens there to legislation in which he is interested, nor how his representative or senator voted. The Texas House of Representatives has 43 standing committees; the Senate has 38: there are no joint standing committees.)

5. Legislative councils and interim committees, reference, research, bill-drafting and statutory revision services should be strengthened.

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION does not mention such councils, committees or services. The Texas Legislature has established some facilities, such as the Texas Legislative Council, and shows continued concern for improved services.

Executive Department - The Texas Constitution provides for no single head of the state, but for an Executive Department of seven officials: the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, comptroller of public accounts, treasurer, commissioner of the general land office, and attorney general. Each of these is elected, except the secretary of state who is appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate.

As the "chief executive officer of the state" the governor is given the responsibility for execution of the laws, but the constitution gives him little authority to carry out this mandate. He makes appointments to numerous Boards and agencies, but these are subject to approval of two-thirds of the Senate, and he has no legal power to remove any appointees. The other executive officers are not responsible to him, nor are other elected or appointed heads of state departments. His constitutional right to request information and reports from executive and administrative departments gives him, therefore, little actual power of administration.

The governor can call special sessions of the legislature. At the beginning of each regular session, he must make a report on the condition of the state, recommend needed legislation, and give a financial statement and an estimate of the taxes that will be needed for the next two years. But his recommendations do not receive priority, as is the practice in some states, and he must rely on his political power to get favorable attention by the legislature for his proposals. Unlike some parts of the constitution, article IV, which provides for the Executive Department, is relatively clear as to intent, is not often repetitious, and contains most of the provisions relating to the subject. Sections setting forth the duties of the governor and other executive officers remain exactly as written in 1876, for the most part.

Judicial Department - Article V of the Texas Constitution provides for the Judicial Department. Section 1 vests the judicial power in a Supreme Court, Courts of Civil Appeals, a Court of Criminal Appeals, District Courts, County Courts, Commissioners Courts, and Courts of Justices of the Peace. Section 1 also authorizes the legislature to establish such courts as "it may deem necessary."

Suffrage and Elections - The Texas Constitution provides for suffrage in Article VI. Section 1 lists persons not allowed to vote; idiots and lunatics, paupers supported by any county; persons convicted of any felony, subject to such exceptions as the legislature may make.

State Finance - The Texas Legislature has the power to tax, to spend, and to incur debt subject to limitations in the Texas and U. S. Constitutions. Two general statements of principle in the Texas Constitution govern taxation: Taxation shall be equal and uniform. Taxes shall be levied for public purposes only. The constitution expressly permits the legislature to levy three types of taxes - property, occupation and income. But the legislature has authority to levy other kinds if it wishes, as it did in 1961 with the passage of the general sales tax law. There are four general limitations on expenditures: 1. Appropriations are limited to estimated revenue. (This was provided for by the so-called "Pay as you go amendment" of 1942). 2. No money shall be drawn from the treasury except by specific appropriation. 3. No appropriation may be made for a period longer than two years. 4. No grant of public money shall be made to individuals or to municipal or private corporations. The fourth limitation on expenditures has led to addi-

tional amendments as the people of Texas have voted to adopt programs which provide for payments of state money to individuals such as the needy aged, the needy blind, and dependent children. The Texas Constitution contains a rigid debt limitation in Section 49 of Article III. This provision restricts the creation of general debt to certain purposes such as suppressing insurrection, and it limits the size of the general debt to \$200,000. To get around this provision, the voters have approved a number of debt authorization amendments such as the water development program in 1957, and the college student loan fund in 1965. The Constitution does not establish a central fiscal office, but divides responsibility for the conduct of the state's fiscal affairs among the governor, the legislature, the comptroller of public accounts and the treasurer. The constitution also provides for several special funds or accounts supported by earmarked or dedicated revenues. An example is Section 7a of Article VIII. By this provision revenues derived from motor vehicle registration fees and motor fuel and lubricant taxes are earmarked for the Highway Fund and the Available School Fund. The constitution also prohibits the legislature from borrowing or in any way diverting money from the special funds.

State-Local Relations - The Texas Constitution treats the subject of local government with a mass of detailed provision. Every grant of power is limited by prohibitions and restrictions. These basic provisions are scattered throughout the constitution. Two articles are titled "Counties" and "Municipal Corporations", but many of the most important restrictions are to be found in the legislative, judicial, and taxation and revenue articles. The 1933 constitutional amendment for county home rule provides that a county may adopt its own charter, with such organization and officials as it deems best for its needs. However, 3,000 words in the constitutional provision and a 12 page enabling act have failed to clarify the powers and limitations of this home rule provision, and no county in Texas has adopted its own charter. The consequence is that all 254 counties are bound to the same rigid structure, from the largest (6,208 square miles) to the smallest (147 square miles), from the most populous to the least populous.

Cities and towns in Texas are given more latitude by the constitution in selecting the form and type of their government. There are two general types; Home Rule cities and General Law cities and towns. Under the home rule amendment for cities, any city of more than 5,000 population may adopt its own charter which gives it the power to have the form of government it desires and to amend or repeal its charter. But the charters adopted cannot contravene either the constitution or general laws, which means the legislature is still dominant. Towns and villages under 5,000 are chartered by general laws and may select from three different types of government which are specified by the legislature.

The powers of local governments are limited to those delegated through the constitution and the legislature. County government is regulated by some 56 sections in the constitution. Various sources of county revenue are listed in the constitution, most with accompanying restrictions as to their use. For example, the commissioners may levy a property tax not to exceed 80¢ per \$100 valuation, and the constitution specifies how much of this tax may be spent for what purposes; and additional 30¢ ad valorem tax may be levied, under certain conditions, to be used only for farm-to-market roads or flood control. Cities and towns operate under an immense number of constitutional limitations. Home rule cities (those with more than 5,000 population) may tax up to \$2.50 per \$100 valuation, general law cities may tax up to \$1.50 per \$100 valuation. No debt may be created unless provision is made to collect taxes for interest and to provide a sinking fund on the debt. Various types of taxes are permitted, but detailed restrictions are made as to the amount and purposes for which the revenues may be used.

Special districts are so diverse that it is not an easy task to classify them. They are much more independent of state or local supervision in financing and administration of services than the general local governmental units. Many have no legal tax or debt limits. Therefore, their continued formation to perform services may completely negate the constitutionally imposed tax and debt limits on the other local government units.

General Welfare - The fields of government which might fall within the category of 'General Welfare' are those of education, health, public welfare, and conservation. Of these, on these, only education is included as a separate article of the constitution.

Education - The constitution of the state of Texas provides for public education in Article VII, section 1 through 8 for the public free schools and Section 10 through 18 for universities and colleges. Section 1 makes it the duty of the legislature to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. Section 2 provides for a permanent school fund which now amounts to over one-half billion dollars and can be (larger than that now, this is a 1966 figure) invested in government and school bonds and corporate stocks and bonds. Section 8 provides for a state board of education which until the Gilmer-Aiken Laws of 1949 was appointive but is now elective.

In the field of higher education the constitution provides that the legislature shall establish, organize and provide for the maintenance, support and direction of the University of Texas. The Agricultural and Mechanical College was made a branch of the University. A permanent university fund was established through lands set apart for this purpose, and the investment of proceeds from these lands is prescribed in detail: in bonds of the United States, the state of Texas, counties or cities of the state, school bonds of municipalities, or bonds issued under the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916. Only the interest on these investments may be appropriated by the legislature for the support of the University and its branches. In 1947, another constitutional amendment established a college building fund for twelve other state colleges not in the University or A&M systems and provided explicitly for financial details of bond transactions, taxes levied, the distribution of this income to each college for successive ten-year periods, etc. State colleges created since 1947 could not participate in this college building fund, since only those listed in the constitution might use the earmarked funds.

Health - The Texas Constitution recognizes the duty of the state toward its citizen's health in one section: "The Legislature may provide by law for the establishment of a Board of Health and Vital Statistics, under such rules and regulations as it may deem proper." Another section provides that the qualifications of physicians may be prescribed by the legislature.

Public Welfare - Article III, Section 51, of the state constitution provides that the legislature shall have no power to make any grant of public money to any individual, except for pensions to confederate veterans and their widows. Authorizations for various public welfare expenditures have been put into the constitution as amendments to this section. One such amendment covers payment of categorical assistance - aid to the needy aged, the needy blind, and dependent children. This section provides for the acceptance of federal funds and for the enactment of laws to make lists of recipients available for inspection; gives the detailed specifications of eligibility for assistance in each category; and freezes into the constitution the maximum number of dollars which may be provided in individual assistance payments and the maximum total which may be expended from state funds for such assistance. A new amendment must be passed each time it is necessary to change these amounts. The constitution since 1876 has stated that each county may

provide "a manual labor poorhouse and farm, for taking care of, managing, employing and supplying the wants of its indigent and poor inhabitants," a provision which is the basis for legal determination that only the county may dispense direct relief to the needy in Texas.

One other constitutional provision relating to public welfare is of special interest: in 1935 the Bill of Rights was amended to provide that mentally ill persons might be committed for observation or treatment without the necessity of a trial by jury, for a period not to exceed ninety days. The inclusion of so much minutiae on a subject which is generally considered an inherent responsibility of the state would seem to indicate that the Texas Constitution has here departed entirely from the concept of a constitution as fundamental law.

Conservation - A constitutional amendment adopted in 1917 declares that "The conservation and development of all the natural resources of this state, including the control, storing, preservation and distribution of its storm and flood waters, the waters of its rivers and streams, for irrigation, power and all other useful purposes, the reclamation and irrigation of its arid, semiarid and other lands needing irrigation, the reclamation and drainage of its overflowed lands, and other lands needing drainage, the conservation and development of its forests, water and hydro-electric power, the navigation of its inland and coastal waters, and the preservation and conservation of all such natural resources of the state are each and all hereby declared public rights and duties...." The creation of conservation and reclamation districts is authorized and the legislature may authorize "all such indebtedness as may be necessary..." In 1964 an amendment was adopted requiring 30-90 days notice by publication prior to introduction of such legislation.

Railroads: Private Corporations - These two articles of the state constitution reflect the fear of big business which was prevalent throughout the nation in 1876; Though these provisions have historical interest, it is doubtful that such details have a rightful place in the fundamental law of the land.

Impeachment - The details of impeachment proceedings are given. The power of impeachment proceedings are given. The power of impeachment is given to the House of Representatives, with trial by the Senate, but the causes for impeachment of any state official are not prescribed. The details of the method of removal of judges are also found in this article. The legislature is made responsible for providing by law for the trial and removal of other state officers where the mode of their removal is not provided by the constitution.

General Provisions - Article XVI contains 66 sections on a vast number of subjects, some of great importance, some of seemingly little consequence, many of which are added or restated details of the powers and limitations of the legislature. For instance: The legislature must make provisions for fines and costs to be discharged by manual labor, and for utilizing convict labor for working on public roads. The legislature may provide for a Commission of Insurance, Statistics and History; for state supervision of banks for the management and control of the prison system; for the custody and maintenance of indigent lunatics and for organizing and disciplining the militia of the state. Several sections concern civil rights and the protection of the individual: laborers on public works are protected against failure of contractors to pay justly due wages; usurious interest is defined (generally not more than 10% unless the legislature establishes a higher rate) and prohibited. The homestead is defined, and its preservation, descent, and exemption from taxation are prescribed. The rights of women are protected by a provision regarding the women's separate property, and community property rights are defined. One section reading "The legislature shall prescribe

by law. The qualifications of grand and petit jurors" was amended in 1954 by an explicit provision that this right and duty should not be denied by reason of sex. An amendment adopted in 1958 gives the legislature the power to appropriate money and to establish a procedure to develop information about Texas and to inform people and corporations of other states of the resources of the state of Texas through advertising in periodicals of national circulation.

Provisions not found in the Texas Constitution - Two subjects which have received recognition in many constitutions, but which are omitted from the Texas Constitution, are those relating to personnel policies and to the privilege of the initiative and referendum.

Civil Service- Recently revised constitutions invariably have provisions for basic policies regarding employee selection and retention, usually a merit system based on competitive examinations, as far as practicable, such as the New York and Missouri Constitutions. The New Jersey Constitution also provides that political subdivisions of the state shall be subject to civil service regulations.

Initiative and Referendum - The subject of the initiative and referendum - the power of the people to initiate or vote directly on laws or amendments- is not a new one, and there is considerable variation among the many state constitutions containing such provisions. This technique for direct action by the voters is not intended to replace legislative action, but to supplement it when the legislature fails to act according to the wishes of a majority of the people. The power to initiate statutes or constitutional amendments is not given to the people of Texas, but the state constitution does provide for a referendum vote on proposed constitutional amendments.

ANALYSIS OF HJR 61

Proposing an amendment to article XVII of the Constitution, to provide that the 63rd Legislature act as a constitutional convention to propose a revised constitution to the voters of Texas, retaining the present bill of rights.

When the legislature convenes in 1973, it shall provide by concurrent resolution for a constitution revision commission. Will appropriate money to provide an adequate staff, office space, equipment, and supplies for the commission.

Commission shall study the need for constitutional change and report to the legislature not later than November 1, 1973.

The 63rd Legislature shall convene as a constitutional convention in January, 1974. Lt. Governor shall preside until a chairman is elected.

Members of the convention shall receive compensation, mileage, per diem as determined by a 5 member committee, composed of the Governor, Lt. Gov., Speaker of the House, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Chief Justice of the Court of Criminal Appeals. Convention may provide for expenses of members and for the employment of a staff for the convention, and for these purposes may by resolution appropriate money from the general revenue fund.

The convention, by resolution of at least two thirds of its members, may submit for a vote to the voters of Texas a new constitution which may contain alternative articles or sections, or may submit revision of the existing constitution which may contain alternative articles or sections. Each resolution shall specify the date of the election and the method of publicizing the proposals to be voted on. To be effective, each proposal must receive a majority of the votes cast on it at the election. To be adopted, each proposal must receive the favorable vote of the majority of those cast on the proposal.

The convention may be dissolved by resolution adopted on the vote of at least two thirds of its members, but it is automatically dissolved at 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 1974, unless its duration is extended for a period not to exceed 60 days by resolution adopted on the vote of at least two thirds of its members.

This amendment shall be submitted to the voters at the general election, in November, 1972. The proposal to read "The constitutional amendment providing for a constitutional revision commission which precedes the convening of the members of the 63rd legislature as a constitutional convention in January, 1974, for the purpose of submitting to the voters a new constitution or revisions of the existing state constitution."

* * * * *

LEAGUE POSITION AND STUDY ON TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Interest in Texas Constitutional Revision grew out of a 1948 League "Know Your State Survey". The last half of this project was devoted almost exclusively to a section by section study of the constitution. By 1954, the League had reached consensus supporting general revision of the constitution, to be preceded by thorough review and adequate research. By 1959, the Texas League had adopted eleven principles - yardstick - for a good constitution. These principles are not positions but criteria to use for consideration of revision. They are:

- a bill of rights
- a framework of basic law
- a clear separation of powers with responsibility definitely assigned
- qualifications for voter eligibility and guarantees of fair elections
- provisions for justice with a minimum of delay
- a coordinate finance structure capable of flexibility
- maximum home rule for municipal and county government with coordination of overlapping functions;
- provision for support of public education
- provisions for support of public health and welfare services
- provisions for amendment and revision
- basic policies regarding state employee selection, retention and promotion

League members had agreed in 1962 that a constitutional convention preceded by qualified research is the most desirable method for general revision. One of the interesting points revealed by this consensus report is that a majority of local Leagues desired flexibility for League support of alternate revision proposals, within the League's principles, in the event of legislation being passed that specified some method of revision other than that preferred by the League.

When a Constitutional Revision Commission was appointed in 1967; League members, fearing they would be unable to support the commission's revised constitution, agreed on a new position early in 1969:

- support for revision of the Texas Constitution within League principles and standards, preferably by constitutional convention, although alternate methods can be supported.

The House of Representatives of the 60th Texas Legislature (1967), by simple House resolution, established a Constitutional Revision Commission to make a revision of the Texas Constitution, after careful and impartial research and thoughtful and responsible study of its provision. The resolution provided for a 25 member commission - five members of the state Senate appointed by the lieutenant governor, five members of the House appointed by the speaker, ten persons appointed by the governor, and five appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court. However, Lt. Governor Preston Smith refused to make any appointments to the commission, because the Senate had taken no part in creating it, so the last five members were named by the other twenty appointees. The commission agreed that it would submit a new document, rather than piecemeal recommendations for changes. The completed document was submitted to the legislature in 1969, but failed to win the approval of two-thirds of both houses.

The League supported this document because it was more logically arranged, shorter, and more understandable, and obsolete sections had been removed.

At the 1971 state convention, Texas Constitutional Revision was given the priority spot in state programming, emphasizing the desire of League members for action on this item and the urgent need for revision.

League action on revision began with the publishing of Texas Constitutional Revision in 1955. It has been used by high school and college students as a textbook on revision, and the booklet has been so successful that revision and reprinting were necessary in 1966. The League has published other materials to inform the public about the need for constitutional revision. A flyer, A Brief Case for Revision of the Texas Constitution, was printed in 1960. It tells what is wrong with the constitution and what to do about it. Revision Quo Vadis, was published in 1968 as a chronicle of League interest in Revision.

To arouse public interest in revision, League members have undertaken various citizen projects during the past years, such as holding community workshops, urging newspaper editorial campaigns on the subject, conducting an opinion survey in which 1,730 Texans were interviewed, and promoting displays of revision materials in libraries and at city and county fairs.

Legislative action began in 1956 when League members introduced resolutions at precinct and county conventions supporting a constitutional commission to begin research on revision. The next year the League persuaded the legislature to pass a joint resolution calling for a four-year constitutional research program by the Texas Legislative Council. The resolution also called for the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee. Both of these groups were hampered by inadequate funds, and their recommendations were ignored by the legislature. During the next few years, all the bills the League supported concerning revision died in committee.

Revision action in 1969-70 centered on supporting three proposed constitutional amendments. Voter approval of the amendment to remove obsolete, superfluous, and unnecessary sections of the constitution was a happy occasion for the League.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON TCR

1. WE have just said that we are going to discuss Constitutional Revision. Do you think that the Texas Constitution should be revised? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. So the Texas Constitution has obsolete provisions. What harm does it do just to ignore these provisions and govern "around" them?
3. We've been revising by amending. Why not continue in this way?
4. What do you think comprises a good constitution?
5. Do you agree that our local League should join the other Texas LWV's in working for passage of Amendment No. 4?
6. How can our League best Communicate its position on and "sell" Amendment No. 4 to the people of this community?
7. Do we need or want any additional studies to cover areas of the Texas Constitution that we have not yet studied?

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TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

(Thanks to Garland for the background material on TCR.)

A DREAM OR REALITY

A reality if.....

WHO: Every member of the League of Women Voters of Texas

WHAT: Informs the citizens of Texas about the need for revising the Texas Constitution

WHEN: TODAY through ratification of a suitable document by the electorate

WHERE: In EVERY community in the State of Texas

WHY: BECAUSE its provisions are long detailed, repetitive
 BECAUSE its provisions are ambiguous and contradictory
 BECAUSE its provisions on each subject are scattered
 BECAUSE its provisions in some instances are obsolete
 BECAUSE it was adopted in 1876 when there was great distrust of state governments. Consequently the Texas Constitution is limiting and restrictive on state government operations and services to the people.

Amplifications of each of the 5 W's follow:

WHO? THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League interest in Texas Constitutional revision grew out of a 1948 "Know Your State" survey. The last half of this project was devoted almost exclusively to a section-by-section study of the constitution. By 1954, the League had reached consensus supporting general revision of the constitution. to be preceded by thorough review and adequate research. By 1959, the Texas League had adopted eleven principles--"yardsticks"--for a good constitution.

League members had agreed in 1962 that a constitutional convention preceded by qualified research is the most desirable method for general revision. When a Constitutional Revision Commission was appointed in 1967, League members, fearing they would be unable to support the commission's revised constitution, agreed on a new position early in 1969 which supported revision of the Texas Constitution within League principles and standards, preferable by constitutional convention, although alternate methods can be supported.

At the 1971 state Convention, TCR was given the priority spot in state programming, emphasizing the desire of LWV members for action on this item.

D During the 1971 legislative session, 4 bills were introduced concerning constitutional revision. The League testified at the hearing on HJR 61 by Wolff, and at the Sept. Board Meeting, the LWV of Texas decided to support this amendment. The amendment meets the League consensus of a Constitutional Convention preceded by a commission to do study and research, and will be voted on at the Nov., 1972 general election. If the amendment passes, a commission will be appointed by the legislature when it convenes in January, 1973. The Commission will make its report not later than Nov. 1, 1973. The 63rd Legislature will sit as a Constitutional Convention beginning at noon on the second Tuesday in January, 1974. The results of this Convention will be presented to the voters of the state for their approval.

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WHAT ACT FOR REVISION

League action on TCR began with the publishing of Texas Constitutional Review in 1955 which was so successful that reprints were necessary in 1966. Other materials to inform the public about the need for revision are: Brief Case for Revision of the Texas Constitution, a flyer printed in 1960 that tells what is wrong with the constitution; and Revision Quo Vadis?, published in 1968 as a chronicle of League interest in TCR.

To arouse public interest in constitutional revision, League members have undertaken many and various citizen projects during the past 16 years, and legislative action began in 1956. In 1957, the LWV persuaded the legislature to pass a joint resolution calling for a 4-year constitutional research program by the Texas Legislative Council. The resolution also called for the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee. Both of these groups were hampered by inadequate funds and their recommendations were ignored by the legislature. During the next few years, all the bills the League supported concerning TCR died in committee.

A House Resolution in 1967 established a 25-member Constitutional Revision Commission, and the governor appointed a League member to the commission. The completed document was submitted to the legislature in 1969, but failed to win the approval of two-thirds of both houses, in spite of League support for this document.

TCR action in 1969-70 centered on supporting three proposed constitutional amendments. Voter approval of the amendment to remove obsolete, superfluous, and unnecessary sections of the constitution was a happy occasion for the LWV.

That was the past. NOW with HJR 61, the League has the best chance that it has had in many years to achieve a long awaited dream-- revision of the Texas Constitution. NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT!!!!!! Let's stop talking about TCR -- This means nothing to the public. EACH ONE OF US MUST WORK TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE NEED FOR REVISING THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION.

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WHEN? NOW UNTIL FINAL RATIFICATION

We must begin NOW to start a massive citizen education program on TCR. This will enlighten the electorate and candidates and start the groundwork for a good document.

We must remember, as we vote in the primaries in May, 1972, that the legislators we elect will be the ones who sit as a Constitutional Convention, and will be responsible for the new document.

We must work prior to the November, 1972, general election for passage of the HJR 61 amendment.

We must work harder than ever when the 63rd Legislature convenes to make them aware of the League and its views.

We must work to make sure the public is kept aware of the pending Constitutional Convention and its importance.

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!

But our first job is to bring ourselves up to date on Constitutional Revision. One of the best ways is by attending our TCR Units on January 6, and 7. COME AND LEARN SO YOU CAN ACT WHEN THE CHANCE FOR ACTION PRESENTS ITSELF!!!!!!

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WHERE? ALL OVER THE STATE

We must not confine our action on this issue to communities which have Leagues! It must be a statewide effort. If you have friends or relatives in such a community, start talking revision NOW, and ask them if they would like League information to distribute in their community when it is ready.

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PRINCIPLES FOR A GOOD CONSTITUTION

These principles adopted in 1959 are not positions, but criteria to use for consideration of revision. They are:

- a bill of rights;
- a framework of basic law;
- a clear separation of powers with responsibility definitely assigned;
- qualifications for voter eligibility and guarantees of fair elections;
- provisions for justice with a minimum of delay
- a co-ordinated finance structure capable of flexibility;
- a maximum homerule for municipal and county government with co-ordination of overlapping functions;
- provisions for support of public education;
- provisions for support of public health and welfare services;
- provisions for amendment and revision;
- basic policies regarding state employee selection, retention, and promotion.

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WHY?

The Texas Constitution is divided into a preamble and 17 articles; each article, subdivided into sections. It contains about seventy-five average-sized printed pages...over 55,000 words.

No body of men is wise enough to make a constitution that will serve forever; hence amendments. Nearly 200 of them are incorporated in the Texas Constitution. Each amendment has been adopted at election, either general or special, at tremendous cost to the taxpayers. There is alarming apathy in the electorate, characteristically when proposed amendments are offered for ratification. Special interest groups can put across constitutional changes, because usually only about 20% of qualified voters turn out. Reason enough for modernization or revision.

Even a layman can quickly tell that the present document violates most basic rules for establishing a governmental framework. Although a recent amendment allowed for the removal of some of the deadwood and extraneous matter that chokes the Texas Constitution, enough remains to make governing this state virtually impossible.

A glance at the present constitution shows that it desperately needs clarification and codification. It is much too wordy and illogically arranged. Retirement and pensions provisions are scattered through 23 separate sections in seven different articles. All of this verbiage interferes with normal legislating. The more obsolete this document becomes, the more amendments are necessary to meet increasing demands of modern society.

Primarily the constitution needs to be a statement of a bill of rights and separation of powers. It should be a simple document that the average citizen can understand and allow for future amendment. (Could you vote for ratification of the present Constitution of Texas? Not conscientiously. You couldn't make enough sense out of it.)

Half of the present constitution is really statutory law - or should be. Constitutional law is made by the people. Statutory law is made by legislative bodies who are agents of the people. The legislature can only exercise the powers granted by the people in the constitution.

Our legislators are so hand-tied that they can only make laws by saying, "May I?" to the people via Constitutional amendment.

.....WHY NOT???

NEW MEMBER

Mrs. Milferd W. Townsdin (Faye)
[REDACTED] Paris

GETTING

GETTING GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER

In 1965, the state legislature authorized legislation permitting formation of Regional Planning Councils for the purpose of co-ordinating planning and participation in projects affecting a number of governmental sub-divisions. Regions were defined incorporating cities, counties, and groups of counties with common geographic, social, and economic interests. The powers of regional councils were significantly expanded in 1969. Lamar County is participating in a regional planning council whose work may be seen in development of our county water system, discussion of the "green box" solid waste plan, and plans for a regional sewage system centered around the proposed new sewage facility.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has included the problems of co-ordination of governmental units in state program for a number of years, under the title of State-Local Relations. As a part of up-dating this study, the 1971 convention determined to re-evaluate RPC's on their actual operation, function, representation, and accomplishments during their five years of existence. The Provisional LWV of Lamar County will conduct the survey on co-ordination in our local governments and a telephone job with the League, please contact Sara Bell (4-3435).

FINANCE WORKSHOP

Anne McMillan, finance chairman, Susan Swint, and Imy Walters attended a joint workshop with the Provisional LWV of Sherman on the problems of a first finance drive, held in Bonham. We need volunteers to help on the finance drive. If you are interested, call Anne (4-2474).

"Just as an apple pie needs apples, a volunteer organization needs volunteers. So add a little spice to your life and be an apple with Anne, Susan, or Sara!"

SAVE THIS VOTER AND BRING IT TO THE JANUARY MEETINGS!!!

LAW ENFORCEMENT

At our general meeting in January, we would like to explore the implications of this information with representatives of the police department and court system, especially with regard to juveniles.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW...

1. How many drug arrests there have been in the last year?
2. How many convictions there have been?
3. If convicted, what was the punishment?
4. If any have been brought to trial or convicted more than once?
5. How many have gone before the Grand Jury but not been brought to trial?
6. What rehabilitation program there is for addicts or users? Where is the closest rehabilitation center, other than private institution?
7. How prevalent marijuana, heroin, and LSD are in high school? In the junior high schools? In the elementary schools?
8. What segment of society is using drugs the most?
9. Who are the pushers and what is being done about arrests and convictions?

Austin VOTER p.6

November 1 1971

OBSERVER REPORTS - October 27, 1971

League Observers are actively covering the City Council, School Board, and County Commissioners. If there are any new or old members who would like to attend a meeting with a regular Observer please give me a call. I am sure you would find it most interesting and informative.

CITY COUNCIL

City Council held a public hearing October 14 on the proposed Industrial Waste Ordinance. The ordinance was written in order to comply with Federal funding requirements and would regulate the discharge of industrial waste into the sewer and storm drainage systems. Representatives of various organizations and business concerns all said that the ordinance is needed but some local industries claim that the ordinance is restrictive and should be liberalized. At a later Council meeting the companies asked for an extension to their full compliance to the proposed regulations. The Austin Environmental Council said the ordinance should be enforced by the Office of Environmental Resource Management (yet to be staffed by the city). The ordinance as proposed leaves enforcement to the City-County Health Department and Water and Waste Water Department.

The Council also asked City Manager, Lynn Andrews, to study rates for sewer services charged residents and non-residents of Austin.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The County Commissioners were asked by the directors of the Austin-Travis County Health Department to provide additional nursing facilities in the county jail. The county jail physician said that two nurses should be adequate to distribute medication. Commissioner Moya suggested a check on the county's application for funds from the state for the nurses would be available.

November 1971

STRATEGY ACTION for T C R AREA WORKSHOPNOV.22

First Federal Savings

10:30-2:00

Support of measures to promote revision of the Texas Constitution

Texas constitutional revision has been an interest of LWV of Texas since 1948. We have followed and supported revision through various means these past years. At the 1971 state convention TCR was given the priority spot in state programming - emphasizing the need for revision and League action. There will be proposed amendments to the Texas constitution to be voted on in Nov., 1972--even one for a constitutional convention. We need to be prepared.

The opportunity is at hand! On Nov.22, Austin will host an area workshop on Strategy Action for TCR. State Board members will lead the workshop.

ATTEND !!!!! Meet State Board members and Leaguers from neighboring cities. Be prepared for TRC.

For further information call Barbara Nobles [REDACTED] TCR Chairman or Helen Russell, [REDACTED] Program Chairman. No charge for the meeting. Action kits will be presented. Coffee and cold drinks will be provided.

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FLASH FLASH FLASH

FLASH FLASH FLASH

Revision Backed For Constitution

Capitol Staff

Texans who want to see their constitution rewritten received two new allies Thursday — Leon Jaworski of Houston, immediate past president of the American Bar Association and former governor Allan Shivers.

Citizens For Texas, a group seeking passage of amendment four on Tuesday's ballot — the amendment that provides for constitutional rewriting — announced the two endorsements at a capitol press conference.

Jaworski appeared in person and Tom Vandergriff of Arlington, chairman of the citizen's group, read Shivers' statement.

Jaworski said he could not conceive of a more democratic plan for constitutional rewrite than the one proposed in the amendment.

It establishes a constitutional convention to make recommendations to the legislature which sits as a constitutional convention. The final document would go to the voters for approval.

The amendment does not impose rules to be followed by the commission or legislature as they write the constitution, leaving such details up to the legislature itself.

Jaworski said a rewrite of the cumbersome document — which

has had to be amended 201 times — could result in a more streamlined, modern judiciary, not to mention the improvements that could be made in the legislative process. The bill of rights is not affected by the amendment, he said.

In Shivers' statement, the former governor said the move for a new constitution is an old one but this is the first time in 50 years it has been put to a general vote.

"The time has come when Texas can no longer afford the luxury of this antiquated, overly long constitution," he said.

Vandergriff said without the flexibility of a modern governmental tool afforded by a new constitution, any "reform" representatives elected Tuesday will "find themselves severely handicapped."

He said such a reform-minded group of legislators working in the "political season" of 1974 would be the best kind of body to undertake the job of giving Texas a new governmental base.

If the amendment passes, he said, the "intensive" work of Citizens for Texas will begin.

"We want a document voters can approve, something we can in all good conscience recommend," he said.

Vandergriff said he thinks amendment four has an "excellent" chance of passage Tuesday.

Jaworski said the citizen's group has no "preconceived" ideas about the form the constitution should take but Vandergriff said it has a "running start on research." He said he hopes the constitution commission will be broad-based, as is the support for the amendment.

He said the two new endorsements Thursday add to a growing list over the state which includes: the Texas Municipal League, Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce, Texas AFL-CIO, League of Women Voters, Association of University Women, United Community Service and Texas Society of Architects.

The amendment has also received the support of men who apparently will be taken over the reigns of Texas government in January including Price Daniel Jr., House Speaker apparent; Bill Hobby, Lt. Governor apparent; and John Hill, Attorney General apparent.

Former governor John Connally, State Sen. Barbara Jordan, Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dolph Briscoe, Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong and others have also endorsed the proposition, he said.

New Panel To Support Amendment

Capitol Staff

A 21-member steering committee was named Thursday to organize Austin Citizens for Texas, patterned after a statewide group working for adoption of the constitutional rewrite amendment (number four) on Tuesday's general election ballot.

Mrs. Barbara Nobles said the local group is backed by the Austin branch of the American Association of University Women, Austin Junior Chamber of Commerce and Austin League of Women Voters.

"Texas citizens have the opportunity to start the process of revising the long, unwieldy, contradictory and restrictive state constitution just as they will have the opportunity to accept or reject the final document in 1974," she said.

"Texas government needs a framework of basic law to meet the rapid changes of modern society," she said.

On the steering committee with Mrs. Nobles are Mrs. Kay Goodwin, Mrs. Sally Brice, Mrs. Sarah Weddington, Tom Berkstrom, Phillip W. Gilbert, Marvin Griffin, Les Gage, Darrell Blakeway, Dr. Bud Dryden, Alvin Urger, F. R. Rice, Ron Mullen, Larry Bales, Terrell Blodgett, Bob Honts, J. Niels Thompson, John Gronowski, Roy Evans, Richard Moya and Jim Ray.

Mrs. Nobles said they have limited funds but will be passing out bumper stickers, making speeches and handing out leaflets.



more broad revision of the present Governor's nomination. Hobby offers a Democratic hopeful for the Lieutenant Governor's position. Bill Hobby is the newspaperman who has been a citizens' group. Another document to provide for a local government to respond to the needs of its citizens.

Proposition Four Calls For Reform

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of three articles dealing with the revision of the Texas Constitution. Proposition Four on the November ballot calls for a revision of the present constitution. The series was written - by Record reporters Derek Aldridge and Don Flores.

Texas's latest chance for revising its constitution hinges on the outcome of an item on Nov. 7 ballot. If the voters approve Proposition 4 on this ballot, the 181 legislators and the lieutenant governor will form a constitutional convention.

The convention will be authorized to submit an entire new constitution or to submit it by sections to the voters of Texas.

The first motion by the committee will be to name a commission to draw up proposals, and then sit as a convention to vote on submitting those proposals to the citizens.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has been responsible for this latest attempt to revise the 1876 Constitution.

Mrs. Betty Connor, the Texas League's constitutional revision chairman, said that if this proposal fails, it may be at least 20 years before Texas' voters will get another chance to authorize another rewriting of the state's constitution.

It was in 1967 when a constitutional revision commission was set up. Governor John Connally and Speaker Ben Barnes both favored constitutional modernization. They especially favored the strengthening of the executive branch.

Lieutenant Governor Preston Smith prevented the passage of the resolution through the Senate. The house however did pass this resolution. Connally, Barnes and Chief Justice Robert Calvert appointed their members, and then the commission itself named five senators after Smith refused to appoint them.

The commission was headed by Robert Storey of Dallas. It heard former Governor Allan Shivers testify in favor of a stronger chief executive. He said that the governor should have the power to appoint the heads of the state agencies and be responsible for them.

The commission, formed of conservatives, came up with a recom-

mendation for fairly minor revisions. The recommendation went to the legislature in 1969 which was equally conservative in membership. The result of this revision attempt was an amendment which was approved by the voters that struck out a number of dead sections of the constitution.

Whatever happens to this new effort, assuming the people approve it Nov. 7, will depend on the legislators elected that same day. If they amend the 1876 instrument, there will be one submitted to the voters.

Should the majority of the 181 legislators be conservatively-minded the possibility of constitutional revision would seem unlikely.

Governor Smith, offers little in the way of reforming the constitution. He claims that the instrument should provide for a stable yet flexible government. Another feature which he emphasizes for a

modernized constitution is a clear and balanced separation of powers.

Smith also says that the constitution should guarantee the basic rights of the people, preserve the rights of local government and promote cooperation between governments.

Uvalde rancher Dolph Briscoe, Democratic nominee for governor, proposes that a good constitution should provide stability and protection for individual rights and be more responsive to the will of the people.

His recommendations also include that the modern constitution be concise and content, effective in meeting governmental requirements and flexible to adapt the changing requirements.

Lieutenant Governor Barnes calls for a shorter constitution with the necessary language to maintain a system of pay-as-you-go government. He also provides for annual sessions of the legislature and for more real powers in the office of the governor.

Barnes also requires the modern constitution to be more flexible for state and local governments and be a workable document to respond to the needs of its citizens.

Newspaperman Bill Hobby is the Democratic hopeful for the Lieutenant Governor's nomination. Hobby offers a more broad revision of the present

document.

He favors the reorganization and reform of the executive, legislative and judicial branches. He calls for the governor's term of office and other agencies to be more responsive to the will of the Governor.

He, too, would seek a provision which would call for an annual meeting of the state legislature and an increase in pay for the legislators. The judicial system would be more unified under Hobby's constitutional plan.

The "Houston Post" publisher would ask the constitutional convention to reorganize county government. This reorganization would make the local government more flexible to solve urban problems. He also would ask for the removal of constitutional

SAN MARCOS RECORD, Thursday, November 2, 1972—Page 9

restraints including the welfare ceiling.

Most of the candidates seem to agree that a new constitution should provide for a stronger executive branch and for annual sessions of the legislature. They also agree that the constitution should be shorter and more concise.

The candidates also call for a modern Bill of Rights and provisions asking the protection of the citizen's rights and privileges.

With the leading candidates for the top offices asking for constitution reform, the 1876 Constitution faces a complete revision should the voters approve Proposition 4 on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Letters To The Editor

do only, what is good for the United States.

Carol E. Cook
306 Guadalupe

Okinawa Issue

To the Editor:

Your July 27 editorial calls the Okinawa protest against the landing of B-52s on Okinawa due to inclement weather "unjustified."

In that editorial, rather than saying "It is apparent that the anti-American groups are not satisfied with the extent that the use of U.S. bases on Okinawa has been curtailed..." it would be more accurate to say "the majority of Okinawans and other Japanese are not satisfied with the extent that the use of U.S. bases on Okinawa has been curtailed under the agreement returning the Ryukyu Islands to Japanese administration."

Surveys conducted by a variety of agencies, the recent election and other indicators continually show widespread disappointment and dissatisfaction over the continued U.S. military presence on Okinawa. This is indeed the general feeling among people both on the Ryukyu Islands and on the main islands of Japan—many of whom, incidentally, might better be called "pro-American" than "anti-American" in view of their desire for mutual good relations between the two nations.

What is most dangerous for the future of U.S.-Japan relationship is for the American people and the American government to overlook or ignore the feelings of the people of Japan, and particularly of the Okinawan Japanese. To call the protests "unjustifiable" is to discount these feelings and, minimize for your readers the cause of the fears and apprehensions of these people.

The American people might well appreciate rather than depreciate the concerns of the Japanese for peace in Asia and in the world.

Helen Post
Tokyo, Japan

Amendments

To the Editor:

Now that the persons to be voted on in November have about been decided, citizens in turn some of their

attention to the constitutional amendments to be voted on at the same time.

The most far-reaching is one which provides for total revision of the Texas Constitution. If it is adopted, members of the 63rd Legislature will "be convened as a constitutional convention on the second Tuesday in January 1974." The results of their deliberations would be submitted to the state's voters in a subsequent election.

Apparently motivated by a feeling that our 1876 Constitution deserves re-writing by any possible means, many organizations and individuals have endorsed this amendment. Little consideration seems to have been given to whether the desired end justifies the proposed means.

One of our government's distinctive features, long considered essential, is the principle of a balance of powers. The legislative, judicial and executive branches are considered co-equal, and neither should be given advantage over the others. To turn over to one of these branches the opportunity to re-write our basic document of government certainly appears to violate this principle.

Our present constitution soon will be a century old. If a new one is to last even a fraction as long, it deserves to be prepared according to the best possible procedures, not simply those that appear feasible or expedient. Nothing less than a constitutional convention composed of representative citizens elected for that specific purpose should be considered adequate. Such a convention could be called by the 63rd Legislature if this ill-conceived amendment is defeated in November.

D. Richard Bowles
San Marcos, Texas

Science Park

To The Editor:

One of the reasons why I chose Austin as my home after 20 years of Air Force life was what Austin offers besides a stable, growing economic community—the esthetic offerings. I refer to the hill and lake country, the university community, museums, plays, etc. I consider the proposed Texas Natural Science Park a

