

ADDRESS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
November 10, 1969

COPY

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LWV of Texas
November 1969

FOR RELEASE: 11:00 a.m. - EST
November 10, 1969

From its birth, the National Municipal League has been consecrated to the concept of a dynamic American democracy where citizenship is an exacting obligation; government, a service; and politics, an honorable profession.

The founders of the National Municipal League understood that the citizen was central to the system. In a time of political corruption, they retained their faith in democratic institutions. They were reformers, not radicals.... and, as reformers, they would stand apart from many in the present generation of critics because of their insistence that failure was not the fault of the system, but the citizen.

In a dissertation on the causes of young radical dissent, the distinguished University of Michigan professor, John W. Aldridge, states: "Although the necessity for reform is the ostensible and conscious reason for their protests, one notices how vague the militants are about the precise nature of the measures they wish to be taken; how much more articulate they are in their demands for confrontation than they are about the concrete issues of confrontation."

Charles J. Bonaparte expressed the prerequisites of reform very well: "If you wish to secure for the community a better government, you must make the community deserve a better government, and show it deserves it by getting it."

Men like Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Shurz, Charles Eliot and Louis Brandeis, who founded the Municipal League, and you, who carry it forward today, know that workable democracy will not appear on demand, but must be deserved. Freedom is earned, not given. Citizenship involves more than voting and paying taxes. Reform requires a positive program. What held true when the National Municipal League was formed seventy-five years ago, holds true today. Progress is predicated upon the existence of constructive alternatives to replace what is being discredited and abandoned. It is not enough to see corruption and to condemn it. Work must begin -- not end -- with a call to "throw the rascals out."

And the work of the National Municipal League, as well as the work of its founders, began with faith in America -- its system and citizens. Those men had deep, enduring confidence in the resiliency of our institutions and the destiny of our nation. One word could describe their attitude, and that word was patriotism.

It was not just jingoistic pride, but something far more profound, that inspired the vision of a Theodore Roosevelt and the perception of a Louis Brandeis. They were sophisticated men in the best sense, and they were "socially aware" by the best of contemporary standards.

Several years ago, a foreign student addressing a college seminar was asked about his future plans. The young man replied, "I want to return home to serve the country I love." Fellow students gave him a standing ovation.

But I wonder what the reaction would be if an American student at an American college announced that he loved his country? Would there be applause or embarrassment? I suspect that many have been conditioned to be embarrassed by such an overt expression of patriotic sentiment. I would guess that many in sophisticated America consider love of country gauche or irrelevant.

A double standard has emerged. We admire patriotism in others, but condemn it in ourselves. We seem to see everything about ourselves except what we have achieved. We forget that this nation fought a bloody war to secure freedom for an oppressed minority. We forget that this nation was conceived and has continued as an asylum for the world's oppressed. We overlook the fact that today our country remains the first choice among the world's immigrants.

Although we cannot be complacent about our faults, neither should we be apologetic about our strengths. Yet apology appears to be becoming our national posture. We have seen attempts to pervert the liberal virtue of self-criticism to the national vice of self-contempt.

Some weeks ago a professor named Robert Paul Wolf wrote in review of a book called The Making of a Counter-Culture: "American society is ugly, repressive, destructive and subversive of much that is truly human." He contended that this view of American society "is now acknowledged to be true by virtually every sensible man and woman." Now, most Americans, and certainly most sensible Americans, don't share that view.

The point is that while there is a lot wrong with America, there is a lot more right with America. Our strengths outweigh our problems. Our potential is vast, and the time we waste on negative introspection could be far better invested in positive action.

Just because America has not implemented all the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution does not mean that we should stop trying. Our inadequacies should be a spur to improvement. If ever American society totally achieves its ideals, it will do so because those ideals have become unchallenging and ludicrously low. In the case of a self-renewing society, each generation establishes a new and higher set of ideals. Our notable failures should not diminish our noble aspirations, but rather fuel our determination to close the distance between what is and what should be.

While I concede that some of our institutions and establishments are in serious need of change, there is no reason to believe that our free system of government will in any way impede democratic responsiveness to this need. Today's dissidents misdirect their fire when they attack the system. They should instead use the system to reform the institutions and establishments.

To those who question the validity of our system, the answer is participation in the processes of democracy. To those who question the social worth of the free enterprise system, the answer is to make business more responsive to the problems of society. The alternative to alienation is involvement.

In speaking of the lack of pragmatic involvement of the young today, Professor Aldridge links it to a tranquil, undemanding personal life. Continuing, he says: "Difficulty brings more of our essential humanity into play than tranquillity does and so heightens our responsiveness to life."

Involvement is the theme of your convention, and it must become the goal of our nation.

Today I intend to focus on the rich potential of private involvement. I recognize that this audience is fully conversant with the substance and purpose of the President's domestic proposals to achieve "the new federalism." So I want to draw upon my past experience as a Governor and County Executive to cite some immediate problems which you can best solve.

The private sector has historic precedents for initiative. As far back as the dawn of written history, the private sector has always led. Education was a private institution before it was a public one. This was true in a broad sense of welfare and health, until the Twentieth Century. Only after private citizens discern and respond to needs does the public sector adopt or extend programs. This pattern continues today. Public kindergartens, day care and community health centers, are recent derivatives of private pilot projects. Your first challenge -- as citizens -- is to scrutinize institutions, isolate problems and develop solutions.

The first item for action is education in citizenship. The foundation of good citizenship depends upon the inculcation of individual responsibility at an early age. There is little doubt that our generation has failed to carry out this basic requirement. In a devastating indictment of us as parents, Professor Aldridge castigates the permissive attitudes of post-World War II parents: "It is scarcely surprising that....the beneficiaries of all this love and attention and self-sacrifice should have grown up contemptuous of us, or convinced that really we were dead all along, and only they are alive....So we taught them by our example and by our obsequious treatment of them to have no consideration or respect for adults and a grotesquely inflated respect for themselves."

Discipline is an essential precursor to self-discipline. Self-discipline is a prerequisite to productive citizenship. Since discipline and specific personal responsibility were not required in the home, imparting essentials of good citizenship was left to the schools.

I regret to say that the trend in early education was similiarly not in the proper direction. There was down-play of competitive engagement among students and the way was all too frequently provided for the young student to avoid his responsibilities on the basis that he just wasn't up to them.

The centralization in junior highschools and high schools created an impersonal environment which did little to stimulate the warm interpersonal relationships conducive to citizen involvement. Added to this, there was a scarcity of formal teaching in the practicalities of citizen obligations. The curriculum was deemed adequate if it simply narrated the concept of our Federal system. What it should have done was to make clear that no other system depends so heavily upon the participation of people. It should have stressed that a majority of observers on the side lines will produce an inferior political leadership and an uninvolved electorate will be pawns for the manipulation of a minority of political activists.

It is time that we establish training in citizenship as an educational priority and set about investigating the means of making it an integral component in our educational process.

Not only our young, but our present generation of mature citizens, have much to learn about citizenship. In a recent survey made in Montgomery County,

Maryland -- a Washington suburb considered to be one of America's more educated and affluent subdivisions -- two out of every three citizens could not name their County Councilman. We cannot begin to talk about responsive government until we know whom we must hold responsible for governmental action or inaction.

In modern computer-oriented society, there are few severe shortages of reliable public information. However, there are formidable deficiencies in publicity and public relations techniques. And, fortunately or unfortunately, most of our citizens are conditioned to the dramatic Madison Avenue approach. Like it or not, the fact is that, until we produce a new generation of civic-oriented consumers, we can serve the total community best by following advertising techniques.

Skillful presentation will not betray the integrity of a school bond bill. It is not beneath a businessman's or a candidate's dignity to launch an attention-catching campaign, and neither should it be beneath the dignity of civic groups. As a Governor, I saw the magnificent work of a Constitutional Convention -- led by one of your Council members -- fail at the polls because of inability to excite the electorate. We stood by our principles and the usual public information resources. Our opponents stood by a good "fear and fury," hard-sell, radio campaign and defeated a superb document.

The media have a tremendous obligation here as well. I recognize that the subtleties of everyday government cannot compete with an ax murder. I know that reporters thrive on political controversy and publishers have to sell papers. But freedom should be tempered by responsibility. Great causes extolled on the editorial page are often lost by reporting strident opposition on the front page while supportive but less exciting news is buried somewhere between the tire advertisements and the obituary columns.

During Maryland's Constitutional Convention, debate over regional governmental provisions was dull until enlivened by an occasional outburst of irresponsible rhetoric from one of the Convention's foes. In Baltimore County, a critical urban renewal loan became newsworthy as a result of the shenanigans of its opponents. The cumulative impact of controversy in daily dosages confuses and frightens the average voter.

Political participation remains the citizen's most effective lever. All too often citizens are reluctant to involve themselves in partisan politics. Entrepreneurs, who have never carried a precinct, have a condescending attitude toward politicians who have never met a payroll. Some think of politics as messy and believe that the best people should be above it. To say that politics is beneath us is to say that democracy is beneath us. A failure to participate in politics is a sign of ignorance, not innocence.

Anyone who does not work for good candidates is a drop-out from democracy. He not only abdicates a basic responsibility; he neglects a major opportunity.

You know that I am an outspoken critic of disruptive politics, of provocative techniques and of that small percentage of Americans who advocate destruction of our system. I am also an enthusiastic supporter of responsible participation for the young. I have continuously urged lowering the voting age to eighteen. As Governor of Maryland, I proposed a Graduate Corps -- a comprehensive student internship program for state and local governments. With the cooperation of college leaders I was developing a Governor's Youth Advisory Council.

Right now I would wager that there are proportionately more young faces around the White House than around any city hall or county court house in the country.

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Not only our young, but our present generation of mature citizens, have much to learn about citizenship. In a recent survey made in Montgomery County,

It is good business to draw new talent and energy into the governmental community, just as it is good business to draw the innovative ideas of youth into the industrial and professional communities.

We know that there is a silent majority in this country. This is the majority that President Nixon addressed on his Vietnam policy last week, and the majority which responded with such resounding support.

There is also a silent young majority who go to school, and to work, and to war, if necessary. They are the non-shouting concerned; the non-radical responsible; the non-complacent constructive activists of the under-thirty generation. Their idealism is disciplined by reason.

The presence, integrity and commitment of the silent young majority is overshadowed by the strident minority who arrogate unto themselves voice, virtue and power out of proportion to their numbers and even more out of proportion to their abilities. The silent young majority must be recognized. They must be given outlets for their concern, opportunities for their ideas, and responsibilities equal to their capabilities. The silent young majority is challenged to make itself heard, to come to its own defense. And we -- the older majority -- are challenged to accommodate them within all our institutions.

The young American community wants to be involved. The American business community must be involved. It is time to think of industrial development in terms of human resources. Businessmen must be challenged to relate enterprise to environment -- and profit to people.

America's most successful businesses are challenged to do more than share the wealth. We are asking them to share their know-how and their capital to stimulate minority businesses; we are requesting that they broaden their employment base. Our goal is to turn capitalists into catalysts -- catalysts for moving those on welfare rolls onto payrolls, and for moving those already employed up the ladder.

Finally, there is the need for increased involvement of the citizen as a volunteer. Despite all the noise about America's selfish establishment, the facts prove that the silent majority is a deeply concerned and active majority. There are more than a million voluntary hospitals and private foundations -- service organizations, civic groups and fraternal clubs.

The Gallup poll has estimated that 61 million adult Americans would be willing to contribute 245 million man-hours every week to voluntary activities. There isn't a social problem that hasn't been solved sometime and somewhere in America. American volunteers have tutored dropouts, trained the unskilled, counseled juveniles, taught illiterates and found jobs for the unemployed. In establishing the National Program for Voluntary Action, the President has provided a new way to tap and direct the talents of the public spirited citizen.

There is work in this country -- great work for every individual. Because our potential is so great and our problems are so many, we cannot help but be impatient with unproductive idle protest.

The mob, the Mobilization, the Moratorium have become somewhat fashionable forms of citizen expression. But each suffers from the same flaws that prompted the founding of the National Municipal League. They are negative in content; disruptive in effect. They inflame emotions rather than stimulate solutions. Protest is every citizen's right, but that does not ensure that every protest is right. It simply protects every citizen's lawful protest, be it right or wrong.

Ultimately, the popularity of mass street demonstrations will wane just as we saw mass violence wane over the past year. And for the same reason -- they are pointless. Turning out a few hundred thousand people in a nation of two hundred million proves nothing in the way of a public mandate. We can speed the demise of carnival in the streets by withholding our sympathy. We can blunt its adverse impact by seizing the initiative.

The body politic of America is not able to survive on adrenalin any better than apathy. We are a mature nation, which means that we should be able to navigate a moderate course without being trapped on the shoals of mediocrity.

This is the challenge of the decade ahead. It is very much your challenge. Now, as never before, we have the opportunity to turn the power of America to great humanitarian purposes. I believe that this nation has a moral obligation to prove the virtues of a free system and meet the exacting standards of free citizenship. If this is patriotism, it is also a spirit of positive action. It is a mandate for involvement and a means of restoring a sense of community to our people.

Unless we are united in spirit and dedicated to our system, we will languish and eventually backslide. It is our freedom that makes us respected throughout the world -- not our wealth; and it is our regard for the freedom of others which makes us invincible -- not our military strength.

Because the intolerant clamor and cacophony rage about us, let us not be afraid to raise our voices in spirited defense of the most successful society the world has yet known. In this time of danger, it is an alarm we sound -- an alarm that must be audible to be heeded. I, for one, will not lower my voice until the restoration of sanity, and civil order allow a quiet voice to be heard once again.

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April 9th 1968

Editor
STATE LEGISLATURES PROGRESS REPORTER
National Municipal League
47 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a statement of our official consensus on the two year's study of the Texas Legislature. This statement is a result of consensus reports from the individual local Leagues throughout Texas and was approved by the Board of Directors before the Eleventh Biennial Convention in San Antonio March 26 to 28.

In the February 1968 issues of the State Legislatures Progress Reporter a state consensus was mentioned on Page 2, column 3. The consensus reported there was apparently taken from a local newsletter and is only the consensus of a local League.

We have appreciated the cooperation of the National Municipal League in supplying the REPORTER during our study and have used its timely information in our study and research. Since the Texas League adopted the Study of The Texas Legislature for another two years, we hope to continue to use it.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth
Chairman, Legislature Study Item

c.c. State Office, Mrs. H. L. Martin, First Vice Pres., LWV Texas

League of Women Voters of Texas



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

MRS. WILLIAM E. JOOR, President

September 8, 1967

National Municipal League
47 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021

Attention: Margaret Mansfield

Dear Mrs. Mansfield:

Again we are writing you to ask you for favors - a usual occurrence in our Study of the Texas Legislature. We deeply appreciate your sending 40 copies of the STATE LEGISLATURES PROGRESS REPORTER for us to distribute to our Local League Legislature Chairmen. We note your name in connection with this mailing so assume you are the individual who expedited this mailing.

One of my present problems is the lack of complete file of this publication. We use this publications so frequently in our research in writing our series of publications on The Texas Legislature that I was hoping to obtain one copy of all of them. I am missing in Volume 1, numbers 1 through 7. ~~and also number 9. In Volume 2 I am missing number 6.~~

My second question is how individuals get on the mailing list for this publication. I would like to have this exact information for the LEADERS GUIDE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY that we are soon to print for this study. Another NML member here in Victoria Mrs. Ray Duke, has always received it. Although I am the same kind of member, I have not received it through my NML membership. If individual members of Local Leagues wish to be put on the mailing list, is this possible without becoming NML members? Many of our communities have poor library facilities and resource committees are unable to depend of this method of reading the REPORTER. If there is a charge of a subscription to the PROGRESS REPORTER, please include this information. Thank you.

Enclosed is a copy of our first publication in our series so that you might see what we are doing.



Alfred Willoughby, Executive Director
W. N. Cassella, Jr., Assistant Director
Gerald N. Hardy, Director of Field Services
Oliver Pilat, Director of Information
William J. D. Boyd, Senior Associate
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A Citizens' Organization for Better Government
Founded 1894 Incorporated 1923

National Municipal League

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47 East 68th Street • New York, N. Y. 10021
Telephone: (212) 535-5700

MAY 24 1968

May 22, 1968

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth, Chairman
Legislature Study Item
League of Women Voters of Texas
1841 Bingle Road
Houston, Texas 77055

Dear Mrs. Duckworth:

I have relayed a copy of your letter of May 10 to Dr Solomon to find out whether he has reprints of his article to spare. If he does not, we might try reproducing it here on some equipment which gives a legible but not entirely professional result.

Sincerely,

Alfred Willoughby
Alfred Willoughby
Executive Director

AW/F

Plan to attend the 74th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT
Fontainebleau Motor Hotel • New Orleans • December 1-4, 1968

May 10, 1968

Mr. Alfred Willoughby
Executive Director
National Municipal League
47 East 68th Street
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Mr. Willoughby:

The article by Samuel R. Solomon in the February 1968 National Civic Review is full of so many thought-provoking ideas concerning legislative reform that we feel it would be advantageous for each of our 36 local Leagues to have a copy. Since I note that it was a speech given by Dr. Solomon at the League's 73rd Conference, I thought perhaps you would have extra copies.

The title of the article is "Master of the House". Could you let us know if extra copies are available and, if so, how much they would be?

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth, Chairman
Legislature Study Item

®

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APR 15 1968

April 12, 1968

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth, Chairman
Legislature Study Item
League of Women Voters of Texas
1841 Bingle Road
Houston, Texas 77055

Dear Mrs. Duckworth:

Thanks very much for yours of April 9. In reporting the state consensus we will correct our error in the February issue of State Legislatures Progress Reporter.

We are happy that you are finding the Reporter useful.

Sincerely,

AW/F

Alfred Willoughby
Alfred Willoughby
Executive Director

cc: State Office, Mrs. H. L. Martin

Plan to attend the 74th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT
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September 13, 1967

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth, Chairman
Legislative Study
League of Women Voters of Texas
2104 Loma Vista
Victoria, Texas 77901

Dear Mrs. Duckworth:

Thank you for your letter of September 8 and the copy of the first issue of "The Texas Legislature." It certainly is a concise, informative publication.

We have a supply of all past issues of the State Legislatures Progress Reporter, with the exception of Volume I, Number 9, June-July 1966, which is permanently out of print. Under separate cover I am forwarding five sets to you, and will be happy to send more if you have need of them.

Publication of the "Reporter" was begun in October 1965 as part of our five-year state legislatures project. There is no charge for it; it is available on request. It has been circulated to mass media, legislative leaders, state Leagues of Women Voters and other civic organizations, and selected libraries and political scientists. In addition, it is sent to any individual or group requesting it. Therefore a letter from you, giving the names and addresses of your individual committee members, or a letter from the members themselves, would suffice.

I am assuming that these women will be in addition to the bulk mailing of forty copies which you now receive. If not, please let me know and I will change my records.

I have checked our membership files, which are handled in another department here, and I have been unable to determine exactly why she ^{Mrs. Duke} is automatically mailed the State Legislatures Progress Reporter and you are not. It may be that your addressograph plate does not specifically indicate "League of Women Voters." The envelope in which your NATIONAL CIVIC REVIEW arrives will tell you.

In case you haven't seen it before, I am enclosing copies of our publications list. Study groups of Leagues of Women Voters are entitled to an educational discount of fifty per cent on orders of five copies or more of any of our materials.

Yours very truly, *A Margaret Mansfield*

Plan to attend the 73rd NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT

The Pfister Hotel • Milwaukee • November 12-15, 1967

September 8, 1967

National Municipal League
47 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021

Attention: Margaret Mansfield

Dear Mrs. Mansfield:

Again we are writing you to ask you for favors - a usual occurrence in our Study of the Texas Legislature. We deeply appreciate your sending 40 copies of the STATE LEGISLATURES PROGRESS REPORTER for us to distribute to our Local League Legislature Chairmen. We note your name in connection with this mailing so assume you are the individual who expedites this mailing.

One of my present problems is the lack of complete file of this publication. We use this publications so frequently in our research in writing our series of publications on The Texas Legislature that I was hoping to obtain one copy of all of them. I am missing in Volume 1, numbers 1 through 7. ~~and also number 8. In Volume 2 I am missing number 8.~~

My second question is how individuals get on the mailing list for this publication. I would like to have this exact information for the LEADERS GUIDE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY that we are soon to print for this study. Another NML member here in Victoria Mrs. Ray Duke, has always received it. Although I am the same kind of member, I have not received it through my NML membership. If individual members of Local Leagues wish to be put on the mailing list, is this possible without becoming NML members? Many of our communities have poor library facilities and resource committees are unable to depend of this method of reading the REPORTER. If there is a charge of a subscription to the PROGRESS REPORTER, please include this information. Thank you.

Enclosed is a copy of our first publication in our series so that you might see what we are doing.

®

MEMORANDUM FROM:

League of Women Voters of Texas

1841 BINGLE ROAD • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055

TO: State Office c.c. Martin
From: Duckworth

April 8, 1968

The bulk mailing of 40 copies of the STATE LEGISLATURES PROGRESS REPORTER will arrive in SO around the 7th or 8th of each month that it is published. It can be included in the next mailing to local League Presidents. There is no special rush in getting it out. It is a valuable tool for Legislature Chairmen and saves us from having to compile the information.

I am sending you the April issue since I do not have an up-to-date list of local Presidents. I have been sending it directly to the Legislature Chairman, but these have all changed now and future chairmen will not be as easily defined as this item may be lumped under a board person doing other jobs, too.

There will always be several copies left over from the mailing to local Leagues. These can be saved to answer requests that Leagues might have for more than one ~~issue~~ copy of an issue. I know you have vast amounts of shelf space that is empty and it must be filled with something!

October 5, 1967

Margaret Mansfield
National Municipal League
47 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mrs. Mansfield:

Thank you for your letter of September 13 and for the back copies of the State Legislatures Progress Reporter.

In connection with the Study of the Texas Legislature about which I previously wrote you, we are preparing a Kit of study materials for the use of our leaders of this study in the Local Leagues. In this connection there are several things which the NML has published which we would like to include. Again I am not sure you are the correct person to answer all of these requests, but I am sure you can direct my request to the proper person or persons. We plan to make up 100 kits.

1. Do you have this number of copies of the January 1967 State Legislatures Progress Reporter which you could supply us? Or if you do not could we have permission to reproduce by a copying process such as Xerox the article by Arthur Y. Lloyd on "Pre-Session Conferences"?
2. We would like permission to reproduce, by the same method mentioned above, the Legislature Article from the MODEL STATE CONSTITUTION. This we could do by copying Appendix A of the Research Report on "State Constitutional Provisions Affecting Legislature" by the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures, May 1967. This appears on Pages 46 and 47 of that publication. Although most of our Local Leagues have at least one copy of the MODEL STATE CONSTITUTION, we wish to have wider availability of this particular portion of it for our Legislature Study.
3. We wish to quote from the June-July State Legislatures Progress Reporter in the third in our series of Facts and Issues. In two instances from your article on the EED report and in one instance "Reforming Our Legislatures" by Jesse M. Unruh. We understand that proper credit will be given in the footnotes.

Again may we express our appreciation for the fine cooperation we have always received from your organization.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth

Chairman, Legislature Study

Alfred Willoughby, Executive Director
W. N. Cassella, Jr., Assistant Director
Gerald N. Hardy, Director of Field Services
William J. D. Boyd, Senior Associate
Frank P. Grad, Counsel

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Telephone: (212) 535-5700

May 10, 1967

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth
Chairman, Legislative Study
League of Women Voters of Texas
2104 Loma Vista
Victoria, Texas 77901

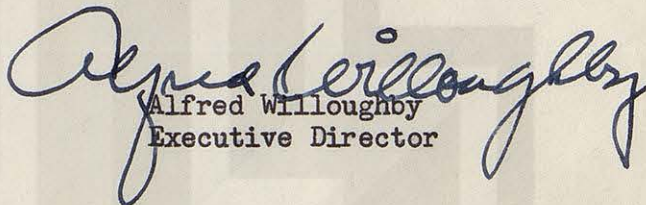
Dear Mrs. Duckworth:

We are very happy to put you on the list to receive forty copies of each issue of State Legislatures Progress Reporter for distribution to members of your state committee and your locals. A supply of the May issue is being sent separately.

We also will see that you get a copy at your home.

The Regional Assembly at Texas A. & M. is scheduled for October 25-28. Frank W. R. Hubert, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, is the director of this regional assembly, and I am confident he will be glad to hear from you and to supply any additional information you may wish to have.

Sincerely,


Alfred Willoughby
Executive Director

AW:
mem

copy to so martin Brownson

Plan to attend the 73rd NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT

The Pfister Hotel • Milwaukee • November 12-15, 1967

File

May 6, 1967

National Municipal League
47 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Sirs:

As you know, the Texas LWV is in its second year of study of "the evaluation of the organization and functioning of the Texas Legislature". During this second year we are comparing the Texas Legislature with those in other states and we have found the STATE LEGISLATURES PROGRESS REPORTER invaluable. We would like to be sure that each local league, as well as the members of the state committee have a copy of this publication. Could you send a bulk shipment to me and I will distribute them to the committee and local chairman? *40 copies*

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth
2104 Loma Vista
Victoria, Texas 77901

Although I have been a member of the NML for several years, I was not aware of the PROGRESS REPORTER until I was appointed to the State Board.

In the October 1966 issue of STATE LEGISLATURES PROGRESS REPORTER I note that a state Assembly is scheduled for Texas A & M in Spring 1967. Could you tell me the exact dates of that meeting or where I might obtain that information?

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. F. L. Duckworth
Chairman, Legislature Study

c.c. LWV State Office, Mrs. H. C. Martin, SEcond Vice President

asked them to reply to me

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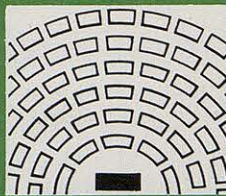
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STATE LEGISLATURES PROGRESS REPORTER

National Municipal League • 47 East 68th Street • New York, N.Y. 10021

MARCH, 1968

Volume 3, Number 6

One Stronger Than Two

A unicameral legislature is preferable to a bicameral one, Larry Margolis, executive director of the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures, told a meeting of the Citizens League of Minneapolis. The "strains and tensions" between two houses weaken a legislature in relation to the executive and judicial branches, he said.

Women Propose New Constitution

After four years of activity by members of the American Association of University Women, five nonpartisan organizations are sponsoring an initiative for a constitutional convention in the state of Washington.

The women have a model constitution ready which they drafted during spring and fall sessions of a mock convention in 1967 after a conference in 1966 sponsored by the AAUW and the Bureau of Governmental Research and Services, University of Washington.

Among other things the model calls for a unicameral legislature of 85 members. The present legislature has 148 members—99 in the House and 49 in the Senate.

"Check and balance is valuable between branches of government but not within, where it has tended to defeat the effectiveness of the legislative process," the AAUW argues in explanatory matter accompanying its proposed constitution.

"Unicameralism eliminates deadlocks resulting from rivalry between the two houses, and the unsatisfactory last-minute conference committees. It increases the responsibility, visibility

(Continued on page 2)

Updated Constitutions, Bold State Action to Solve City Problems

Cat Escapes Bag

Rep. Susie Monroe collected \$858 in mileage payments on top of her \$12,000 salary although she remained home in Philadelphia, because of illness, throughout the 1967 session of the Pennsylvania legislature in Harrisburg. She called attention to this, according to the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters newsletter, by complaining about a vote cast in her name in late December for raising the sales tax from five to six percent.

Other absentee legislators were voted and other payments made for imaginary trips to Harrisburg, the League charged. Weekly mileage payments, it said, averaged \$5,600 in the House and \$1,400 in the Senate.

Pay Raise Puts Pennsylvania Law Makers in Fourth Place

Pennsylvania legislators receive a total of \$12,000 a year—\$7,200 salary plus \$4,800 expense allowance—under a new scale effective with the Jan. 2 start of the 1968 session.

This scale places Pennsylvania fourth among the states, behind New York (\$18,000), California (\$16,000) and Michigan (\$15,000), according to the Jan. 23 legislative newsletter of the state League of Women Voters.

Four assistant floor leaders now receive an extra \$4,000, four caucus chairmen an extra \$3,500 and four caucus secretaries an extra \$2,500. The House speaker and the Senate president, previously the only two officers receiving additional compensation, now get a total \$22,500 each, \$1,500 more than before.

State legislative action and constitutional change are required to prevent continued deterioration of urban life, according to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

Some big cities are seething with racial and class unrest, some are on the brink of bankruptcy, some seem almost ungovernable, the commission declared in its ninth annual report issued Jan. 31.

Despite persistent calls for more federal help, "a considerable portion of the infra-structure of metropolitan problems is soluble only by state action," the report noted. To a large extent, it said, the social, political and economic fate of central cities must be dealt with in state constitutions or statutes.

The states should be particularly concerned, according to the report, with:

Restrictions on the debt-carrying and taxing capacities of local governments.

Standards for zoning.

Rules for annexing unincorporated areas.

The adoption and enforcement of building and housing codes.

Incorporation of small suburban communities.

The relative dependence or independence of local governments in metropolitan regions.

In state constitutional revision, ACIR found New York the greatest disappointment in 1967. "Dogged at the outset by partisan bickering and presented at the end with a 'take it or

(Continued on page 2)

For A Smaller House

By GERALD A. KAUFMAN

Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives, with 203 members, is the fourth largest House in the nation. Its size makes it virtually impossible for the legislature to achieve a position of power and prestige equal to the executive branch. There are two reasons why this is so:

1. Few of the members have important legislative assignments. The rest are merely digits in a block of votes.

2. It is difficult, if not impossible, to provide members with adequate pay, staff and facilities to make them effective because of the excessive costs that would be involved.

With only 80 members in the California House, each representative is an important part of the legislative process. He can serve on an important committee, have adequate office space and secretarial help to aid him in research and service to constituents. Above all, the member of a small House can be given an adequate salary which will enable him to serve as a full-time legislator.

It is impossible to involve deeply 203 members in the legislative process. Therefore, for most members, their only legislative function is to push their electronic roll call switch, often after a short explanation in caucus as their only information on a bill. Since most legislation is of a non-controversial nature, it is just as easy for a neighbor to push your switch as it is for you. This accounts for the disgracefully large amount of absentee voting that occurs in Pennsylvania.

With a smaller House, more members could be given meaningful legislative assignments and more reason for attending sessions.

The Pennsylvania House has 33 separate standing committees, among them such stalwarts as the committee on railroads, committee on recreation and tourism, and the committee on military affairs. Seemingly, the primary reason for so many committees is to guarantee that every member will have committee assignments.

How effective are these committees? One of the committees on which I serve—the Industrial Development Committee—spent a total of 40 minutes in session during 1967. During this time, several other committees did not meet at all!

Ideally, there should be no more than 10 committees, each with broad jurisdiction, as recommended by the Illinois Commission on the Organization of the General Assembly. Each committee should have minority and majority staff. With 203 members, such streamlining is almost impossible.

Under present conditions, a House committee can seldom probe a bill in depth. It rarely looks into its assigned area of responsibility or acts as a drafter of legislation.

(Continued)

Bold State Action Urged by ACIR

(Continued from page 1)

leave it' package of very controversial proposals, the new constitution went down to resounding defeat at the polls," the report said.

"On a lesser scale and despite three years of labor, the initial draft of the proposed Rhode Island constitution was referred back to the constitutional convention for revision since it faced near certain defeat at the polls. A vote now has been scheduled for April.

"On the more hopeful side, several states adopted individual constitutional amendments which called for general constitutional revision or adopted piecemeal revisions of their constitutions. At the end of 1967, 22 states were engaged in either overall or limited constitutional revision activity."

Despite some improvement, the states are not focusing sufficiently on urban government, the report declared.

"At year's end in 1966 only eight states were assisting financially in the construction of local sewage treatment plants. At year's end in 1967, 20 states were rendering such financial assistance.

"State governments were showing willingness to issue bonds and to raise taxes to begin to fulfill one of the long-neglected functional responsibilities of state government," the report added. "In other fields as well the number of states participating in a meaningful financial way in areas previously dominated by federal-local relationships was encouraging.

"Eight states were giving financial assistance to urban mass transportation, and 11 states were giving similar assistance in the field of urban renewal."

William G. Colman, staff director of the commission, said in a newspaper interview at the time the report was issued that state legislative leadership to deal with urban problems should come from the suburbs, which have gained representation as a result of reapportionment.

Women Spark Move for New Constitution

(Continued from page 1)

and prestige of legislators.

"Since both chambers now represent the same electorate, there is no longer any need for two houses representing different groups. Nebraska's unicameral system has demonstrated remarkable efficiency, free from deadlocks, logjams and the recurrent crises that plague most state legislatures; and the public is well served through careful deliberation, well publicized public hearings, and ample floor debate.

"The two-house system is unique and unnecessary; no business would tolerate 'separate but equal' boards of directors, and every other organ of state government uses the single legislative body (counties, cities, school districts, etc.)"

Mrs. Dorothy D. Button is AAUW state president and Mrs. William Lowry is chairman of the constitution study committee which sparked the four-year drive. The AAUW pamphlet, whose purpose is to educate the public on constitutional issues, summarizes arguments for keeping two houses and notes that the unicameral recommendation was approved at the final session of its mock convention in 1967 by a relatively close 47-41 vote.

Though the mock convention decided 85 members would be sufficient in a unicameral legislature, the delegates put "from 85 to 99 members"

Commission Proposed to Improve Legislature

The general assembly of Pennsylvania will be asked, when it returns in March from a seven-week recess, to name a 12-member commission to modernize the legislature. The commission would report by July 1.

Five Republican leaders in the House are sponsors of the plan. They exclude legislators as possible members of the commission. The Senate president, Senate minority leader and House speaker would each name four members of the commission.

House Minority Leader Herbert Fineman twitted the sponsors for releasing the plan to the press without

in the charter itself, to provide later expansion if necessary.

One section in the model would make the legislature a continuous body during the term for which its members are elected. "It was not the intent that legislators remain in Olympia or in session," explains the pamphlet. "Preparation for legislative session could be done anywhere in the state, hearings could be held anywhere in the state and, as a nudge away from Olympia, one section provides for expenses but not per diem allowances during legislative sessions."

At the present time the Washington legislature meets for 60 days at the start of every other year.

To increase legislative visibility the model provides that votes be recorded and made immediately in a journal, that each committee report out all bills assigned within a reasonable length of time, that the voting of committee members be available for public inspection and the time and agenda of committee meetings be posted well in advance of hearings.

Other aspects of the model constitution: a salary for legislators at least half that of the governor plus allowances, recognition of and added compensation for key legislative officers, off-year election and four-year terms.

consulting him or any other Democratic leader but said he would "wholeheartedly support" the reform effort.

In addition to any general studies deemed advisable, the commission would be asked to recommend more efficient use of manpower, equipment, facilities and appropriations, and similar changes in the legislative service agencies.

How to Get a Good Staff

Better pay and treatment for the staff would strengthen the Oregon legislature, Cecil Edwards, a veteran legislative staff member, told a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Oregon Legislature.

Growing Workload Forcing Increase in Annual Sessions

A growing trend toward holding state legislative sessions annually is discerned by Robert E. Hauberg, Jr., in an article in *Public Administration Survey*, a publication of the School of Business and Government at the University of Mississippi.

Prior to World War II, only four states—New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and South Carolina—held annual sessions, he wrote, but now 17 additional states—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and West Virginia—hold annual sessions and several others are moving in that direction.

"The trend reflects the need for more time to deal with the expansion of legislative business," Hauberg writes. "In 1964-65 one half of the state legislatures spent over 100 work-

ing days in session, both regular and special. The press of legislative business has been such that in the decade 1956-1965 only six states—Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Montana, Oklahoma and South Dakota—did not have special sessions called, and all six except Montana have now provided for annual sessions.

"In seven states—Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin—the need for special sessions has been obviated by the practice of alternating sittings and recesses without sine die adjournment."

Hauberg, who served as a visiting assistant professor of political science at the University of Mississippi in 1967, concluded that the legislature in Mississippi, as in other states sticking to biennial sessions, would be strengthened by the passage of a constitutional change to annual sessions.

Ohio Women Watching Trial of Annual Sessions

The Ohio chapters of the League of Women Voters are under instructions to decide whether it is better to move into annual legislative sessions by direct or indirect means.

In January the Ohio legislature reconvened in regular session. This is the first time in 75 years it has done so in the second half of a biennium. Reconvening was made possible by the parliamentary device of adjourning to a specified date instead of sine die.

Since the constitution has not been revised to provide annual sessions, Mrs. James L. Briers, League legislative chairman, points out in a state board report, "This will give Leagues a chance to judge, but let's not depend on the experience of just one session."

Would Liberalize Introductions

A proposal to permit the introduction of bills between sessions has been made by Jerry Tippens, chairman of an advisory subcommittee on the Oregon legislature. Holdover senators could introduce bills at any time and new members as soon as they were elected.

Three Committees Replace Seven

The New York State Assembly has voted unanimously to abolish seven committees and create three new ones. Abolished were the committees on Charitable and Religious Societies, Civil Service, Local Finance, Military Affairs, Mortgage and Real Estate, Pensions, and Social Welfare and Relief.

The newly created committees are those on the Constitution, Public Employees, and Social Services. The new committee on Public Employees has the same jurisdiction as the old committees on Civil Service, Pensions, and Military Affairs. The new committee on Social Service has the same jurisdiction as the old committees on Social Welfare and Relief, and Charitable and Religious Societies.

Utah Group Reactivated

The Utah Legislative Council decided in January to reactivate a legislative study committee headed by Neal A. Maxwell, executive vice-president of the University of Utah, to drum up support for constitutional amendments to provide for annual legislative sessions and increased pay for lawmakers.

5-Man Body Asked to Do Re-districting

A five-member commission to handle legislative reapportionment after each federal census would be set up under a proposal to the current Pennsylvania constitutional convention.

The four partisan members — the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate — would select a neutral fifth member, who may not be a paid city, state or federal official, to serve as chairman.

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Two imaginative and far-ranging bills in the field of mental health were introduced in the Pennsylvania House last year. They were completely drafted by the A.F.L.-C.I.O. This may be a tribute to the A.F.L.-C.I.O., but it is a sad commentary on our legislative process. Without adequate staff, however, committees cannot offer creative solutions to Pennsylvania's problems. With a 203 member House, we will never have that staff.

The present committee system works against the development of sound legislation and against the individual legislator. How can a committee member, for example, make an effective judgment on a bill which he saw five minutes ago for the first time? How can he prepare for a committee meeting with less than 24 hours notice and often with no notice of the bills to be discussed? Yet, this is what is happening almost daily in the Pennsylvania House.

Given adequate staff resources, a committee could do more than merely consider a bill. For example, instead of just weighing the merits of a bill relating to a small segment of mental health, committee members could develop a program geared to the whole mental health field.

I believe that a smaller, better staffed and better informed legislature would develop a sense of pride which would end its dependence on the executive branch, as is the case in Pennsylvania. Where the legislative and executive branches are controlled by the same party, as in Pennsylvania, the majority party seldom introduces major policy legislation other than that which is prepared by the executive branch. Certainly no important legislation is released from committee without the agreement of the governor's office.

Consider the position a Pennsylvania representative is in today. In the course of a year, a Pennsylvania representative is expected to handle hundreds of phone calls and letters, attend committee meetings, meet with members of the executive branch, and carefully evaluate each of the hundreds of bills on which he must vote.

His constituency sees him as a broker trading in auto licenses, state scholarships, jobs and the like. This, however, is really the proper function of an administrative assistant.

Upon his election, the state gives him a lapel pin but provides little or no secretarial help, office facilities or office equipment.

There is no research help whatsoever, and the best he can hope for is a college interne in the summer or a helpful wife who can do the necessary reading for which he has no time. He often finds his only source of information is a lobbyist who, of course, is not likely to paint an objective picture on any subject.

To top it all off, he is underpaid! Newspaper editorials to the contrary, I submit that cheaply-paid legislators are a bad bargain for the people.

In summary, state government today is ineffective and in danger of becoming obsolete and will continue to be so unless state legislatures are strengthened. The cold fact is that the best way to strengthen a legislature is by reducing its size.

What the Editors Are Saying

The Wisconsin Senate persists in its fascination with the nationwide campaign to force Congress to call a constitutional convention, the first since the founding fathers gathered in Philadelphia in 1787 . . . Wisconsin's vote is crucial because 32 states have approved some form of resolution calling for a convention — two shy of the required number. This number was attained largely by deceit; many resolutions slipped through without warning or serious debate. Such a sneak was foiled in Wisconsin last spring, but the resolution is still alive because the Senate last week refused, 17 to 16, to kill it.

— *The Milwaukee Journal*

* * *

A citizens committee has begun the task of trying to clear away some of the cobwebs that hamper the operation of the Idaho legislature. It was created by the lawmakers themselves in recognition that they should improve their operation — and cultivate a better public image. Many of the handicaps under which the legislature has operated are the production of tradition and not reason. The lawmakers, with too little time to handle the state's legislative business every two

years, haven't paid enough attention to internal weaknesses. Both new procedures and new attitudes are needed if the legislature is to be modernized and to take its place as an effective law-making body in a strengthened state government.

— *The Idaho Sunday Statesman*

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A few legislators, noticeably those on the ways and means and taxation committees, have been busy this session. The rest have little to do except wait for committee reports. And, as a group, they have no more to do than House members, who get along without full time secretaries.

— *Eugene (Ore.) Register-Guard*

* * *

At the age of 100, the North Carolina constitution is better suited for display as a piece of history than as the working basis for modern state government . . . It is time to consolidate the good features of the old constitution into a coherent document that will provide an effective framework for 20th century government.

— *The Charlotte Observer*

* * *

To overhaul the entire constitution may take several years. But a part of it—perhaps the part whose revision is most urgent—could be accomplished much quicker.

The 29-member committee which will study Indiana's constitution will spend a great deal of time focusing on the state legislature. A strong, modern legislature is necessary if Indiana is to function properly in the space age.

— *Station WOWO, Fort Wayne*

* * *

Senator Jack E. Bronston has accused Speaker Anthony J. Travia of appointing political cronies and "no-shows" to the staffs of legislative committees, at a cost of \$1.5 million a year. Such patronage is indefensible; the legislature owes it to itself to establish a permanent staff of professional civil service research workers.

— *New York Times*

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Under the principle of the division of powers in government, the legislature should be able at any meeting to take up any problem it deems important, regardless of whether the governor puts it in his call. — *Denver Post*

* * *

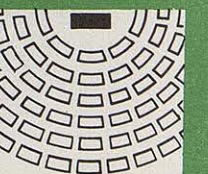
Why not reduce the Pennsylvania House to 100 members? This would halve the cost of the legislative body, would make it easier to know and to keep track of the activities of members and would make the House a more effective deliberative unit.

— *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

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MARCH, 1968

Bold State Action Urged by ACIR

(Continued from page 1)

leave it' package of very controversial proposals, the new constitution went down to resounding defeat at the polls," the report said.

"On a lesser scale and despite three years of labor, the initial draft of the proposed Rhode Island constitution was referred back to the constitutional convention for revision since it faced near certain defeat at the polls. A vote now has been scheduled for April.

"On the more hopeful side, several states adopted individual constitutional amendments which called for general constitutional revision or adopted piecemeal revisions of their constitutions. At the end of 1967, 22 states were engaged in either overall or limited constitutional revision activity."

Despite some improvement, the states are not focusing sufficiently on urban government, the report declared.

"At year's end in 1966 only eight states were assisting financially in the construction of local sewage treatment plants. At year's end in 1967, 20 states were rendering such financial assistance.

"State governments were showing willingness to issue bonds and to raise taxes to begin to fulfill one of the long-neglected functional responsibilities of state government," the report added. "In other fields as well the number of states participating in a meaningful financial way in areas previously dominated by federal-local relationships was encouraging.

"Eight states were giving financial assistance to urban mass transportation, and 11 states were giving similar assistance in the field of urban renewal."

William G. Colman, staff director of the commission, said in a newspaper interview at the time the report was issued that state legislative leadership to deal with urban problems should come from the suburbs, which have gained representation as a result of reapportionment.

Women Spark Move for New Constitution

(Continued from page 1)

and prestige of legislators.

"Since both chambers now represent the same electorate, there is no longer any need for two houses representing different groups. Nebraska's unicameral system has demonstrated remarkable efficiency, free from deadlocks, logjams and the recurrent crises that plague most state legislatures; and the public is well served through careful deliberation, well publicized public hearings, and ample floor debate.

"The two-house system is unique and unnecessary; no business would tolerate 'separate but equal' boards of directors, and every other organ of state government uses the single legislative body (counties, cities, school districts, etc.)"

Mrs. Dorothy D. Button is AAUW state president and Mrs. William Lowry is chairman of the constitution study committee which sparked the four-year drive. The AAUW pamphlet, whose purpose is to educate the public on constitutional issues, summarizes arguments for keeping two houses and notes that the unicameral recommendation was approved at the final session of its mock convention in 1967 by a relatively close 47-41 vote.

Though the mock convention decided 85 members would be sufficient in a unicameral legislature, the delegates put "from 85 to 99 members"

Commission Proposed to Improve Legislature

The general assembly of Pennsylvania will be asked, when it returns in March from a seven-week recess, to name a 12-member commission to modernize the legislature. The commission would report by July 1.

Five Republican leaders in the House are sponsors of the plan. They exclude legislators as possible members of the commission. The Senate president, Senate minority leader and House speaker would each name four members of the commission.

House Minority Leader Herbert Fineman twitted the sponsors for releasing the plan to the press without

in the charter itself, to provide later expansion if necessary.

One section in the model would make the legislature a continuous body during the term for which its members are elected. "It was not the intent that legislators remain in Olympia or in session," explains the pamphlet. "Preparation for legislative session could be done anywhere in the state, hearings could be held anywhere in the state and, as a nudge away from Olympia, one section provides for expenses but not per diem allowances during legislative sessions."

At the present time the Washington legislature meets for 60 days at the start of every other year.

To increase legislative visibility the model provides that votes be recorded and made immediately in a journal, that each committee report out all bills assigned within a reasonable length of time, that the voting of committee members be available for public inspection and the time and agenda of committee meetings be posted well in advance of hearings.

Other aspects of the model constitution: a salary for legislators at least half that of the governor plus allowances, recognition of and added compensation for key legislative officers, off-year election and four-year terms.

consulting him or any other Democratic leader but said he would "wholeheartedly support" the reform effort.

In addition to any general studies deemed advisable, the commission would be asked to recommend more efficient use of manpower, equipment, facilities and appropriations, and similar changes in the legislative service agencies.

How to Get a Good Staff

Better pay and treatment for the staff would strengthen the Oregon legislature, Cecil Edwards, a veteran legislative staff member, told a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Oregon Legislature.

Growing Workload Forcing Increase in Annual Sessions

A growing trend toward holding state legislative sessions annually is discerned by Robert E. Hauberg, Jr., in an article in *Public Administration Survey*, a publication of the School of Business and Government at the University of Mississippi.

Prior to World War II, only four states—New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and South Carolina—held annual sessions, he wrote, but now 17 additional states—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and West Virginia—hold annual sessions and several others are moving in that direction.

"The trend reflects the need for more time to deal with the expansion of legislative business," Hauberg writes. "In 1964-65 one half of the state legislatures spent over 100 work-

ing days in session, both regular and special. The press of legislative business has been such that in the decade 1956-1965 only six states—Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Montana, Oklahoma and South Dakota—did not have special sessions called, and all six except Montana have now provided for annual sessions.

"In seven states—Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin—the need for special sessions has been obviated by the practice of alternating sittings and recesses without sine die adjournment."

Hauberg, who served as a visiting assistant professor of political science at the University of Mississippi in 1967, concluded that the legislature in Mississippi, as in other states sticking to biennial sessions, would be strengthened by the passage of a constitutional change to annual sessions.

Ohio Women Watching Trial of Annual Sessions

The Ohio chapters of the League of Women Voters are under instructions to decide whether it is better to move into annual legislative sessions by direct or indirect means.

In January the Ohio legislature reconvened in regular session. This is the first time in 75 years it has done so in the second half of a biennium. Reconvening was made possible by the parliamentary device of adjourning to a specified date instead of sine die.

Since the constitution has not been revised to provide annual sessions, Mrs. James L. Briers, League legislative chairman, points out in a state board report, "This will give Leagues a chance to judge, but let's not depend on the experience of just one session."

Would Liberalize Introductions

A proposal to permit the introduction of bills between sessions has been made by Jerry Tippens, chairman of an advisory subcommittee on the Oregon legislature. Holdover senators could introduce bills at any time and new members as soon as they were elected.

Three Committees Replace Seven

The New York State Assembly has voted unanimously to abolish seven committees and create three new ones. Abolished were the committees on Charitable and Religious Societies, Civil Service, Local Finance, Military Affairs, Mortgage and Real Estate, Pensions, and Social Welfare and Relief.

The newly created committees are those on the Constitution, Public Employees, and Social Services. The new committee on Public Employees has the same jurisdiction as the old committees on Civil Service, Pensions, and Military Affairs. The new committee on Social Service has the same jurisdiction as the old committees on Social Welfare and Relief, and Charitable and Religious Societies.

Utah Group Reactivated

The Utah Legislative Council decided in January to reactivate a legislative study committee headed by Neal A. Maxwell, executive vice-president of the University of Utah, to drum up support for constitutional amendments to provide for annual legislative sessions and increased pay for lawmakers.

5-Man Body Asked to Do Re-districting

A five-member commission to handle legislative reapportionment after each federal census would be set up under a proposal to the current Pennsylvania constitutional convention.

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