

League of Women Voters of the U.S.

May 9, 1967

Budget Presentation to Council  
of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
Mrs. John F. Toomey - National Budget Chairman

Before explaining the proposed budget for 1967-'68 we hope you will be interested in hearing a little history about the "5 year plan" since this budget will be the last one under that plan.

Why was the plan adopted? How successful has it been? What are the tangible results? and with a bit of crystal ball gazing, what lies ahead for us?

Prior to the launching of the 5 year plan at the 1963 Council the National League financially had been slowly slipping backward. During the 10 years preceding that Council, National expenditures had grown overall only 2¢ per member, from \$1.80 to \$1.82 per member; this despite a rapid rise in living costs, and an increasing demand for National League services.

At the 1962 Minneapolis Convention delegates faced the fact with considerable shock that League pledge support of the national budget which had been increasing at the rate of about \$8200 annually, was not meeting even the basic needs of a growing organization. The delegates' 2 major concerns were staff salaries which increasingly were falling below competitive levels in the Washington area and the fact that the budget was only being balanced by heavy withdrawals from reserve. The delegates requested the National Board to make realistic provision in future budgets for national needs and to ask Leagues for considerably higher pledges in order to support the budget.

And so the 5 year plan was born and I guess we really took the delegates at their word because the plan called for an annual National pledge increase of \$35,000. AND, the wonderful fact is you have been able to almost meet this increase - the actual increase has averaged \$34,670 annually. The per member pledge figure has increased 87¢ in 4 years as opposed to the total of 2¢ for the preceding 10 years as I mentioned earlier. In actual figures the per member average pledge has gone from \$1.82 to \$2.69. This is a remarkable achievement.

To show you how Leagues have accomplished this and to reinforce your own knowledge that the League is a growing, vital organization let me give you a few statistics comparing 1962 with 1967. We have had annually almost a 3% gain in members, for a total increase of 14,262; the average dues figure has gone up \$1.42 from \$4.38 to \$5.80; member contributions averaged \$1.56 in 1962, today the average is \$1.85 an increase of 29¢ per member; 3% more of our members work on Finance Drives; we have added 21,178 contributors for a total this year of 85,149 non-member contributions and the average size of these gifts has increased \$1.96 from \$10.27 to \$12.23 today. This is a record that we can truly point to with pride.

Now, what has this financial growth made possible and what still needs doing?

First and foremost we have been able to increase total salaries by about 50% - an average of 12% a year or in dollars, in case some of you understand that better than percentages, we have gone from the 1962 total salary figure of \$172,175 to \$258,625. This figure, large as it may seem to you, is still letting us meet at last only the minimum salary level of comparable executive jobs in the Washington area. But at least we have gotten as high as the minimum - we were never even that high before!

Now this might be a slight digression but because of an increasing number of letters and remarks made during field trips, we think in the League there is a growing erroneous opinion about a volunteer organization becoming at the National level, topheavy with Staff. This simply is not true when we look at the record. In 1956-'57 we had 15 Executive Staff positions, 23 clerical - a total of 38; in 1961-'62, we had 16 Executive, 21 clerical, total 37, and this year 1966-'67 we have had 15 Executive (the same as 10 years ago) and 24 clerical (1 more than 10 years ago). There has been no increase in Staff positions in 10 years although we have many more members and many more Leagues, all of which has tremendously increased the need and the demand for more National service. We think that somehow we have managed to meet the demand. Also we have met our own original goal for total salary that we set 4 years ago, but, the U.S. economy has been outpacing that goal. In other words, here we have been running to just about stand still.

On a more optimistic note, we have made considerable advance in other areas. The National Voter, for instance now is printed on decent paper, has pictures and occasionally an extra 4 page insert.

Field Service has really expanded. Both the money in this item and the work being done has almost doubled. Only this past year, three regional conferences that reached 29 States were held, teams of National Board members met with the boards of 12 of our largest State Leagues, and innumerable individual visits to States varying in length from 1 to 5 days have been made. On top of this, the field service budget has made possible national organization of a State League in Hawaii and the almost ready for recognition of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the State Committee in Alaska.

Rent for our national office has gone up \$14,924. But remember, rents have been going sky-high every place, and if you never saw our former office no words of mine could describe it to you. It was drab, dark, crowded and hideous and had we stayed there our rent while maybe not quite as high would have been almost as much as we now pay for that beautiful office you saw last night.

Before we turn to the proposed budget for 1967-'68 I just want to remind you of the 2nd concern of the 1962 delegates - withdrawal from reserves. This has been a continuing concern every year since then. Yet despite this concern and the giant strides forward in pledges, in the past 4 years we have had to withdraw \$77,000 from Reserves to balance our budgets.

The answers to the 4th question I posed in the beginning - what lies before us? I think you could answer now as well as I can. We still face the fact of rising costs, rising salary scales and the need to at least stabilize our reserve fund.

Now for the proposed budget. Would you please turn to page 34 of Council Workbook I. Almost every item is a minor adjustment, slightly up or slightly down and in the opinion of the budget committee is a holding of the line budget. In other words, National Services would remain the same. There could be no expansion. There are only 2 major changes. One the total salary figure and 2) amount of withdrawal from reserve.

The salary increase of \$17,500 is a built in one. No increase in staff positions but just some annual salary increase to try to keep us from falling behind the minimum level again.

Regarding our proposal to withdraw \$11,550 from Reserve, we would have liked to propose no withdrawal at all, but at least this is the very smallest withdrawal that has been proposed in years and is a big step in the right direction.

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SUGGESTED STATE LEAGUE PLEDGES TO NATIONAL BUDGET - 1970-71 - Corrected  
 (Please destroy December 3 List)

<u>State</u>	<u>Pledged 1969-70</u>	<u>Suggested Pledges 1970-71</u>
Alabama	\$ 1,975.00	\$ 2,070.00
Alaska	275.00	290.00
Arizona	1,700.00	1,785.00
Arkansas	1,825.00	1,920.00
California	39,000.00	40,950.00
Colorado	5,500.00	5,775.00
Connecticut	18,900.00	19,845.00
Delaware	1,250.00	1,315.00
District of Columbia	4,200.00	4,410.00
Florida	9,000.00	9,450.00
Georgia	6,700.00	7,035.00
Hawaii	550.00	575.00
Idaho	900.00	945.00
Illinois	29,700.00	31,185.00
Indiana	9,650.00	10,130.00
Iowa	5,500.00	5,775.00
Kansas	4,000.00	4,200.00
Kentucky	3,100.00	3,255.00
Louisiana	2,750.00	2,885.00
Maine	2,000.00	2,100.00
Maryland	8,700.00	9,135.00
Massachusetts	36,150.00	37,960.00
Michigan	14,100.00	14,805.00
Minnesota	18,000.00	18,900.00
Mississippi	735.00	770.00
Missouri	9,600.00	10,080.00

(OVER)

<u>State</u>	<u>Pledged 1969-70</u>	<u>Suggested Pledges 1970-71</u>
Montana	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,155.00
Nebraska	1,550.00	1,630.00
Nevada	600.00	630.00
New Hampshire	3,650.00	3,835.00
New Jersey	27,050.00	28,405.00
New Mexico	1,800.00	1,890.00
New York	42,000.00	44,100.00
North Carolina	3,900.00	4,095.00
North Dakota	800.00	840.00
Ohio	27,600.00	28,980.00
Oklahoma	3,300.00	3,465.00
Oregon	6,400.00	6,720.00
Pennsylvania	17,975.00	18,875.00
Puerto Rico	550.00	580.00
Rhode Island	3,350.00	3,515.00
South Carolina	1,015.00	1,065.00
South Dakota	625.00	655.00
Tennessee	3,100.00	3,255.00
Texas	13,400.00	14,070.00
Utah	1,000.00	1,050.00
Vermont	1,625.00	1,705.00
Virginia	6,550.00	6,875.00
Virgin Islands:		
St. Croix (Provisional)	300.00	500.00
St. Thomas-St. John (Provisional)	300.00	600.00
Washington	6,600.00	6,930.00
West Virginia	1,200.00	1,260.00
Wisconsin	10,400.00	10,920.00
Wyoming	675.00	705.00
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