



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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*As Others See Us...*

## AS OTHERS SEE US ...

"The New Jersey League of Women Voters is an organization to which the electorate is annually indebted."

*Newark, N.J. Sunday News.*

"I should not say goodbye to my official life without a word of appreciation to the Scarsdale Branch of the League of Women Voters... It is a healthy thing for Scarsdale that you women regard the work of your Village Board as important."

*A village trustee in Scarsdale, N.Y.*

"I think the League does an especially fine job."

*Mary Margaret McBride.*

"The League has become the most active and far-and-away the most effective single organization in the field of voter education."

*Boston, Mass. Herald.*

"Once again they -- and their menfolk, too -- are blessed by the existence of the League of Women Voters. This nonpartisan organization, with its splendid record of stimulating interest, clarifying issues, and encouraging independent thinking, is paradoxically yet logically emphasizing the importance of participation in party activities, especially in political primaries."

*Christian Science Monitor.*

"It seems to us at NBC that the candidates' appearance at your Convention in Cincinnati, and the many local forums which preceded were a remarkable public service and genuine contribution to good citizenship, and I write now to congratulate you and the League of Women Voters on an outstanding success. I can assure you that we are proud to have had a part in it."

*Joseph H. McConnell, President,  
National Broadcasting Company.*



"... with this group of women rests much of the progress the nation will make in coming years.

"The League of Women Voters represents in the various communities of the state some of the soundest and most advanced thinking in regard to governmental betterment."

*Manhattan, Kan., Mercury-Chronicle.*

"The League of Women Voters is doing a real service to the country in this unique enterprise. It is well planned to do two essential things -- to find out by the town meeting formula what people think the issues are, and then to confront the candidates with those issues and elicit their views on the issues. A more constructive contribution to the presidential campaign would be hard to imagine."

*Cincinnati, Ohio, Enquirer*

"I was impressed, as I have often been before, by the intelligence, good judgement, and common sense displayed. The League, strictly non-partisan, is a strong influence for good government."

*Hiller C. Wellman, President,  
Adult Education Council,  
Springfield, Mass.*

"The efforts of the League of Women Voters with activities unfailingly exerted in the interest of improved legislation, will prove helpful to the citizens generally."

*Shreveport, La. Journal.*

"The consistency of the League in the selection of the subjects for these annual sessions is in itself a manifestation of responsible judgment and a contribution to the good health of the philosophy of democratic government."

*Washington, D.C. Star.*

"... we think this group of civic-minded women deserve a vote of thanks for the fine job they are doing for their community and country."

*Columbia Basin News, Pasco, Wash.*

"I wish it (Individual Liberty, USA) could be in the hands of every high school student in the country! It is a magnificent piece of communication..."

*Stuart Chase*

"... the people of this state owe a debt to the League for its intelligent and untiring efforts in behalf of the Home Rule Amendment and in its follow-up program to translate the amendment into action."

*Providence, R.I. Journal*

"... has shown me the magnificent compilation of election data in the forty eight states which you made for us."

*Earl Bunting, Managing Director,  
National Association of Manufacturers.*

"I wish to commend you and the other ladies of the League for the fine effort you are making to acquaint the women of America with the full facts behind current issues of public interest."

*Senator Tom Connally.*

"The League of Women Voters, one of the soundest organizations in the United States, has provided a pattern of political campaigning which, if adopted, could prove a valuable asset to the nation."

*The Butte Daily Post, Butte, Mont.*

"... I have acquired the liveliest admiration for your organization as representing the highest ideals of American citizenship. It combines good sense with idealism, and discussion with study, in a manner that is, so far as I know, not paralleled by any other civic organization in the U.S."

*Ralph Barton Perry.*



"The League of Women Voters should be commended for its interest in and contribution to state government. The factfinding work done by the League on various problems of government is of service not only in keeping its members informed, but also in stimulating other citizens' interest in government."

*Walter J. Kohler, Jr., Governor of Wisconsin.*

"A little group of League of Women Voters can do more to improve the world than a group of cabinet ministers in Europe."

*John Nuveen, Chicago Investment Banker, Chief ECA Mission to Greece.*

"Women in politics -- the sort of women who are attracted by an organization like the League of Women Voters -- can fill an aching void in Springfield's political system."

*Springfield, Mo. Leader and Daily News.*

"No other organization in Dallas County this year is working harder than the League of Women Voters to arouse constructive public interest in politics and to instruct the citizenry in political method."

*Dallas, Texas Times Herald.*

"The active interest of the League of Women Voters in South Carolina is one of the most wholesome political developments and its influence will be felt throughout the state in years to come."

*Spartanburg, S.C. Herald-Journal.*

"... we in Huntington can be glad we have an active League of Women Voters. We can be glad we have a League that not only watches but helps to provide us with good government."

*Huntington, N.Y. Long Islander.*

"Rapidly developing interest of women in the governmental affairs of Florida is evidenced by a recent publication of the League of Women Voters whose

"Probably no other organization that has been founded in this city in recent years has served the community so valuably as has the Anniston League of Women Voters."

*Anniston, Ala. Star.*

"... it is characteristic of the excellent projects which the League always undertakes and I sincerely hope that the effort will be as successful as many of yours have been in the past."

*Louis J. Burns, Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report.*

"The League of Women Voters is to be commended for this public service project, and Santa Barbarans should welcome the opportunity the League has provided."

*Santa Barbara, Calif. News Press*

Florida membership is steadily increasing to a point of significant magnitude compared to the mighty influence wielded by their League sisters in other states."

*Orlando, Fla. Sentinel.*

"The adage that when a woman gets her head set on something, nothing can change it, hardly holds truer than with the little band of League of Women Voters here."

"In every election, no matter how small, the group has its head set on but one thing -- to give the voting public plenty of facts."

*Galveston, Texas News.*

"With clearly-defined aims of stimulating both awareness and interest on the part of citizens in regard to their government, the Reno League of Women Voters is contributing materially to the public welfare."

*Nevada State News, Reno, Nevada.*

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# A M A T E U R S W I T H P O L I T I C A L P O W E R

They have learned the anatomy of government, and the effect  
of their knowledge is felt in town halls and legislatures

BY MARY JEAN KEMPNER

**S**HE is one of a group of 83,000 Americans whose slogan is "Let the people know, make the people care, help the people act." She is somewhere in her thirties. Probably she's married and the mother of a pair of small children. If she has a good part-time maid, she considers herself lucky. Her leisure is limited but she agrees with the sociologist who said, "The greatest resource America has is the leisure time of its women." So she has found a useful

She did all this and yet she is neither automaton nor accredited student of political science. She and her colleagues work out of 630 local branches in 35 states. Most of the branches consist of units of 50 to 200 members and are in towns of 5,000 to 50,000. About 60 branches have fewer than 25 members and are in towns of fewer than 5,000 people. In its twenty-eight years, name-callers have tagged the organization with many hastily applied and unsubstantiated epithets.



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# What They're Saying About The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HERALD  
N.Y. TRIBUNE  
December 26, 1949

## To Encourage Voters

Every election under New York's antiquated system requiring annual registration of most of its voters spurs fresh efforts to replace it with a sound plan of permanent registration. So far, despite loud groans about the eligible who do not vote, political opposition has managed to keep us saddled with a system that discourages voting. The weight of experience elsewhere in favor of permanent registration affected the opposition not at all. The efforts of outstanding civic organizations, the League of Women Voters, the Citizens Union, write an ever better bill leaves them moved. The handy argument of district leaders is that permanent registration is not "do" in a city as big as New York; it will multiply irregularities. Experience in other cities—Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati—is that irregularities can be far better checked by year-around vigilance than by annual or even periodic registration.

In the state's rural areas, where permanent registration is now allowed, there are virtually no checks. A League of Women Voters survey showed innumerable irregularities—voters on the lists who had moved or who had died five to fourteen years ago. (No wonder Republicans were disappointed at the upstate showing of permanent registration, such as is written into the laws.) A proper system of permanent registration, such as is written into the laws that State Senator Williamson and Assemblyman Reoux will again present to the Legislature, would immediately clear the deadwood from the lists, provide persistent checks to keep them clear. Added to many time-tried safeguards in this year's bill is a new check. The Board of Elections would mail a communication to each voter prior to the annual election in an envelope directed to the annual election to return the communication if it were not deliverable. If it then came back, it would be required to determine the initial cost of the cost of the high. But only

Washington Post  
Sept 28  
1949

## Women Voters

The zest with which American women have participated in the country's political life during the past decade has been immensely invigorating to the democratic process. This zest has been the product in no small part of persistent educational efforts by the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization devoted to the promotion of political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The league, with some 700-odd local branches, equips its members with the facts about contemporary issues and with knowledge of the techniques necessary to make themselves felt as an effective political force.

Here in Washington, the league will inaugurate next week a series of 11 regional conferences to train women leaders in ways to stir voters to acceptance of party responsibility. The party system, it recognizes, is basic to the representative form of American Government. Therefore, with out attachment to any particular party, out league proposes to prod, and use, both for achievement of the

THE ANNISTON STAR  
11-25-49

## League Of Women Voters

This community is indeed fortunate in the fact that active within its boundaries is a group of public-spirited citizens who have affiliated themselves with the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization devoted to the promotion of political responsibility through informed and active participation of the people in governmental affairs.

Founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt, the league steadily has broadened its scope to provide unique services for all citizens. The local branch, which is one of more than 700 over the nation, was not established until about two years ago, but already its efforts and influence have been very salutary in a number of vital fields where they have been exerted.

Surveys completed thus far by members of the Anniston group treat of two important subjects, recreation and education, with particular emphasis on their local aspects. Moreover, in progress are surveys of health conditions locally and of city government and finance.

Such studies are of great value in that they offer to the local public important facts about contemporary issues. If those facts are accepted, and if the electorate of this area accedes to the non-partisan advice of the League of Women Voters, relative to the polls, then the machinery of our democracy will be made to function more efficiently and more effectively.

By keeping the individual reminded of duties and obligations of citizenship, and by pointing out a broad study program touching on subjects as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United Nations in

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR  
5-29-50

## League Leads Way For Legislation

Sometimes the League of Women Voters is charged with leaning toward one side or the other politically, although it is a non-partisan organization. This is usually because some idea it has espoused from the beginning finally becomes a legislative issue.

The League, in the '20's was the innovator of the idea of grants-in-aid for maternal and child welfare services as embodied in the short-lived Sheppard-Towner Act which it persuaded a reluctant Congress to pass. Withstanding the Constitutional test, this measure opened the way for the social legislation of the '30's when the Social Security Act of 1935. Other legislative accomplishments listed by the League are:

- The Cable Act (Independent citizenship for married women).
- Muscle Shoals (TVA as a "yardstick").
- Food and Drug Act.
- Improvement of the Merit System in Government.

Reprinted from the April issue of LADIES' HOME JOURNAL  
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Boston Traveler  
March 18, 1950

## League of Women Voters

If we had to pick out the most intelligent, effective civic organization in a community we would unhesitatingly nominate the League of Women Voters.

In the state and in the nation, these women year in and year out, working on a voluntary basis, do more to educate their town and their state on the issues of the day than any other group in the country.

Nine-tenths of the bad government about which the man and woman in the street moan and groan can be laid at their own doorstep. Mr. and Mrs. Average Citizen don't, for the most part, know or care what goes on and are too lazy to find out.

Each local league tackles its particular situation differently. The Andover League, for example, got out an excellent one-page summary of the local school situation. The Newton League did a pamphlet called "Know Your Newton," which is so good that the Newton schools are using it in classes. On the state level, League representatives can be found constantly presenting well-documented, well-informed opinions before legislative committees.

The League is starting its annual drive for funds. Those interested in good government could not possibly support a worthier cause. It is of course a non-partisan organization, deals in issues, not candidates. Public figures everywhere have evinced a healthy respect for League recommendations. Considering what men usually say about a greater achievement.

Journal - News  
Hamilton, Ohio  
MARCH 29, 1950

## "What's the U.S. to You?"

By MARGARET HICKEY

THE League of Women Voters has in current circulation a quiz entitled "What's the U. S. to You?" A small booklet, it is packed with to-the-point instructions on making your citizenship more effective. You might try out its questions on your guests or your club members. Every citizen should know the answers and act upon them.

This simple down-to-earth campaign for better citizenship is another step by the National League of Women Voters to promote political responsibility. Since only about 52 per cent of those qualified to vote did so in the last Presidential election, the League deserves the support of every thinking citizen. Founded in 1920, largely through the efforts of Carrie Chapman Catt, to help women use their newly acquired voting privileges, it is now attempting to reach all citizens. "You may feel that questions which disturb you, such as the prospect of another war or another depression, are problems about which you can do nothing," the League says. But you can do something. Don't think you can leave such vital decisions entirely to the President, to Congress or to our diplomats, it warns. These are the problems of every citizen. And in our democratic form of government, the participation of everyone is essential.

## Where Do You Start?

Some, the League advises. A nonpartisan organization, to become a member of the party of your choice, bottom, address envelopes, ring door-bells, baby-sit while others do their own politics until you have learned your own community or your own country's politics. We're not for anything, we're for everything. We're for the good things that are in the world. We're for the things that are worth fighting for. We're for the things that are worth living for.

EDITORIAL PAGE  
DAILY PALO ALTO TIMES, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1949  
WASHINGTON

## Information for voters

Most voters want to be well-informed but find it difficult—sometimes well nigh impossible—to get dependable information on candidates or controversial public issues. Pelted with propaganda on all sides, they try in vain to sort out the facts on which to base intelligent opinions.

In this confusion, the League of Women Voters is performing an important service at state and local levels. It is nonpartisan and backs no individual candidates, but votes its talents to studying issues, distributing factual material, encouraging study of questions of general concern, getting citizens to register and vote.

One reason the league is well-informed that its members participate in public affairs. The Palo Alto branch, for instance, was represented on both the freeholders board which framed the Santa Clara County Charter and the citizens' committee which suggested changes in the Palo Alto form of government. It has members on the city planning commission, the public library board, and the school board.

Here and elsewhere throughout the country, the league fosters research groups for intensive study of important issues. These women believe this is peculiarly their duty because most men are too busy with their business or professional activities to take time for it.

THE HOUSTON POST

## The Weakest Link

"KNOW your candidates. . . Meet the men who are asking for your votes. . . Don't be a civic slacker—vote!" These are headlines in a Voter's Guide just published by the Texas League of Women Voters in the format of a tabloid size newspaper.

It is an almost complete directory of candidates for state offices in the July 22 primaries, and something of their qualifications, and something of their platform proposals. The publication also contains a preview of the coming precinct and county conventions, a roster of the Democratic and the Republican State Executive Committees of Texas, and a calendar of 1950 political events.

Tens of thousands of copies of the Voter's Guide will be distributed over the state, and it will be a valuable compact source of information for voters. Copies may be had at the League's state headquarters, 1508 Fannin Houston.

As an organization, the League of Women Voters is nonpartisan. Its primary aim in election campaigns is to help and encourage the voters to know more about candidates and issues. Says the League in an "editorial" in the Voter's Guide:


Too many people doubt the value of casting their vote. Too many people scoff at their own importance as individuals—and refuse to take the trouble to go to the polls. That is why the League of Women Voters of Texas piles its annual voters' guide. That is why we say that citizen who will not vote is a civic slacker.

These observations are only too true. And in striving to arouse more interest in the priceless privilege of voting, the League is concentrating its efforts on the enforcement of the weakest link in the American chain of representative democratic government.



# The New York Times

## WOMEN VOTERS .



As the major party candidates for national office square off for the election it is fitting to call attention to the important place occupied in public affairs by the League of Women Voters. Founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt on the basis of the Woman Suffrage Amendment, the or-

a big primary vote. It means inducing public-minded citizens to serve as party workers and run for office.

Through the frequent issuance of pamphlets, the League keeps its members up to date on such matters as credit, the nation's position in world trade, and the United Nations and Pal-



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C O P Y

F 2 D 4 A 11  
*Office File*

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1026 - 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

October 6, 1954

Dear Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_:

I am in receipt of your letter inquiring as to possible national Board action in regard to the article entitled "How Far to the Left is the League of Women Voters" by Dr. Felix Wittmer. This article appeared in the August issue of a magazine called the National Republic.

To answer your question directly, on advice of our attorney the national Board contemplates no action whatever in regard to this matter. In our opinion the only successful answer is to carry out the League's purpose with increasing effectiveness to adhere more strictly than ever to our democratic procedures and principles and to build a better and better understanding amongst our members and in the communities as to what the League is and why and how it carries forward its work.

As far as the article goes, it is merely a very good example of the half truths, intentional misinterpretations and attempts to discredit by implication which are the hall marks both of the Communists and of certain groups and individuals in this country who are promoting an ultra-conservative, nationalistic and isolationist point of view. The author of the article has been using these methods for a good many years. He is a former faculty member of the Montclair, New Jersey State Teachers' College. He resigned after he had attacked members of the faculty as being subversive. His approach is similar to that of men such as Merwin K. Hart of the National Economic Council and Joseph P. Kamp of the Constitutional Educational League. If you wish to seek further information on these last named men and their activities, I can refer you to the Hearings of the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities, 81st Congress, 2nd Session. Part IV of the Hearings is particularly revealing. The report of this Committee, entitled General Interim Report was issued on October 20, 1950. Incidentally, Mr. Kamp was jailed in 1948 for contempt of Congress.

It would be arduous indeed for both of us if I were to point out all the sections in this article which are misleading. Perhaps three examples will be sufficient. The group of women whom he attempts to discredit are among the leading women this country has had the good fortune to produce. I would be proud indeed if all of them had been "prominent in", "stalwart of", "outstanding in", "idol" and "veteran" of the League of Women Voters. Unfortunately this was not the case. Mrs. Catt founded the League; Jane Addams was renowned for founding Hull House in Chicago and there is no way to prove or disprove whether she was ever even a member of the League. I am sorry to say that as far as I can find out we can lay no claim to her at all. Emily Newell Blair was Associate Editor of Good Housekeeping Magazine for a great many years. (We have not been able to determine whether she was ever a member.) Julia Clifford Lathrop was first head of the Children's Bureau and for one year, 1924-25, she was First Vice President of the national Board. Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach was president of the New York state League of Women Voters, but never served on the national Board. She is still a trustee of Bryn Mawr College, among other distinctions. Dr. Alice Hamilton is one of the world's leading experts and pioneers in industrial medicine. She is a member only and to my knowledge never has participated in any League activity of significance. It is interesting to note that of these women only Mrs. Leach and Dr. Hamilton are living, and Mrs. Leach is over 70 and Dr. Hamilton well over 80. Dr. Wittmer's reference to their activities fails to mention that their associations with interests having to do

with Soviet-American friendship were in the framework of the newly enfranchised women of Russia and later on during the days when Russia was our ally in World War II. Attitudes regarding Russia at those times were not what they have become subsequently. These things to be justified must be regarded in the context of the times in which they occurred.

At the end of his article Dr. Wittmer refers to the Constitutional Convention for Ohio. In 1946 and 47 the Leagues in Ohio had on their state program an item on the study of reapportionment of the state Legislature. From 1948 until the present time they have had an item on Constitutional revision by means of a Convention. During this eight-year period there has been intensive work done on the issue by the local Leagues, wide-spread member participation and general public understanding of the League's position. It is quite true that there is some opinion actively opposed to a Constitutional Convention in Ohio.

Dr. Wittmer's report on the League's activities on the Bricker Amendment is as misleading as possible. From March 1952 until November 1953 nineteen different types of information and reports on the Bricker Amendment were issued from this office. Extraordinarily widespread membership discussions were held and reports submitted. An unprecedented volume of opposition to the Amendment came to this office from the members during this period. The national Board's decision to oppose it was not made until January 1954. I received some extremely emphatic letters from a few people opposing the League's position. Mrs. McWhorter, whom Dr. Wittmer mentions, was one of them.

The reference to the Pittsburgh League is equally incorrect. The present League of Women Voters of Pittsburgh is a splendid affiliated League doing an excellent job. The Allegheny County League was disaffiliated after much effort to induce them to conform with Convention decisions made in 1946. Mrs. Smith has been the only president of the Allegheny County League and has held that post for over 30 years. The League of Women Voters up to this time has not been able to obtain sole use of this name. Therefore, the Allegheny County League of Women Voters continues to operate under that name and Mrs. Smith's supervision.

I hope this indicates to you the extent of the misrepresentation which appears throughout the article. It may be of interest for your League to know that the League is only one of many reputable groups which is subject to attacks of this nature. In a sampling of the others I can mention the American Association of University Women, the American Association of U.N., American Association of School Administrators, Foreign Policy Association, National Council of Christians and Jews, National Council of Churches of Christ, National Council of Jewish Women, Business and Professional Women, Girl Scouts, National Education Association and YWCA. It seems to me organizations such as these must withstand all such efforts by perseverance in carrying out their purpose, else the unique base of our American system, that of voluntary association, will cease to exist.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John G. Lee  
President

gw-

November 12, 1954

Mrs. Robert F. Leonard  
1st Vice President  
League of Women Voters of U.S.  
1026 17th St. N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Leonard,

We got a letter today from one of the members of the Board of our local League in Granite Falls, Minnesota. Since you in the national office are so much closer to the source of information needed to answer her question, may we toss it in your laps?

"Dear Madam,

I discovered while reading a book published by Devin-Adair, named "Prejudice and the Press" that Zachariah Chafee, Dean of a Law School, has been looked upon suspiciously in some quarters because of his non-committal views on Communism. It seems he hadn't been able to decide if it were a good thing or a bad thing.

Naturally I was surprised to see he was an author of a League Publication, namely, "Freedom of the Press", one of a series in the Individual Liberties Freedom Agenda.

Do you have any information on this man, or are the authors checked by the League before their material is used? I would appreciate any attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. H. Clifford Lee  
Granite Falls, Minnesota"

Sorry to add to the business of your already over burdened office. But I think an authoritative answer from the national office will be the best thing to satisfy Mrs. Lee.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harold Wilson  
Organization Secretary



League of Women Voters  
of the United States

# Memorandum

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

This goes only to Local and  
State League Presidents

November 7, 1955

To: Local and State League Presidents, for Your Information - *not publication*  
From: Mrs. John G. Lee

From time to time, Leagues in different parts of the country report that articles questioning the good faith of League members and League leaders are being circulated in their communities. As the League has always felt that facts are essential in forming sound opinion, we are sending you this background information which we believe will be of help should such articles turn up in your area.

These articles bear the names of various authors and they often "appear" in your own mail box or that of your neighbor, with no identification of the sender. Where do they come from? Why do they come? We are not attempting to give a complete list of all organizations which produce and distribute this kind of material, but are sending you a few examples for your information.

First of all it is useful to know that the groups primarily responsible for the preparation of much of the anonymously sent material are not large or perhaps even particularly influential. Some of them are tax-free foundations. These groups are supported financially by large contributions from some business concerns and individuals who have definite economic and social points of view which they want to "sell". The same names turn up again and again in their boards and directorates, and there is considerable sharing of authors. As a rule, the point of view shared by these groups falls into such categories as: opposition to international cooperation, support of the Bricker Amendment, support of constitutional limitation on tax rates. Frequently the statements appearing in their materials regarding the position and operations of other individuals and groups are inaccurate. As the 1956 elections approach, the output of material and its distribution may increase. Prime targets will be those opposed to the political and economic views of these groups. In some instances this puts the League of Women Voters in the range of fire.

Quite often this anonymous material is used by reputable but unquestioning groups. They evidently do not examine its background or antecedents closely. The positiveness of the statements made in this type of publication, plus its often attractive format, seems to make it convincing to many readers.

One of the most recent articles directly questioning the good faith of the League appeared over the signature of Bettina Bien in THE FREEMAN, October, 1955. THE FREEMAN, identified on its masthead as "A Monthly for Libertarians," has recently been purchased by The Foundation for Economic Education, Inc., one of the groups which testified before the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities in 1950, when that committee was looking into lobbying practices. Leonard Read was then, as he is now, president. Headquarters are at Irvington-on-Hudson, New

York. THE FREEMAN carries the same address. The Foundation, according to testimony before the committee, had at that time been circulating quantities of material opposing the Marshall Plan, Point IV and war-time economic controls. Lately it has distributed material attacking public education.

The editor of THE FREEMAN is Frank Chodorov, who is also associate editor of HUMAN EVENTS, a Washington Newsletter edited by Frank Hanighen. Hanighen contributes articles on Washington political events to THE FREEMAN.

The Article Section of HUMAN EVENTS of October 22, 1955, is devoted to an article entitled "THE LADIES WON'T KNIT", subtitled "An Analysis of the League of Women Voters," which is full of inaccuracies and questions the integrity of the League. The author is Russell Turner, staff assistant to Fulton Lewis, Jr., national radio commentator. Mr. Turner also serves as Washington correspondent for PARTNERS, Chicago monthly magazine covering the labor-management field.

HUMAN EVENTS is a monthly and is often widely circulated without solicitation. An issue of this publication carried an article written by Robert LeFevre attacking the Girl Scouts, and reprints of the article had wide distribution in the spring and summer of 1954. At that time LeFevre was news-director of a radio station in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is now an editorial writer on the Colorado Springs GAZETTE TELEGRAPH, a part of Freedom Newspapers, Inc., a newspaper chain owned by Harry H. Hoiles and members of his family. Some papers in this chain have reprinted with large head lines the FREEMAN article on the League of Women Voters in toto. LeFevre is executive director of the Congress of Freedom, and vice-president of the National Economic Council, the organization headed by Merwin K. Hart.

COUNCIL LETTERS and other material distributed by the National Economic Council present extremely conservative views about domestic and foreign policy. The House Select Lobbying Committee referred to above, found, after the hearings at which Hart testified in 1951, that "One of the National Economic Council's techniques is to disparage those who oppose its objectives by appeals to religious prejudice, often an ill-concealed anti-semitism."

Another group which promotes THE FREEMAN, HUMAN EVENTS and other "news sheets", is the Committee for Constitutional Government, whose official publication is SPOTLIGHT. Edward A. Rumely is executive secretary. The Committee sponsors articles in support of legislation to place limitations on income taxes, among other things, and is giving wide distribution to material in support of the Bricker Amendment.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION, founded by Allan Zoll, who for many years has been a leader in the attack on public education, is still another group which has produced and actively distributed this type of literature. Zoll has worked closely with Hart in raising funds. The official publication of this organization is the EDUCATIONAL GUARDIAN, which has been promoting a fairly new organization, the INTERCOLLEGIATE SOCIETY OF INDIVIDUALISTS. Frank Chodorov is president of this latter group.

Another example of the type of material we have been discussing is THE NATIONAL REPUBLIC which published in August, 1954, the article entitled, "How Far to the Left is the League of Women Voters?", by Dr. Felix Wittmer. This article has recently been reprinted and is being distributed anonymously.

The Congress of Freedom, which describes itself as "a coalition of patriotic American organizations which are concerned with increasing tendencies toward internationalism through the United Nations," held a convention in San Francisco April 25-30, 1955, "to spearhead the drive back to Constitutional Government." The announced theme of the convention was "An appraisal of the United Nations in Terms of

the American Principles of Individual Liberties." Some of the resolutions passed urged: withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations; bringing to an end all participation in the financing of U.N. agency activities; and the ordering of removal of U.N. headquarters from the U.S. Another resolution called for an investigation by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee of UNESCO in the Nation's schools. Prominent among the speakers were: Westbrook Pegler, newspaper columnist; Dr. Felix Wittmer; Suzanne Silvercruys Stevenson, founder of the Minute Women; Mary D. Cain, founder of Individuals for Liberty; and Corinne Griffiths, former star of the silent screen, who is honorary president of the Organization to Repeal Federal Income Taxes, Inc. Merwin K. Hart presided at some of the sessions; Robert LeFevre was executive director.

The above is only a brief resume of some of the individuals and groups whose views on governmental issues are often at variance with those of the League. Most public libraries have further information on such activities. It is well to remember that in singling out the League of Women Voters for special attention, these factions are really paying the League a compliment. If they did not believe that the League is working effectively in the fields in which they are interested, they would not bother to single us out for special attention.

It is hoped that the information given here, with that contained in the material sent you January 25, 1955, will provide background material which may be useful if articles of this type are circulated in your community.

# # #



## Legion Tells Women's Group to Drop Book

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—(P)—  
The national executive committee of the American Legion Friday recommended that the League of Women Voters disown a pamphlet written by a man the legion said had been accused of being a Communist sympathizer.

Minneapolis

The Voice  
of Minnesota

Largest Morning Paper  
in the Upper Midwest

PAGE 4

XXXXX  
179



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C O P Y

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1026 17th Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

October 6, 1954

Dear Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_:

I am in receipt of your letter inquiring as to possible national Board action in regard to the article entitled "How Far to the Left is the League of Women Voters" by Dr. Felix Wittmer. This article appeared in the August issue of a magazine called the National Republic.

To answer your question directly, on advice of our attorney the national Board contemplates no action whatever in regard to this matter. In our opinion the only successful answer is to carry out the League's purpose with increasing effectiveness, to adhere more strictly than ever to our democratic procedures and principles and to build a better and better understanding amongst our members and in the communities as to what the League is and why and how it carries forward its work.

As far as the article goes, it is merely a very good example of the half truths, intentional misinterpretations and attempts to discredit by implication which are the hall marks both of the Communists and of certain groups and individuals in this country who are promoting an ultra-conservative, nationalistic and isolationist point of view. The author of the article has been using these methods for a good many years. He is a former faculty member of the Montclair, New Jersey State Teachers' College. He resigned after he had attacked members of the faculty as being subversive. His approach is similar to that of men such as Merwin K. Hart of the National Economic Council and Joseph P. Kamp of the Constitutional Educational League. If you wish to seek further information on these last named men and their activities, I can refer you to the Hearings of the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities, 81st Congress, 2nd Session. Part IV of the Hearings is particularly revealing. The report of this Committee, entitled General Interim Report, was issued on October 20, 1950. Incidentally, Mr. Kamp was jailed in 1948 for contempt of Congress.

It would be arduous indeed for both of us if I were to point out all the sections in this article which are misleading. Perhaps three examples will be sufficient. The group of women whom he attempts to discredit are among the leading women this country has had the good fortune to produce. I would be proud indeed if all of them had been "prominent in", "stalwart of", "outstanding in", "idol" and "veteran" of the League of Women Voters. Unfortunately this was not the case. Mrs. Catt founded the League; Jane Addams was renowned for founding Hull House in Chicago and there is no way to prove or disprove whether she was ever even a member of the League. I am sorry to say that as far as I can find out we can lay no claim to her at all. Emily Newell Blair was Associate Editor of Good Housekeeping Magazine for a great many years. (We have not been able to determine whether she was ever a member.) Julia Clifford Lathrop was first head of the Children's Bureau and for one year, 1924-25, she was First Vice President of the national Board. Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach was president of the New York state League of Women Voters, but never served on the national Board. She is still a trustee of Bryn Mawr College, among other distinctions. Dr. Alice Hamilton is one of the world's leading experts and pioneers in industrial medicine. She is a member only and to my knowledge never has participated in any League activity of significance. It is interesting to note that of these women only Mrs. Leach and Dr. Hamilton are living, and Mrs. Leach is over 70 and Dr. Hamilton well over 80. Dr. Wittmer's reference to their activities fails to mention that their associations with interests having to do



with Soviet-American friendship were in the framework of the newly enfranchised women of Russia and later on during the days when Russia was our ally in World War II. Attitudes regarding Russia at those times were not what they have become subsequently. These things to be justified must be regarded in the context of the times in which they occurred.

At the end of his article Dr. Wittmer refers to the Constitutional Convention for Ohio. In 1946-and 47 the Leagues in Ohio had on their state program an item on reapportionment of the state Legislature. From 1948 until the present time they have had an item on Constitutional revision by means of a Convention. During this eight-year period there has been intensive work done on the issue by the local Leagues, wide-spread member participation and general public understanding of the League's position. It is quite true that there is some opinion actively opposed to Constitutional reform in Ohio.

Dr. Wittmer's report on the League's activities on the Bricker Amendment are as misleading as possible. From March 1952 until November 1953 nineteen different types of information and reports on the Bricker Amendment were issued from this office. Extraordinarily widespread membership discussions were held and reports submitted. An unprecedented volume of opposition to the Amendment came to this office from the members during this period. The national Board's decision to oppose it was not made until January 1954. I received some extremely emphatic letters from a few people opposing the League's position. Mrs. McWhorter, whom Dr. Wittmer mentions, was one of them.

The reference to the Pittsburgh League is equally incorrect. The present League of Women Voters of Pittsburgh is a splendid affiliated League doing an excellent job. The Allegheny County League was disaffiliated after much effort to induce them to conform with Convention decisions made in 1946. Mrs. Smith has been the only president of the Allegheny County League and has held that post for over 30 years. The League of Women Voters up to this time has not been able to obtain sole use of this name. Therefore, the Allegheny County League of Women Voters continues to operate under that name and Mrs. Smith's supervision.

I hope this indicates to you the extent of the misrepresentation which appears throughout the article. It may be of interest for your League to know that the League is only one of many reputable groups which is subject to attacks of this nature. In a sampling of the others I can mention the American Association of University Women, the American Association of U.N., American Association of School Administrators, Foreign Policy Association, National Council of Christians and Jews, National Council of Churches of Christ, National Council of Jewish Women, Business and Professional Women, Girl Scouts, National Education Association and YWCA. It seems to me organizations such as these must withstand all such efforts by perseverance in carrying out their purpose, else the unique base of our American system, that of voluntary association, will cease to exist.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John G. Lee  
President

League of Women Voters  
of the United States

FILE COPY  
*Memorandum*

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

This is NOT going out on Standing  
Orders or the Publications Service.

January 25, 1955

To: Local and State League Presidents  
From: Mrs. John G. Lee

For information and guidance

January is inventory month, the time to take stock, and to scrutinize carefully our assets and liabilities. All in all, the League is in a vigorous and healthy condition. Membership is at an all time high; so are the numbers of local and state Leagues; in the near future there will be state Leagues in the last 7 of the 48 states to be organized; finance is making sound if not spectacular progress; there is abundant evidence of increasing interest in and understanding and support of League work, witness the article in the October Saturday Evening Post, for example; the cumulative effect of all League work throughout the country represents a public service of significant character. The assets of the League are great, its potentialities are almost unlimited and its chief liability is that which afflicts all democratic institutions, that is, too few people with an active sense of responsibility for the concerns of government.

While it is impossible to measure accurately the effectiveness of the League, it is revealed none the less in a back-handed sort of way by the attacks made upon it. If the League was not a power to be reckoned with, the groups and individuals who are not in accord with its program, particularly in its international aspects, would not bother to make it the target of attacks. The League has experienced attacks for more than 25 years. One of the first was in 1925 with the publication of a pamphlet entitled "Parallels for Thinking Women," by Garet Garrett and Lucille Cardin Crain. In 1948 "Packaged Thinking for Women" appeared, edited by Lucille Cardin Crain and Anne Burrows Hamilton. (Surprising enough it seems still to be in circulation.) Both of these publications attempted to show that the major women's organizations were undemocratic in their operations and socialistic in their political objectives. No organization succumbed under this fire. Indeed, they seemed rather to have been strengthened.

In the U.S. there are some organizations and individuals whose point of view, as expressed in their publications and in statements of their representatives, seems to be ultra-conservative, nationalistic, and isolationist in character. Some of these groups also seem to be anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic or anti-Negro. Many seem so violently anti-Communist that they consider any opinions on public matters which are contrary to their own to be Communistic. Many of their directors have had a close relationship for several years. They generally attempt to discredit the individuals or groups who hold views opposite to their own rather than to analyze the issues on their merits. Their publications go to business, civic, government and religious leaders.



A case in point about which some of you may have heard was an article which appeared in August 1954 in the National Republic magazine, whose subhead is "A Monthly Magazine of Fundamental Americanism." The article written by Dr. Felix Wittmer, a former member of the faculty of Montclair, N.J. State Teachers College, was entitled "How Far to the Left is the League of Women Voters?" The article from our point of view was full of misrepresentations and half truths and was aimed to discredit the League primarily because of its long history of support of measures to achieve international cooperation.

The League is not alone in this regard. Many other highly respected and reputable organizations have been ~~subjected~~ to similar criticism. Among these are the American Association for the United Nations, the American Association of University Women, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Foreign Policy Association, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the National Council of Churches of Christ, the National Education Association, and the Y.W.C.A.

In recent weeks the Girl Scouts has had a particularly trying time, as most of you are aware, on the same count. The March 1954 issue of "Human Events," a publication edited by Frank C. Hanighen and Frank Chodorov, included an article "Even the Girl Scouts," by Robert LeFevre, in which Mr. LeFevre analyzed the 1953 edition of the Girl Scout Handbook showing by page references what he felt was a strong international viewpoint. He criticized particularly the content relating to the United Nations. In the long list of adverse comments on the Handbook, he pointed out that it referred to the League as "a non-political organization." In explaining this error, he said, "This is untrue. The League of Women Voters of the U.S. is an organization aimed at political action. It is designed to influence women Voters in the interests of supporting candidates and measures which the directors of the League decide should be supported. The history of this organization is that almost without deviation it has supported causes and persons on the left of the political center. Yet the Girl Scout Handbook recommends this organization and advises the young girls to go to it for political guidance."

Mr. LeFevre's article appears to have been a major factor in the Illinois American Legion's attack on the Girl Scouts. Mention of the League has been omitted in the revision of the Girl Scout Handbook. You will probably have noted a good deal of critical comment of the Girl Scouts as a result of their Handbook deletions. It is well to remember that the Charter of the Girl Scouts is granted by the Congress of the United States and financial support for their activities comes largely from Community Chest and United Fund appeals. This makes their problems quite different from those of the League. As you will see in the attached letter to me from the National President of the Girl Scouts, explaining the reason for deleting the reference to the League of Women Voters, our cordial relations will continue and our mutual interest in each other's success is in no way diminished.

When derogatory public statements are made about the League, our policy is not to engage in a debate in the press or over the radio. This only gives the critic another chance to attack us publicly. We feel that frustrating as silence is, it is a wise procedure for local and state Leagues also. However, we know that Leagues should have information with which to answer questions raised by their members, contributors, or others in the community. Whenever you are faced with an attack similar to those described, please let the national and state office know at once. From our reference files we may be able to pull out information which will help us all in handling each situation.

Although, as I have said, there is little to be gained in arguing with an attacker, on occasion it may be wise to make a public statement quoting from By-laws and policies regarding the League's purpose and procedures; sometimes it is



useful for Board members to confer with the recipient of an attacking document and explain the falseness of the accusations. The best answer, of course, is to work harder than ever to carry out the purpose of the League within our democratic procedures; to build a better understanding by our members and by the public as to why and how the League carries out its purpose.

And now I should like to refresh your memories with some ideas presented in a President's letter of January 1951, for they are just as pertinent today as they were then.

It is well known that the Communist party seeks to infiltrate labor, consumer, religious, minority and other citizen groups. It would be naive on our part not to assume that attempts might be made to place Communists in the League of Women Voters. Fortunately, Communist influence has never been and is not now a "problem" in the League of Women Voters. Our Local Leaders Handbook contains the following paragraph:

"Differing backgrounds, ideas, experiences, and perspectives result in a dynamic League qualified to speak for the community as a whole. The League does not include followers of Communism or other totalitarian doctrines whose policies are in conflict with the principles of representative government and therefore with the principles of the League of Women Voters."

How should we deal with a problem of Communist infiltration, should it develop? Our membership is open to all women who subscribe to our purpose and policy. We will not want to resort to "screenings" or "loyalty oaths" or other privately conducted investigations. Rather we must work constantly to strengthen the democratic features of our organization structure; to be sure that our By-laws are in order and to adhere to them; to protect our nonpartisan policy by a strict interpretation of it; to be thoroughly grounded in parliamentary procedure and the handling of agenda; to select our Nominating Committee with care; to promote increased membership attendance and participation, and to keep the organization responsive to the majority of the membership. Where there is an active, informed League membership there will never be control by extremist groups.

The League is a closely-knit organization with frequent visiting and correspondence between local, state and national bodies. This is a safeguard in that no segment is isolated and out of touch with the whole body. It also means that what happens in one League travels through public channels of communication and reflects light or shadow on all Leagues. In the last analysis, we are protected by the fact that the national By-laws provide the authority for withdrawing recognition from a local League for recurrent failure to conform to the standards, adopted by the national Convention in 1946.

We in the League are in politics. We have chosen to be there because we realize that what happens in government affects everyone of us everyday in our lives. But it is not always the most comfortable place to be. As we go about our work we are subject to attacks from right and left; from those who understandably want to protect their own interests; from those who resist change; from those who disagree with us as a matter of principle; and from those who would pervert our purpose to promote their own ends.

Our answer can only be: a program chosen by the membership; leadership responsible to the membership; increased community understanding of the purpose, policies and procedures of the League of Women Voters; clear heads, good sense, confidence and courage on the part of all of us and a steadfast dedication to the principles on which our government is founded.

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GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
National Headquarters  
155 East 44th Street, New York 17, New York

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September 14, 1951

Mrs. John G. Lee, President  
League of Women Voters  
1026 - 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Lee:

You were indeed kind to send me expressions of regret for the trying experience that the Girl Scouts have undergone. It has been difficult, but our friends have been many and their support has been most gratifying.

You may have seen our publication "Friends Around the Town" which lists the many organizations with whom the Girl Scouts cooperate and who cooperate so splendidly with us. We prepared this pamphlet because we felt it was important to have in one place for ready reference for our local groups to use, the names, the emphases, and resources of the many public and private organizations in this country. The League of Women Voters is listed among the private organizations on page 32 of this pamphlet. We are enclosing a copy of the pamphlet in case you do not have one.

When the present Girl Scout Handbook was prepared, we omitted the reference to all individual organizations. At that time the League of Women Voters had been working with us most actively on the "My Government" badge and it was natural, perhaps, for us to overlook the fact that your organization continued to be listed. We had grouped all others under a general heading. This change has, of course, brought in many queries. The National Needlework Guild has been concerned because we no longer list them in the Handbook, and we have had to explain that we couldn't name all the organizations with whom we cooperated, particularly because our Handbook is written for children in all parts of the United States, and, as you know, some organizations are active in one community and others in another. The fact that the League was listed but others weren't further confused the issue, as you can see.

The above is the substance of our explanation to our local members who have queried us on the deletion, and we hope you will feel free to quote from this letter in answering inquiries which come from your local Leagues.

We understand that an article on League-Girl Scout cooperation is scheduled in the Ladies Home Journal and are delighted. I hope that there will be many more occasions when the cooperative activities of our two organizations are widely publicized. I think it makes a wonderful story.

I would very much appreciate an opportunity to consult with you whenever we have any questions in regard to the League of Women Voters and trust that you will keep me informed of any matters pertaining to the Girl Scouts which come to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Olivia Layton

Mrs. Roy F. Layton  
President



PR-5 Chas Arg.  
FILE COPY

ag.  
J.C.

June 2, 1955

Mr. Samuel L. Scheiner  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Jewish Council  
2639 University Avenue  
St. Paul 14, Minn.

Dear Mr. Scheiner:

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Thank you so much for your recent letters to me and to the League and the kind sentiments and good wishes therein expressed. It was a real pleasure to work with you and other members of your organization, and to share with you the joy of achievement of our one legislative success, due in great part to your untiring and unselfish efforts.

Thank you, too, for the clipping from "The Wanderer". I was familiar with some of the claims made, but not all of them, and was therefore very glad to see it. I have made a copy and am returning the clipping as you requested.

It is so good to know of your interest in the work of the League and most thoughtful of you to take the time out of what I know to be a very busy schedule, to write. I deeply appreciate it and wish for you and the Council the continued success of all your endeavors, as well as our mutual "watchdog" concern over the best possible administration of a Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young  
President



FROM: THE WANDERER, a national Catholic Weekly published every Thursday by the WANDERER PRINTING COMPANY, 128 E. 10th Street, St. Paul 1, Minn.

Joseph Matt, Editor.

St. Paul, Minn. May 19, 1955.

#### "TWO SIDES TO IT

Minnesota's League of Women Voters, which has again lost out in its fight for revision of the State Constitution and other important propositions, is planning to carry on the fight through wider use of out-State newspapers, a statewide speakers bureau, and added cooperative efforts with other organized bodies.

During the annual State convention of the League last week in St. Paul, Prof. Lloyd M. Short of the political science department of the University of Minnesota told the women that the prospect for constitutional revision in this State is good despite the League's "temporary setback" at the recent legislative session. He said the League was "excellently qualified" to carry on its "educational program" for effecting a constitutional change.

Further tribute was paid to the League in an editorial published in last Friday's (May 13th) St. Paul Pioneer Press. The editorial, after sympathizing with the women's temporary failure to bring about an alleged "governmental reform" in the State Legislature, goes on to say:

"As a nonpartisan organization interested in better government, with no selfish axes to grind, the League is in an excellent position to provide the pushes and the prods which are necessary to bring about legislative action. Its local groups have extensive contacts throughout the State. It thus becomes an effective educational force. And public education on governmental problems is essential to progress.

While it is not intended to open discussion here on the pros and cons of the proposed revision of the State Constitution, it seems necessary nevertheless to point out that the national League of Women Voters, despite some worthwhile contributions it may have made, has earned for itself a contrary reputation in other quarters from that of a "nonpartisan organization with no selfish axes to grind."

Dr. Felix Wittmer, well-known editorial contributor to such national publications as American Mercury, The Freeman, and Human Events, in an article published in the National Republic of last August, "How Far To The Left Is The League of Women Voters?", gives some revealing historical data on the activities of the national Women's League since its founding, in 1919, by the late Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt.

Regarding Mrs. Catt, who was president of the national League until her death in 1947, Dr. Wittmer writes:

"A veteran pacifist and internationalist, Mrs. Catt throughout the years was an easy target of those who use our gullible 'liberals' as fronts for the Communist causes. During the Spanish Civil War, in the 1930s, she sponsored the Coordinating Committee to Lift the Embargo, 'one of the numerous Communist-front enterprises which were organized around the Communists' agitation over the Spanish Civil War' (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, Seventy-eighth Congress, Second Session, on H.Res 282) Signing a petition, 'Lift the Embargo Now,' which appeared in the New York Times of January 31st, 1939, Mrs. Catt found herself in the company of such old-timers of the pro-Communist causes as Marc Blitzstein, Rockwell Kent, Emil Lengyel, and others. The (Communist) Daily Worker of February 10th, 1954, p. 3 listed her as sponsoring the Committee of Women of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship, in sending recorded messages to women of the Soviet Union, exposed by Walter S. Steele before a Congressional committee in 1947 as a Communist front. She also joined another Communist front in petitioning in behalf of Harry Bridges in 1942."

Dr. Wittmer cites the Commie-front record of other prominent Women League officials, among them Jane Addams, Emily Newell Blair, Julia Clifford Lathrop, Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach, Professor Alice Hamilton. Dr. Wittmer believes that, if the League of Women Voters were truly aware of the nefarious influences of leaders of this type, they would publicly disavow them. Unfortunately, however, the League has not disavowed such leaders, and, in the opinion of Dr. Wittmer, "has been a partisan of those many Socialistic issues which are the breeding centers of sympathies with Communism."

Dr. Wittmer continues:

"How closely the League of Women Voters is linked with other Left-wing organizations, which try to stampede public opinion toward Leftist solutions of controversial problems, has been made abundantly clear by Lucille Cardin Crain and Anne Burrows Hamilton, in their well-documented thirty-page pamphlet, "Packaged Thinking for Women." The League, it is alleged, is one of twenty-one organizations, comprising about ten million members, which adhere to the Women's Joint Congressional Committee. This pyramid committee, a pressure group for such Socialistic measures as Federal aid to education, has maintained intimate contacts with certain departments and agencies of our Government in the past. Innumerable of the collectivistic and internationalist measures of the Government, through this committee, have been 'explained' to the women of the Nation. Of course, the League of Women Voters has, it appears, closely cooperated with Program Information Exchange, that huge clearing center for thoughts which has claimed to reach fifty-six million people. The League itself, like other militant Left-wing groups, is comparatively small. (The May, 1953, issue of "The National Voters" reports that the 'locals' grew from 824 to 917 during the past year, and membership increased by 16,000, bringing the total to 122,000.) But it is through Program Information Exchange, headed by the old Socialist and Communist frontier, until recently director of the Twentieth Century Fund, Evans Clar, that small outfits like the League of Women Voters, the Foreign Policy Association, and CIO'S Political Action Committee are said to have duped the most conservative groups and individuals, and have disseminated collectivistic ideas of the welfare State.

"In all such organizations of the Left, it is usually an incredibly small group of officers that suggests, promotes and enforces policies. The platform of the League of Women Voters, evident from information reaching this writer, is not a crystallization of grassroots aspirations; it appears that it is conducted at top-level, in cooperation with officials of other members of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee such as the American Association of University Women, the Young Women's Christian Association, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

"It might take many volumes to document how the League of Women Voters, from local issues as the Scarsdale, N. Y., controversy on Communist infiltration of the schools to national issues as that of the Bricker Amendment, has taken a stand on the radical side --

"Nevertheless, when the League of Women Voters opposed the Bricker Amendment, there was an outburst of protest from members in Bricker's home State, Marion H. Roller, in the "Cincinnati Enquirer" of February 2nd, 1954, took the local board of the League to task for opposing the Amendment without first polling the members. Daisy Morrell McWhorter, in the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Sunday, February 14th, 1954, pointed out that on January 19th, 1954, the Ohio president complained in a letter to local presidents that 'only very incomplete records' of opinion on the Bricker Amendment had been sent. Yet one day later, on January 20th, 1954, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported:



"A letter opposing the Bricker Amendment went out from the Ohio League of Women Voters yesterday." But the national president of the League notified President Eisenhower as early as January 13th that the entire League was against the Bricker Amendment.

"Protests in the press showed that the members of many of the largest locals were not even consulted. Mrs. McWhorter showed that in Shaker Heights less than ten percent of the more than seven hundred members were asked their opinions. At Cleveland Heights, with a membership of three hundred and twenty-seven, there was no poll. The Cincinnati League declared against the Amendment on January 27th (two weeks after the national announcement). Three weeks later, according to James Ratiff in the "Enquirer" of February 21st, the Cincinnati League called for its member units for the first time to study the Amendment ...."

Dr. Wittmer concludes that, under these circumstances, nobody can be surprised that there has been much protesting from individual League members who refuse to be steamrollered into "heiling" radical decisions of quasi-dictatorial boards.

Dr. Wittmer's documented commentary on the League of Women Voters is offered here merely to show that, despite what the newspapers and superficial publicists have to say about the League, there are in this case, as in all others, two sides to the coin and people have a right to inspect both sides, not only one.



Grassman  
File

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June 12, 1955

C Mrs. John G. Lee  
President, League of  
Women Voters of the United States  
1026 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

I am enclosing typewritten copy of an article appearing in  
"The Wanderer", a national Catholic Weekly published by the  
Wanderer Printing Company, 128 E. 10th Street, St. Paul 1,  
Minn. on May 19, 1955.

O It was sent to me by Samuel L. Scheiner, Executive Director of  
the Minnesota Jewish Council, 2639 University Ave., St. Paul 14,  
Minn., one of the groups cooperating with us in our work for  
a State Fair Employment Practices Law (our one legislative success).  
He wanted it back, so I made copies and returned it to him. If you  
should want a copy of the magazine, we can probably get one.

P I thought you would be interested in it, although you are no doubt  
familiar with the material contained therein.

Y St. Paul is a little concerned, but we have done nothing to counter-  
act it, and won't unless you so advise.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young  
President

*p.c. Jan. 17 to Natl. asking  
for 10 copies of Oct 6 reply to  
Wanderer article. - Spencer -  
sent copy to St. Paul president.*

*File  
Grossman*

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

OF THE UNITED STATES

1026 17TH STREET, N. W.



WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MRS. JOHN G. LEE  
President

*July 5 - 10 copies recd. - 1 sent to St. Paul*

June 16, 1955

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
84 South Tenth Street, Room 406  
Minneapolis 3, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Young:

Mrs. Lee discussed with me your letter about the article in The Wanderer and, as she is leaving Washington today, asked me to write you.

When Dr. Wittmer's article appeared in the August issue of the National Republic described in our January 25, 1955 memo to state presidents, we had a number of inquiries. On the advice of our attorney we undertook no action at that time.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which we sent out in response to inquiries about Dr. Wittmer's article. It contains some information which may be useful if you are questioned about the Wanderer article.

We do not believe that it would be advisable to reply to this kind of an article. It only opens up a chance for further reply and keeps the matter before the public.

Apparently reprints of the article by Dr. Wittmer are being circulated in a variety of ways. We shall not see the end of it for some time. However, in the communities where it has appeared Leagues do not seem to have suffered. If the standing of the local League in the community is sound, the public generally is little disturbed by such an attack.

Sincerely yours,

*Reela D. Leonard*  
Mrs. Robert F. Leonard  
First Vice-President

ZL:RM

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July 5, 1955

C  
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P  
Y

Mrs. Don Y. Moore  
President League of Women Voters of St. Paul  
123 W. Fifth St.  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Moore,

Sometime ago you wrote Mrs. Young about the article in The Wanderer that was critical of the League. Mrs. Young sent a copy of the article to our national office. The reply came June 16th, and I have attached a copy for your information and with it a letter dated October 6, 1954, which answered a similar query. I am enclosing a copy of the October 6th letter, also.

Mrs. Leonard warns us that since we do not wish to give any more publicity than necessary to Dr. Wittmer's letter, that Leagues use the material in our October 6th letter, if at all, judiciously and in a limited way.

Thank you very much for bringing it to our attention.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harold Wilson  
Secretary



# League of Women Voters

OWATONNA, MINNESOTA

Nov. 22, 1955

Mrs. J. W. DuShane  
Rochester League of Women Voters  
Rochester, Minn.

Dear Mrs. DuShane:

I have been remiss in not writing long before to thank you for coming to our board meeting in October. Your ideas were very helpful to us, and we've been trying to follow them up. I am enclosing a copy of the letter we sent out to 47 former members. So far we haven't had much response -- only one woman sent dues, one declined the invitation to rejoin, and there was dead silence from the others. We probably will follow up with phone calls, and are also going to do that with the people we contacted for our Sept. membership meeting. We have had difficulty getting together a correct list of people contacted by the first letter (the list was borrowed), so our phoning will probably be postponed until after the Christmas rush. Nobody seems to be in the mood to take on anything new at this time of year. I want to report to you also that we are working out definite plans for a third unit, which will probably meet in the afternoon.

I am writing now mainly because I feel someone on the state level should be told about a speech made by a Dr. Behmler of Morris to the state Medical Auxiliary some time in October. Perhaps you, as a doctor's wife, were there, or perhaps word of this has already come to the attention of the state board. A doctor's wife here in town reported this to our League, not as she put it "because I'm an alarmist", but because she felt we would like to track it down. Dr. Behmler is the only doctor in the state legislature, she says, and the main theme of his speech was that doctors should have more political responsibility, and it was the wives' job to help along those lines. He claimed the League was being infiltrated at the national level by communism, in the matter of program making in particular. From what I understand of national program making, it is completely democratic, and how he could substantiate his claim I don't know. On the other hand, I don't think any of us should automatically take the "ostrich hiding in the sand" attitude, and say it can't happen. According to the doctor's wife who reported this to us, Dr. Behmler's attitude was that of sympathy toward the League ("as a longtime friend of League he was sorry to see this happen"). Perhaps some one on the state board has had dealings with Dr. Behmler in the state legislature, and would like to inquire into this further. If, as I am inclined to believe, he's "all wet" in his ideas, here is a chance to set him straight and gain a real friend for League. At any rate, the whole affair has aroused our curiosity. Let us know what you find out!

Sincerely,

*Barbara McCarthy*  
Mrs. H. C. McCarthy

June 13, 1956

Mr. Samuel L. Scheiner  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Jewish Council  
2639 University Avenue  
St. Paul 14, Minn.

Dear Mr. Scheiner:

Thank you for sending me a copy of "The Ladies and the Pamphleteers" from the June, 1956 American Legion Magazine, which I am returning. It was most thoughtful of you to send it to me; I had not read it, but news of its existence had reached me, and I was very glad of the chance to see it.

It is good to know of your interest and concern, as well as your determination to combat this amazing line of thought. I too hope the day you speak of is not too far in the future.

Again, my sincere appreciation for your help and cooperation in the furtherance of our purpose, and with kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young  
President

P.S. I am enclosing copy of Mrs. Lee's statement to the press in answer to earlier attacks.

# Minnesota Jewish Council

ST. PAUL 14, MINNESOTA

Telephone: Midway 6-7356

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**Vice-President**

\*Burton Joseph

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Keewatin, T. Shuiman

Mankato, Mrs. P. Gendler

Rochester, S. Golob

Virginia, N. V. Keller

Winona, B. A. Miller

**\*Members of****Executive Committee**

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
Hibbing, Minnesota

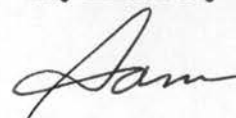
Dear Mrs. Young:

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed article attacking your excellent and truly American organization which appeared in the American Legion Magazine for June, 1956. It is certainly a horrible situation when a so-called patriotic veterans organization will attack an organization such as yours which has devoted itself unselfishly for many years to educating the American public in true democracy. I am certainly hopeful that the day may soon arrive when the rank and file Legionnaires will react in such a manner to this drivel that they will once and for all put an end to the ultra-conservative dynasty which has been controlling this veterans' organization for years. It is a mighty slow process, but, believe me, in my little way I shall work night and day toward this end.

I would very much appreciate your returning the enclosed material to me for my files, for it is the only copy which I have. It is possible that this article has been called to your attention before and that you may have a copy of it. In the event that you don't have a copy and want one, I would suggest that you write for a copy of the June, 1956, issue of the American Legion Magazine to the American Legion Magazine, 720 5th Avenue, New York 19, New York.

With kindest personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,



Samuel L. Scheiner  
Executive Director

SLS/rh  
Encls.

Past Presidents: \*Louis Gross, \*Albert H. Heller, Jr., \*Jack Mackay, \*Meyer Dorfman, \*Dr. Irwin Epstein



MOMORANDUM RE THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

This Memorandum is not intended to indicate that the League of Women Voters (local, state or national), is a Communist Front, communistically inclined, and it is not intended to indicate that any of the members of The League of Women Voters (local, state or national), are Communists, Communist-sympathizers, or supporters of the Communist program unless otherwise indicated; and nothing in this memorandum is intended to indicate that any persons herein named are now or ever were members of The League of Women Voters (local, state or national), unless otherwise indicated.

I.

ORGANIZATION

It grew out of the National American Women Suffrage Association which worked for passage of the 19th Amendment, commencing in about February of 1919.

The new League commenced functioning in about 1920 and the founder and original leader was MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, whose close associate was JANE ADAMS.

ARTICLE II - Section I, of its By-Laws says: "The purpose of The League of Women Voters of the United States shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in Government."

II

POLICY

Section 2, Article II of its By-laws, states: "POLICY. The League may take action on Governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

III

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE LEAGUE UNDER ITS BY-LAWS AS  
AMENDED AT ITS 1954 CONVENTION

Members of the National Organization belong to local Leagues at the Community level. The local Leagues are, also, organized at the State level into State Leagues, which take action at the State level.

Officers of the National are elected by delegates from the local leagues who assemble every other year at a National Convention. Each league (local, state and national) has its local Board of Directors, made up of its elected officers, six (6) elected directors, plus not more than six directors appointed by the elected Board members. The Board of each league (local, state and national) decides when and how to take action on issues included in its program. The timing is up to the Board at the appropriate level of Government.

It is at the National Convention, also, that the National program and principles are decided upon. ~~Two~~ months before the convention is scheduled, the National Board meets to work up a "proposed program," taking into consideration suggestions it has received from Member Leagues. This "proposed program" is then submitted to the Member Leagues for discussion and consideration, but no recommendations for changes may even be considered at the National Convention unless there is a two-thirds vote on the floor of the Convention. And any additions or amendments to the program require a two-thirds vote of the delegates.

The national Board's program, requiring the approval of only a majority of the delegates, generally goes through pretty much intact.

The "program" is made up of two parts - the "platform", and the "current agenda." Included in the "platform" for 1954-56 are eighteen (18) so-called Platform Principles and eight (8) Continuing Responsibilities. The Platform Principles and Continuing Responsibilities are brief statements of general principles based on conclusions supposedly arrived at through studies by League members in the past.

These General Principles are the source from which the National Board derives its authority "to make certain timely decisions on behalf of the League" and when the National Board decides it is "time for action," it calls on members all over the country to support the League's official position by various means: Radio, TV, Newspapers, Letters to Congressmen, etc.

An examination of the "local League Handbook-Publication No. 41, 1944" and other League publications, show that local Leagues are instructed as follows:

a. Determining consensus should be an interpretive process. The Board should take into account areas of agreement expressed in general membership meetings, in unit meetings and in Conventions and the annual meeting when the Program was selected. The Board should give continuous attention to the development of membership thinking ~~throughout the year when the program~~ is discussed. In this way the Board is in touch with membership thinking as it develops and DOES NOT NEED TO SEEK IT WHEN AN EMERGENCY ARISES. . . . (Italics supplied)/

b. A League shall respond to a TIME FOR ACTION sent by a national or State Board. If a local League does not agree with the position of the state or National League on an issue, or if it feels its membership is not prepared on the subject, it may choose not to take legislative action. However, it shall inform its members of the TIME FOR ACTION so that they can act as individuals if they want to do so. A report as to why no action was taken shall be sent by the (local) Board to the State or National Board for its information. A local League shall not take official action contrary to a State or National stand. . . .

c. Polling the membership, particularly by mail or phone, to arrive at an agreement IS NOT SOUND. IT TENDS TO FORCE CRYSTALLIZATION OF OPINION WITHOUT BENEFIT OF DELIBERATION. MOREOVER, IT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR VARIATION OF OPINION.

Between Conventions, the Board of Directors has authority to put the League on record (and does) on issues which had not arisen at the time of the last Convention. It was on this basis that Mrs. John G. Lee, President of The League since 1950, wrote President Eisenhower in January, 1954, three months before that year's Convention, that The League was firmly opposed to the Bricker Amendment; the issue never had been discussed by Convention, but Mrs. Lee never-the-less did presume to speak for The League's 127,000 members without polling the membership because "IT TENDS TO FORCE CRYSTALLIZATION OF OPINION WITHOUT BENEFIT OF DELIBERATION. MOREOVER, IT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR VARIATION OF OPINION."

I V

SOME PROMINENT DARLINGS OF THE LEAGUE

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt: During the Spanish Civil War, in the 1930's she sponsored the coordinating Committee to lift the Embargo (one of the numerous Communist Front Enterprises which were organized around the Communist agitation over the Spanish Civil War.) (See Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 78th Congress, 2nd Session, on H. Res. 282).

Signed a Petition "Lift the Embargo Now" which appeared in the New York Times of January 31, 1939, together with such other oldtimers of the pro-Communist causes as Marc Blitzstein, Rockwell Kent, Emil Lengyel, and others.

The Daily Worker of February 10, 1944, page 3, listed her as sponsoring the Committee of Women of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship. This Committee was exposed by Walter S. Stelle before a Congressional Committee in 1947 as a Communist Front.

She also joined another Communist Front in petitioning in behalf of Harry Bridges in 1942.

She was one of the professional radical-pacifists of the 1920's and 1930's and was a friend and co-worker with the notorious Jane Addams.

JANE ADAMS: World-famous pacifist was on the Advisory Board of Russian Reconstruction Farms, cited as a Communist Enterprise which was directed by Harold Ware, son of the infamous Communist, Mother Bloor, and the organizer of the first Communist Spy Cell in our Government.

She supported the recognition of Russia in 1933.

She is reported to have been active in establishing or promoting the following organizations: Federated Press (Communist Propaganda Agency); Women's Peace Party (Pacifist); Emergency Peace Federation (Pacifist); Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Pacifist-Socialist); American Civil Liberties Union (formed to give legal aid to radicals and Communists who get into trouble with the law); Fellowship of Reconciliation (Red, Pacifist, Pro-Russian); Russian-American Industrial Corporation (Communist); National Consumers' League (Communist); American Commission of Information About Russia (Pro-Communist); National Save-Our Schools Committee (Pro-Communist); Operated Hull House (Chicago), a home and meeting place for reds and radicals, pacifists, socialists and Communists.

She, with Mrs. Catt, and through the use of The League of Women Voters, circulated the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Petition to total disarmament of the United States (1931).

She is also reputed to have collaborated with a host of Communist revolutionists in America and abroad, including such persons as William Z. Foster, Norman Thomas, Harry F. Ward, Sydney Hillman, Eugene Debbs, Robert Minor, Roger Baldwin, and agitated for our recognition of Soviet Russia and other Socialist-Communist causes.

EMILY NEWELL BLAIR, Sponsored the League of Women Shoppers, "an organization which this Committee found to be Communist-controlled front by indisputable documentary evidence obtained from the files of the Communist Party in Philadelphia" (see Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 28, 1944, page 121). She was also active in the "Spanish Refugee" groups in 1939 and was Chairman of the Consumer's Federation of District of Columbia in 1938.

JULIA CLIFFORD LATHROP: Served on the Advisory Council of the American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia.

MRS. HENRY GODDARD LEACH: Publicly appealed in behalf of the Soviet Russian people before we were actively involved in World War II, and she was Director of the American Russian Institute in 1936.

ALICE HAMILTON: Who was reputedly a member of the following Communist Fronts: The American Committee to Save Refugees, Russian Reconstruction Farms, Consumer's National Federation, Friends of the Soviet Union, National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, and The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. While as a National Committeewoman of the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom, she petitioned for the discontinuation of the House Un-American Activities Committee, she sponsored the Schneiderman Defense Committee and the Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder.

ANNA LORD STRAUSE: She is still regarded as one of the dominant personalities in the League of Women Voters, but is not even a member of its Board of Directors. She has long been known as an internationalist and a "doo-gooder." She was a member of the Board from 1934 to 1938 and was National President of the League from 1944 to 1950. She presently confines her official connections to the Presidency of The Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund.

V

THE CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT MEMORIAL FUND

The C. C. C. Fund was set up by the League of Women Voters in 1947 as a subsidiary "educational arm", and operates specific "educational" projects under contributions from individuals or grants from foundations. Its operations all were small until last year, when it suddenly blossomed forth with a \$111,610.00 grant from the Anti-Anti-Communist Fund for the Republic for something called "Freedom Agenda."

If reference is made to the Report of the Fund for the Republic, Inc., May 31, 1955, page 25, and to The Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund, Inc., leaflet, 1955, and to The Freedom Agenda leaflet of 1955, it will be discovered that the "Freedom Agenda" program, as usual, has high-sounding and praiseworthy objectives. In print, they stimulate consideration and realization by Americans of the benefits accruing to them from the Constitution's guarantees of individual freedom. The objective is to be achieved by organizing local discussion groups to study the Constitution and its civil rights and liberties guarantees.

During 1954 and 1955, the CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT MEMORIAL FUND, INC., Published the following Freedom Agenda pamphlets for the purpose of providing "basic information on current issues which touch upon individual liberty": "How to Organize A Freedom Agenda Project"; "The Bill of Rights and Our Individual Liberties" by T. V. Smith; "Where Constitutional Liberty Came From" by Alfred H. Kelly; "Freedom of Speech and Press" by Zechariah Chaffee, Jr; "Constitutional Investigating Committees" by Robert K. Carr; and "The Constitution and Loyalty Programs," by Alan Westin. (See Freedom Agenda Pamphlet: "How to Organize a Freedom Agenda Project," 1954).

The list of authorized and recommended by The League of Women Voters is as follows:



Kelly, Alfred H.

Harbison, Winifred A. -- The American Constitution, Its Origins and Development.

McLaughlin, Andrew C. -- A Constitutional History of the United States.

Swisher, Carl B. -- American Constitutional Development.

Blau, Joseph, L. -- Cornerstone of Religious Freedom in the United States.

Chafee, Zechariah, Jr., -- Documents on Fundamental Human Rights.

Free Speech in the United States.

Commager, Henry Steele -- Documents of American History.

Emerson, Thomas I. -- Political and Civil Rights in the United States.

Jones, Howard Mumford -- Primer of Intellectual Freedom.

Chamberlain, Lawrence H. -- Loyalty and Legislative Action.

Gellhorn, Walter -- Security, Loyalty and Science.

The States and Subversion.

Rossiter, Clinton -- Seedtime of the Republic: The origins of the American Tradition of Political Liberties.

Bontecou, Eleanor -- The Federal Loyalty-Security Program

Barth, Alan -- The Loyalty of Free Men

Weyl, Nathaniel -- The Battle Against Disloyalty

Meiklejohn, Alexander -- Free Speech and its relation to self Government

Eberling, E. J. -- Congressional Investigations.

Dimock, M. E. -- Congressional Investigating Committees.

Palmer, Edward E. -- The Communist Problem in America.

Miller, John O. -- Crisis in Freedom; The Alien and Sedition Act.

Reed, Conyers, -- The Constitution Reconsidered.

ZECHARIAH CHAFEE, JR., a Harvard University Professor and author of FREEDOM AGENDA PAMPHLET "Freedom of Speech and Press", signed a statement in 1933 urging United States recognition of the Soviet Union under the auspices of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. In 1940, CHAFEE signed a Statement to the President of the United States on behalf of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The following year he signed a statement defending The Communist Party. (See Leaflet, 1933; and HUAC, Appendix I I, 1944, pages 647 and 1648).

He was affiliated with the Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder and signed a statement opposing the renewal of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in 1943, on behalf of the subversive National Federation For Constitutional Liberties. CHAFEE also signed a petition on behalf of the American Committee For Democracy and Intellectual Freedom, a now defunct Communist Front which defended Communist teachers. (See HUAC, Appendix IX, 1944, pages 331, 621 and 1243; and HUAC, Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications, 1951, page 12).

In 1950, CHAFEE sent a prepared statement to the House Committee on Un-American Activities during hearings on legislation to outlaw Un-American and subversive activities, declaring his opposition to the Subversive Activities Control Act, (H. R. 7595 and H. R. 3903). The same year he sponsored the subversive National Committee To Defeat the Mundt Bill and signed an Open Letter on behalf of the National Committee To Repeal The McCarran Act. (See HUAC, Report on The National Committee to Defeat the Mundt Bill, 1950, page II; HUAC, Hearings on Legislation to Outlaw Certain Un-American and Subversive Activities, 1950, page 2319; and Letterhead, 1950).

CHAFEE is a current executive Group member of the National Council Against Conscription, which was fully exposed in the October 15, 1954 issue of THE FIRING LINE. He signed a statement in September 1955 "urging adoption of stands sought by the Communist Party", under auspices of the Americans For Traditional Liberties of 40 East 40th Street, New York City. (See "The Tablet", 10-1-55; and Letterhead, 1955)

FREEDOM AGENDA PROGRAM also suggests three books for further reading written by CHAFEE entitled "How Human Rights Got Into The Constitution", "Free Speech In The United States" and "Documents on Fundamental Human Rights" in 3 volumes. (See Freedom Agenda Pamphlet "Freedom of Speech and Press", 1955, page 59).

Each FREEDOM AGENDA Pamphlet contains a selection of recommended books and pamphlets for further reading. An examination of these references discloses the following names of authors: ZECHARIAH CHAFEE, JR., HENRY STEELE COMMAGER, THOMAS I. EMERSON, WALTER GELLHORN, DAVID HAVER, HOWARD MUMFORD JONES and ALEXANDER MEIKLEJOHN. Freedom Agenda also recommends a Public Affairs Pamphlet.

HENRY STEELE COMMAGER was a member of the Committee of Welcome for the "Red" Dean of Canterbury, VERY REVEREND HEWLETT JOHNSON, when Johnson was originally invited to visit the United States by the National Council of American - Soviet Friendship in 1948. (See Report, Tax-Exempt Foundations, 1954, page 250).

COMMAGER stated the following year that "we are now embarked upon a campaign of suppression and oppression more reckless, more pervasive, and ultimately more dangerous than any in our history . . . The hue and cry goes on without regard to the fact the Justice Department and the FBI have as yet adduced no evidence that traitors and spies and subversives have been able to work substantial harm to the nation . . ." COMMAGER is a member of the National Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union. (See The New York Times Magazine, 6626-49; The Atom Spy Hoax by William A. Reuben, 1955, page 148; and Letterhead, 1955).

THOMAS I. EMERSON, professor at Yale Law School and a current member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, was identified as a member of the Communist Party before the Select-Committee to Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations and Comparable Organization in 1952. EMERSON has been affiliated with the International Juridical Association, National Lawyers Guild, Jefferson School of Social Science, National Committee to Repeal The Mundt Bill and the Progressive Citizens of America. (See Hearings Tax-Exempt Foundations, 1952, page 723; HUAC, Appendix IX, 1944, pages 795, 809 and 1275; HUAC, Review of the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace, 1949, page 28; and Letterhead).

EMERSON signed an Open Letter to All Congressional Candidates in 1950 asking for repeal of the McCarran Act, under the auspices of the National Committee To Repeal The McCarran Act. A sponsor of Live Let Live, Emerson has also sponsored the Hiroshima Commemorative Committee, Southern Conference For Human Welfare, and was listed as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. The record of EMERSON has been reported in the May 15, 1954, August 15, 1954, April 15, 1955 and August 1, 1955 issues of The Firing Line. (See "Daily Worker", 7-12-55; HUAC, Review of the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace, 1949, page 34; Letterheads and Leaflets.)

WALTER GELLHORN, Professor of the School of Law, Columbia University, was identified as a member of the Communist



Party by LOUIS F. BUDENZ before the Select Committee to Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations and Comparable Organizations on December 23, 1952. A member of the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union, GELLHORN was exposed in the September 15, 1955 issue of THE FIRING LINE, page 92, as having received a fellowship from The Fund for The Republic, Inc., for research assistance in preparing the 1956 Edward Douglass White lectures. (See Hearings, Tax-Exempt Foundations, 1952, page 725; and Letterheads, 1955).

DAVID HABER, a sponsor of the subversive China Welfare Appeal Inc., in 1950, was listed as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions the following year. He is currently a member of the National Council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and sponsored the W. E. B. DuBois Sponsoring Committee in 1951. The year before, he sponsored the Mid-Century Conference for Peace and signed a statement on behalf of the Executive Committee of the New Haven Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union urging clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. (See HUAC, Report on the Communist Peace Offensive, 1951, page 148; "Daily Worker", 11-26-52, page 3, and Letterheads).

ALEXANDER MEIKLEJOHN a 1955 National Committee member of the American Civil Liberties Union, sponsored the American Committee For Protection of Foreign Born in 1951 and signed an appeal to the President to grant amnesty for Communist Party leaders convicted under the Smith Act under the auspices of the subversive National Committee to Win Amnesty For The Smith Act Victims. MEIKLEJOHN was affiliated with the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions in 1951, and was listed as a participant of a two-day Conference and Forum held by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in 1953. (See "Daily Worker", 6-29-51, page 5; Letterheads and Leaflets; and "New Republic", 1-26-53).

HOWARD MUMFORD JONES has been a sponsor of the National Committee to Combat Anti-Semitism, National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., and the Massachusetts Council of American-Soviet Friendship. JONES also sponsored the Committee of One Thousand in 1948 and the Progressive Citizens of America the year before. A 1951 contributor to "The Nation" magazine, Jones was listed as an Initiator and Sponsor of the National Committee To Repeal The McCarran Act in 1951. (See HUAC, Appendix IX, 1944, pages 1172, 1202; HAUC, Expose of Communist Activities in the State of Massachusetts, 1951, page 1412; "New Republic", 9-27-48; "Daily Worker", 3-23-51, page 2; and Letterheads).

## VI

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLET number 179 entitled "Loyalty In A Democracy", is suggested for further study by the FREEDOM AGENDA PROGRAM. PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLET, published by the Public Affairs Committee of 22 East 38th Street, New York City, was fully exposed in THE FIRING LINE of October 1, 1954, pages 2-4. The current editor of the Pamphlet series, MAXWELL S. STEWART, was identified as a member of the Communist Party before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1951.

During World War II, one PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLET was "barred by the War Department after Congress protested against its use in orientation classes of the Army declaring that its aim was to create racial antagonism." (See "The Institute of Pacific Relations, 1952, page 158).

## CONCLUSION

The early projects of The League were Child Welfare, Education, Standards of Cleanliness for Food Preparation, Working Conditions for Women, et cetera. The League's aim was to show how conditions in these fields could be improved THROUGH GOVERNMENT, and then to work for political change through legislation "in the public interest." The League adheres rigorously to its expressed purpose against choosing sides as between parties and candidates; if it did not so adhere, it would lose its prized tax-exemption. But the permission to "take action on governmental measures and policies" has been abused to permit national officers of The League to put it on record on a surprising list of issues. It is here that the publicly unknown national officers have recorded the 127,000 membership of The League to fair-dealism, internationalism, and left-wing programs. That leadership has recorded the 127,000 (without polling them and without providing them with a democratic method of expressing themselves on the "platform principles" at the annual conventions) as being against the Bricker Amendment, opposed to any constitutional limitations on income tax rates; in favor of indiscriminate reduction of tariffs; in favor of broad expansion of the scope and authority of the United Nations and its subsidiaries; heavier contributions by the United States to the Operations of the United Nations; international control of manufacture and shipment of arms; unemployment relief insurance; federal social welfare; federal regulation of private employment exchanges; The Griffin Bill "To Relieve an Alien Seeking Naturalization Papers From Taking an Oath to Bear Arms in Defense of the United States."

The League's principle Number II stands for "a system of taxation that takes into account the ability to pay and the general welfare". In other words, the League opposes any modification of the 16th Amendment, which, through its New Deal application, has been disclosed to be a socialistic weapon, and, the root of all evil. The policy-making officers of The League evidently do not know that the graduated and unlimited income tax conforms with the core of anti-free enterprise Marxism: "from those who are able to those who are in need". If they are aware of it, they ought to play above board, and call themselves a socialistic outfit and drop the non-partisan pretense.

The 1954 platform of The League also opposes "constitutional" changes that limit powers of the Federal Government over foreign relations". As evidenced by The League's stand against The Bricker Amendment, this point of the platform in the reverse would seem to defend the right of a President to nullify domestic law through Executive agreements. Remember Yalta, etc. When The League supports the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including adequate financial contributions and the promotion of the controversial "point 4", through international economic development and technical assistance, they ask us to support world socialism. It evidently has not occurred to the officers of The League that through the UN, we have, up to the present, persistently yielded to the demands of socialistic nations. They evidently do not know that UNESCO Texts have been used as the Trojan Horse to undermine the religious and economic foundations of our freedoms. They don't seem to realize that "Point 4" is undiluted global socialism. If they do, they approve of it.

MANY OF THE STATE AND METROPOLITAN LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS MOLD PUBLIC OPINION IN CONFORMITY WITH THE SOCIALISTIC TRENDS OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION: (Thus, in 1938, the New York City League of Women Voters, under President Anna Lord Strause, was in harmony with the Communist-controlled American Labor Party in urging the Governor of the State to veto the McNaboc-Devany Bill, which would bar from teaching in the classified Civil Service System persons who believed in the overthrow of our Government.

The League of Women Voters in Illinois, according to its own statement of April 1954, "opposed three bills introduced by Senator Broyles; one authorized dismissal of any teacher who advocated any doctrine to undermine government by violence; the second declared ineligible for public office or as a teacher any person advocating unlawful overthrow of government; the third defined Communism, Communist and Communist-Front organizations and provided (that) any person in any way active on behalf of (these) was guilty of a felony and upon conviction subject to imprisonment in penitentiary."



On May 19, 1949, the Burbank Review carried an article that the Burbank Chapter of the organization was opposed to loyalty oaths by government employees.

The Bakersfield chapter of The League sponsored and conducted a local television program in the latter part of 1955 as a public service evidence of their non-partisan program. The topics discussed and agreements made left the viewer with the impression that all persons appearing before congressional investigating committees should be faced with their accuser as in a trial by jury. The fact remains, however, that congressional investigations are not trials and if Congress were forced to produce the accuser in each instance our whole security system would be undermined and completely emasculated. It would mean that the FBI could not submit evidence of subversion without revealing its informants and undercover agents. Years of invaluable effort would be lost, and the Communist conspiracy would be turned loose to prey upon honest Americans everywhere.

A Bakersfield League member has offered the information that all material given League members for study purposes is screened many, many times on the national, state and local level before it is approved as suitable for League use. This would logically include a knowledge of the authors of Freedom Agenda pamphlets and other suggested readings. It is difficult to reconcile this fact with the dubious machinations implied by the background of the Freedom Agenda authors previously mentioned. Check the list of subversive organizations with which they are identified and make up your own mind if you would have approved their association with any organization to which you belong.

Certain FREEDOM AGENDA pamphlets seek to discount the threat of Communism in the United States.

Our Government, the FBI, the men who fought in Korea, and patriotic Americans everywhere are fully aware of the dangers which Communism presents here or in any country in which it raises its ugly head. The President of the Bakersfield chapter of the League evidently does not agree. Probably through recollections of certain Freedom Agenda material, she made the statement in essence that we really have no need to fear communism in the United States.

In all such organizations of the left, it is usually an incredibly small group of officers that suggests, promotes, and enforces policies. The platform of the League of Women Voters is not a crystallization of grassroots aspirations; it appears that it is conducted at top level, in cooperation with other persons that are members of other left-wing organizations.

It might take many volumes to document how The League of Women Voters (from local issues, such as The Scarsdale, New York, Controversy on Communist infiltration of the Schools to national issues as that of The Bricker Amendment,) has taken a stand on the radical side. Ample evidence concerning collectivist infiltration of the Scarsdale School System had been offered by the Scarsdale Citizens' Committee. Nevertheless, according to the New York Times of April 19, 1952, the Board of Directors "and the members" of the League supported the Boards and Staffs "in their efforts to maintain academic freedom". It was by these efforts that the Communists benefited. Mrs. Joseph P. Anderson, President of The Scarsdale League, said: "The expression of confidence" was extended not only to District 1, but to District 2, which currently was not in the "Communism" controversy. She asserted that The League has 493 members and the statement was "binding on all." It was adopted unanimously by 90 officers and other members, she explained.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Less than one-fifth of the group voted on an issue of vital security to the nation. It does not even appear how the vote was cast. In brash defiance of weighty evidence, the anti-Communist patriots of Scarsdale were opposed - as usual in the name of our civil liberties - and a manifesto, which was "binding" on more than four-fifths not present, was "unanimously" adopted by some form of vote provided at a League meeting where at least some REAL AMERICANS should have been present. Such action, indeed, speaks for itself.

An editorial in the Cincinnati Times Star of November 10, 1955, criticized the Cincinnati League of Women Voters for having backed a Constitutional Convention for Ohio, and pointed out that when citizens contribute to the support of the League, they have no way of knowing what stands it will take on controversial questions in the following year.

Actually, a great many members of The League are not satisfied with the stand that is dictated by the leaders of The League. When The League of Women Voters opposed The Bricker Amendment, there was an outburst of protest from members in Bricker's home State. Marion H. Roller, in the Cincinnati Enquirer of February 2, 1954, took the local Board of The League to task for opposing the Amendment without first polling the members. Daisy Morrell McWhorter, in the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Sunday, February 14, 1954, pointed out that on January 19, 1954, the Ohio President complained in a letter to local Presidents that "only very incomplete records" of opinion on the Bricker Amendment had been sent. Yet ONE DAY LATER, on January 20, 1954, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported:

"A letter opposing the Bricker Amendment went out from the Ohio League of Women Voters yesterday."

But the National President of The League notified President Eisenhower as early as January 13, that the entire League was against the Bricker Amendment.

Protests in the press showed that the members of many of the largest locals were not even consulted. Mrs. McWhorter showed that in Shaker Heights, less than ten percent (10%) of the more than 700 members were asked their opinion. At Cleveland Heights, with a membership of 327, there was no poll. The Cincinnati League declared against the Amendment on January 27th (two weeks after the National announcement). Three weeks later, according to James Ratliff in the Enquirer of February 21, the Cincinnati League called for its member units for the first time to study the amendment. "It's always this way," a Westwood lady who had been a member for fifteen years, told the Enquirer. "The Board does not consult the members first. They've done everything in reverse from the time I can remember."

Letters threatening to refer slander charges to attorneys for litigation have been received by many people from the purported "leaders" who use the good name of about 127,000 American women when they issue their left-wing pronouncements. Such threats are made to real Americans who point the finger at the Un-Democratic tactics of the League of Women Voters in announcing the unanimous support of 127,000 women of left-wing releases by a handful of autocratic leaders through the guise of supporting the American way of life.

Any intimidation on the part of The League of Women Voters or their leaders (local, state or national) will not detract Americans. Such threats did not detract Walter S. Steele. Such threats from President Percy Maxim Lee did not detract Dr. Walter E. Warner of Ohio State University. Such threats from the league of Women Voters of Bakersfield, California, addressed to Mr. Hyman Amundsen, Jr., over the signature of Mrs. H. B. Smith, President, will not detract Mr. Amundsen. On the contrary, such threats will make them smile; for it surely indicates that the ring leaders of the leftists within The League of Women Voters (local, state and national) are at last worrying. Undoubtedly, most of them worry because in the past, they have mouthed words handed to them by left-wingers with a purpose, and they have done this without any real knowledge of the planned left-wing attack on the American system and society. We should let them worry, the more the better. American women have a job to do; for we must regain our lost constitutional rights and our faith in self-reliance. We must recognize the fact that America is a government by laws enforceable in local Courts by poor men, and not a country governed by executive decrees, whether they be issued by Republicans or Democrats.

15¢

THE AMERICAN

# LEGION

MAGAZINE

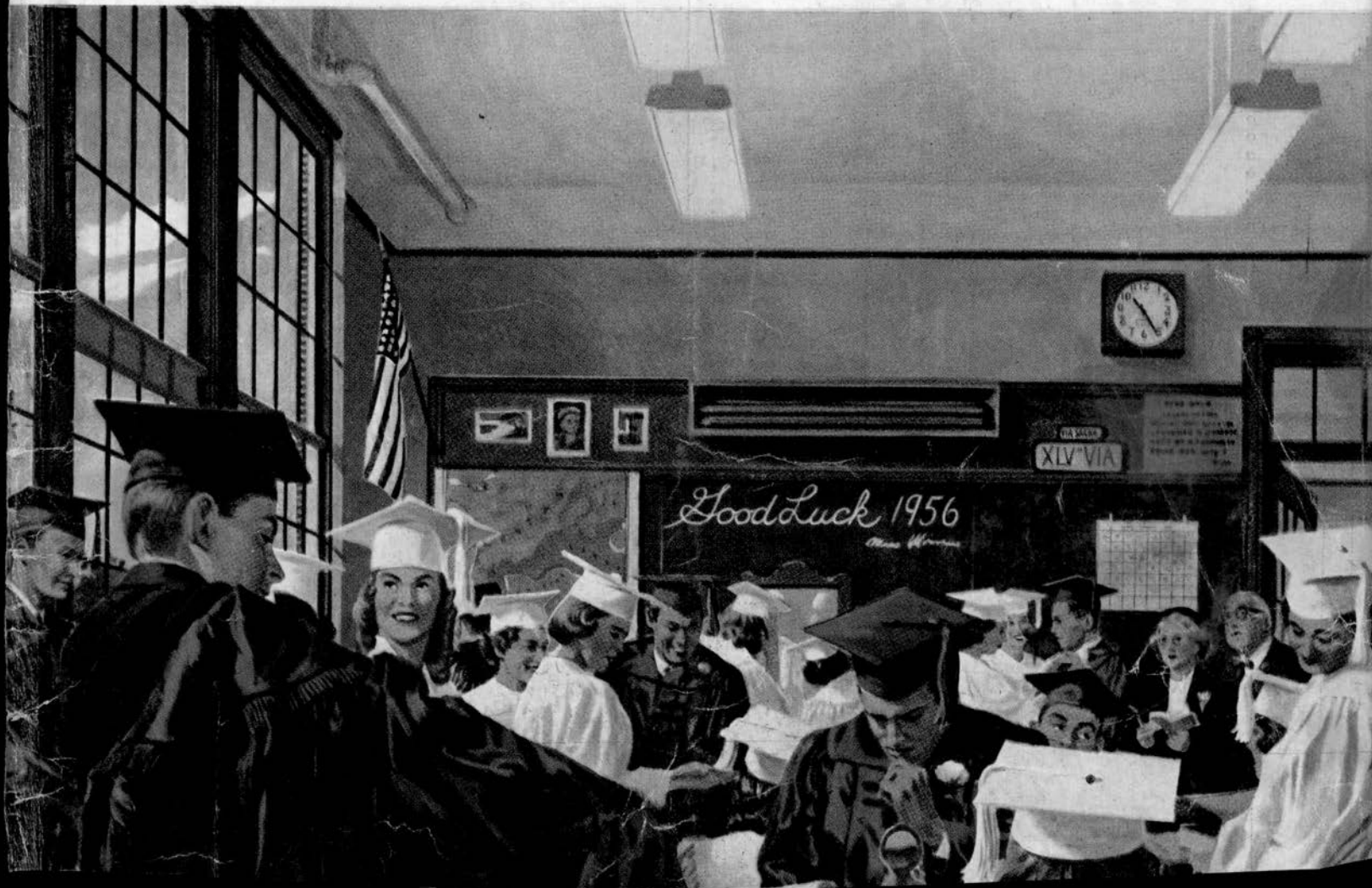
SEE PAGE 14

## THE LADIES *and the* PAMPHLETEERS

SEE PAGE 18

WILL THERE BE A  
FLU EPIDEMIC THIS YEAR?

JUNE 1956







## **Partially Scanned Material**

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League of Women Voters  
of the United States

F2D4B 7. PR  
*Memorandum*

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

To: Local and State League Presidents

October 3, 1956

From: The National Office

This is not going out on Standing  
Orders or on the Publications Service

Re: Public Relations Opportunities

Opportunity #1

In the September issue of STET, the House Magazine for House Magazine Editors, there appears a 2500 word article about the League of Women Voters. Called "Part of the Picture" the story gives a brief history of the League and some of its accomplishments. We hope to have a copy available for each local League.

STET goes, free of charge, to the editor of almost every industrial house organ in the country; many times the local industrial editor takes a story from STET and adapts it for use in his own publication. Here, then, is an opportunity if you would like to take advantage of it.

1. Go over the list of industries in your community.
2. Find out which ones have House Organs. Obtain the name of the publication and the editor.
3. Go through the League membership and pick out the names of members whose husbands are employed in any of these companies.
4. Pick out the most likely prospects; write the editor drawing his attention to the article in the September STET and asking if he would be interested in doing a similar article for his publication. Point out the League members you have whose husbands are employed by the company; indicate that you can supply success stories about the local and state League to make the article of greater local interest. Ask for an appointment to discuss the matter.

Opportunity #2

On Wednesday, September 25th, Mrs. Lee was heard over the National Broadcasting Company in the program "See You at the Polls." In a three and one-half minute program Mrs. Lee discusses a "Pledge for Conscientious Citizens" written by Mrs. Maud Wood Park, first National League President, when women were allowed the privilege of the vote. The American Heritage Foundation has kindly made sufficient tapes available that we can lend them to local Leagues for use on local stations. There is a fifty cent service charge for postage and handling. First come, first served, so get your bid in early.

League of Women Voters  
of the United States

PR ~~Handwritten~~ 167  
F204B7  
**Memorandum**

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

This is not going out on Standing Orders or  
on the Publications Service

June 29, 1956

To: Local League Presidents

From: The National Office

Re: Two League-made Tape Recordings and a special offer

Within the last two days we have sent to your state president two tape recordings made here in Washington, both of which we hope will have the widest possible use at the earliest possible moment. The first is a series of interviews with prominent people, including Secretary of Commerce Weeks, on the subject of OTC; the second contains a number of statements made by Mrs. Lee in answer to questions which frequently crop up about the League of Women Voters.

We have asked the state League to try to place these tapes on a state network and then to make them available to local Leagues for local programming. If the local League prefers to have its own copy of the tapes, they can be ordered from the national office:

Tape #1\* - Prominent Washingtonians Give Views on OTC - Price \$3.00

Running Time: 13 minutes, 42 seconds

OTC has not yet been brought to the House floor by the Congressional leadership and time is running out, as Congress plans to adjourn in late July. League members have done a wonderful job in writing their Congressmen, getting news of OTC in their local press and trying to interest the businessmen in their communities to back the legislation. However, there is still no action. No action means no news; no news means no action.

And so, Mrs. Lee has turned herself into an inquiring reporter and recorded the views of the following on the Organization for Trade Cooperation (they are listed in the order interviewed - not necessarily according to protocol):

Mr. Charles Taft, counsel for the Committee for a National Trade Policy and  
Mayor of Cincinnati

Congressman Robert W. Kean, Representative from the 12th District of New Jersey  
and a member of the House Ways and Means Committee.  
(Republican)

Senator Albert Gore, Senator from Tennessee, Democrat  
Mr. Herschel Newsom, Master of the National Grange  
Mr. Stanley Ruttenberg, Director of Research, AFL-CIO  
The Honorable Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce

TO BE EFFECTIVE THIS TAPE SHOULD BE USED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT'S  
GOOD AND WE THINK YOU WILL BE PROUD TO PRESENT IT TO YOUR STATION

\*(See next page)



Tape #2\* - Today's Question -- Price \$3.00

A series of seven answers given by Mrs. Lee to questions often asked about the League of Women Voters. Each segment ranges in time from 56 seconds to almost two minutes.

Suggested uses:

1. A spot on a woman's program, using one a day for seven days.
2. As a short announcement on a disc jockey show or a program similar to "Weekday" or "Monitor."
3. Edited to remove Mrs. Lee's usual beginning "Today's Question is.." the questions might be worked into an interview type program with the questions being given "live" by a local announcer.
4. The answers might be tied in to a program on woman suffrage as suggested in the enclosed memorandum on woman's suffrage. The first question is particularly suited for this use.

Each spot has a suggested introduction to be done "live" in the studio, or which can be revised or modified in any way that the local League or the station sees fit.

\* \* \* \* \*

\*These two tapes are also available on a hand-cut 12-inch record for those Leagues that prefer a platter. "Prominent Washingtonians Give Views on OTC" is on one side of the platter and "Today's Question" is on the other side; platter costs \$5.00. The tapes are available at \$3.00 each.

\* \* \* \* \*

Special Offer:

Recently, Edward P. Morgan, news commentator for the American Broadcasting Company, devoted more than five minutes of his evening broadcast to the League publication Facts and Attitudes on World Trade. His comments were most flattering. A tape was made of the broadcast. It may be borrowed by any League desiring to do so for League use only. The tape is not of re-broadcast quality, but the content is such as to make members proud. Rental cost including postage: fifty cents.

League of Women Voters  
of the United States

PR- F2D4 B7  
Assumed to be correct  
**Memorandum**

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

This is not going on Standing Orders  
or on the Publications Service.

September 5, 1956  
Price: 10¢

To: Local and State League presidents  
From: The National Office  
Re: 36th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage  
Statements by President Eisenhower, Governor Stevenson, and Mrs. Lee.

Attached are a press release on the 36th anniversary of the ratification of the woman suffrage amendment, and texts of statements by President Eisenhower, Governor Stevenson, and Mrs. Lee on the occasion.

It is not likely that the full texts have been carried in most papers, and we thought you might make use of them not only now but throughout the campaign period. Each statement is long enough to provide different quotes at different times, and your newspapers and radio and television stations might combine them with the shorts and spots so popular during campaigns. Primaries still to be held in a number of states, and final registration dates in many states for the general elections, will furnish pegs on which to hang the statements in many communities. Some of you might want to carry the statements in your bulletins, or provide copies of the texts to other house-organ publications.

# # # # #

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1026 - 17th Street N.W., Washington 6, D.C.      FOR RELEASE in papers of  
Dorothy F. Girton - NA-8-3684

Sunday, August 26, 1956

Washington, D. C., August 25, 1956--

President Eisenhower, Adlai E. Stevenson, and Mrs. John G. Lee, national President of the League of Women Voters, issued statements today on the eve of the 36th anniversary of the woman suffrage amendment. The 1956 presidential election will be the tenth in which all women of the United States have been entitled to vote.

President Eisenhower said: "Women everywhere, as individuals and in organized groups like the League of Women Voters, have a tremendous challenge to make political responsibility a more lively and gratifying experience this year than ever before."

Governor Stevenson stated: "The counsel of American women is sought by the political parties, and their voices are heeded .... Their intelligence, honesty, and capacity for hard work have made America a better place for all of us and for our children."

The statements of the two nominees for the presidency were released through the League of Women Voters of the United States, successor to the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The latter organization led the long fight for the federal amendment giving women the franchise.

Mrs. Lee commented: "Since women have had the right to vote and to participate in public affairs, they have demonstrated a great capacity for going to the heart of the matter. In this, their tenth presidential election, there is urgent need to see the ballot box as the heart of those matters in which Americans so earnestly believe."

The 19th Amendment, declaring that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex," was passed by the House (66th Congress) May 21, 1919; by the Senate, June 4, 1919. It was ratified by the necessary number of states - 36 - by August 18, 1920. On August 26, 1920, a proclamation by the Secretary of State declared the amendment in effect.

Full texts of the statements by President Eisenhower, Governor Stevenson and Mrs. Lee are attached.

# # #



League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1026 - 17th Street N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

FOR RELEASE in papers of Sunday,  
August 26, 1956

C O P Y

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Thirty-six years ago, on August 26, 1920, the American woman citizen was given the high privilege of a vote in electing our officials and determining the course of our governments. That memorable day, the culmination of a long struggle in which the great champion of women's rights, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt played a major part, led to the organization of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Since then the League has pursued a worthy objective in alerting women to their responsibilities, in getting out the vote and in informing citizens of the basic principles embodied in public issues. The League is to be complimented on its achievements in this respect.

This is the tenth Presidential campaign in which women voters will participate. It is a year of far-reaching importance to every woman concerned with bettering our government, with preserving the dignity of the individual and with producing political action in the public interest.

Women will shoulder much of the vital detail work in this current Presidential campaign, doing the manifold jobs incidental to grass roots promotion of full citizenship participation. Women everywhere, as individuals and in organized groups like the League of Women Voters, have a tremendous challenge to make political responsibility a more lively and gratifying experience this year than ever before. This challenge, I am confident, will be met.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1026 - 17th Street N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

FOR RELEASE in papers of

Sunday, August 26, 1956

C O P Y

Chicago, Illinois

Telegram to Mrs. John G. Lee, President,  
League of Women Voters of the United States

On behalf of the Democratic Party may I send my congratulations to the League of Women Voters on this 36th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed American women's right to vote.

It was in large part the tireless devotion and energy of the founders of the League that gave women the franchise. And it is your splendid nonpartisan organization which assures a better use of the franchise.

Today we see everywhere evidence of women's contribution to good government as members and leaders of the great political parties, as public officials of the highest caliber, and as successful crusaders for the betterment of government, national, state, and local. The counsel of American women is sought by the political parties, and their voices are heeded. Their conduct in politics has brought prestige to their country. Their intelligence, honesty, and capacity for hard work have made America a better place for all of us and for our children.

Adlai E. Stevenson

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1026 - 17th Street N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

FOR RELEASE in papers of

Sunday, August 26, 1956

STATEMENT BY MRS. JOHN G. LEE, PRESIDENT,  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Someone has said that "in a democracy agreement is not essential; participation is." It can be said that full democracy in this country was not achieved until, with the enactment of the 19th Amendment in 1920, women won participation in the elective process.

If this nation means to keep its values strong and free, all citizens must work at it. There are many ways to do this every day, but none is more important than casting votes on election day.

This year, as always, there will be some - both men and women - who will say "What's the use? Why bother? My one vote won't count." To them I would quote the remark of a late Justice of the Supreme Court: "The greatest menace to freedom is an inert people."

Women are increasingly aware that the conduct of public matters is directly related to each family's future. They realize increasingly the importance of government in providing a framework within which they can create a life of satisfaction and fulfillment for themselves and those who follow them.

The hard part is to prevent the pressure in their daily lives and the multitude of their activities from taking up all their attention and obscuring the long view and the real values which they are seeking.

Since women have had the right to vote and to participate in public affairs, they have demonstrated a great capacity for going to the heart of the matter. In this, their tenth presidential election, there is urgent need to see the ballot box as the heart of those matters in which Americans so earnestly believe.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF U. S.  
1026 - 17th STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Minn State Pres

F 2 P 4 B 7

May 14, 1957

Dr. P. Evans Coleman  
Mid-West Silver Lake  
Writers' Conference  
Oak Haven, Route Three  
Fairmont, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Coleman:

In reply to your letter of May 11, I cannot recall that in any of our literature we make reference to "over 50 nonpartisan groups" such as ours in the U.S.A. I have not refreshed my memory by re-reading all the material of which we sent you copies, to see if I can find the statement you might be so interpreting, though I do know that in "What's the U.S. to You?" we give a few examples of organizations. We would appreciate knowing to what publication of ours you are referring.

In any event, we have no such list of "over 50 nonpartisan groups." There are various directories of organizations which you should be able to find in public libraries. The World Almanac and similar publications list many more than 50 national associations, as one example.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Felker Gorton  
Public Relations

DFG:dbh

League of Women Voters  
of the United States

Pub F 204A3  
*Memorandum*

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

May 14, 1957

TO: Local and State League Presidents  
FROM: The National Office  
RE: New national publications

In this mailing we are sending you samples of four new national League publications. The title, price and mailing for each publication is given below. Check the method of mailing carefully before ordering additional copies. If you are a new president or if you have a new publications chairman, ask the former Board member in charge of ordering publications whether your League has a Standing Order on file in the national office.

BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW - Finance folder - (For use in finance drives as a 'give-away' to contributors. Local Leagues can add own name and address on sheet left blank for this purpose.)  
100 for \$2.00; 50 for \$1.25

COMMENT - Statements others have made about the League of Women Voters. (Useful in connection with finance drives or general community use. Replaces the former publication 'QUOTE and UNQUOTE')  
25 for 25¢

The above two publications are being sent to Local and State League Presidents and on Special Subscription Service, only.

ON THE WATER FRONT - This is the basic pamphlet on water resources for use by League members and the community. 25¢ a copy

JUST SUPPOSE - A brief personalization of the loyalty-security program. The 'popular' pamphlet for use by League membership and in the community. 15¢ a copy

The above two pamphlets are being mailed to Local and State League Presidents, on Special Subscription Service, on Publications Service and on Standing Orders for Membership Material.

For your information:

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
University of Minnesota  
15th & Washington Ave., S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

*D. Anderson -*



League of Women Voters  
of the United States

PR-F2D4B-7  
62 17  
**Memorandum**

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

May 20, 1957

To: The President of the League of Women Voters of ~~Red Wing, Minnesota~~

From: The National Office

In Re: Platter and/or film made available by the READER's Digest in connection with an article in the June issue of that magazine entitled "Civic Watchdogs in High Heels."

The magazine will go on sale May 23.

We have been informed that radio station ~~xxxxxxx~~ Koehler News Agency has been sent a five minute radio interview with Mrs. John G. Lee, ~~xxxxxxx~~ national President of the League. We suggest you call W. Koehler to inquire if plans have been made to use the recorded interview and if so on what day and at what time. It is possible that the radio station would like to follow up the program with Mrs. Lee with a live interview in the studio with a member of your League tying in local activities with the over-all theme of the magazine article.

Television station \_\_\_\_\_ has been sent a five minute film about the League of Women Voters based on material in the DIGEST article. We suggest you call \_\_\_\_\_ to inquire if plans have been made to use the film and check on the day and time it will be shown. For your information, the film "Kill Only the Ivy" referred to in the DIGEST film, is one recently produced by the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund. It deals with the Industrial Security Program; runs 28 minutes and will be available to you through your state League. It is cleared for television. If the station uses the DIGEST film, it may wish to follow up with a live interview with a local League member or it may want to use "Kill Only the Ivy" at a later date.

League of Women Voters

of the United States

# Memorandum

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

May 20, 1957

To: The President of the League of Women Voters of Rochester, Minnesota

From: The National Office

In Re: Platter and/or film made available by the READER's Digest in connection with an article in the June issue of that magazine entitled "Civic Watchdogs in High Heels."

The magazine will go on sale May 23.

We have been informed that radio station \_\_\_\_\_ has been sent a five minute radio interview with Mrs. John G. Lee, national President of the League. We suggest you call \_\_\_\_\_ to inquire if plans have been made to use the recorded interview and if so on what day and at what time. It is possible that the radio station would like to follow up the program with Mrs. Lee with a live interview in the studio with a member of your League tying in local activities with the over-all theme of the magazine article.

Television station KROC has been sent a five minute film about the League of Women Voters based on material in the DIGEST article. We suggest you call Don Carey to inquire if plans have been made to use the film and check on the day and time it will be shown. For your information, the film "Kill Only the Ivy" referred to in the DIGEST film, is one recently produced by the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund. It deals with the Industrial Security Program; runs 28 minutes and will be available to you through your state League. It is cleared for television. If the station uses the DIGEST film, it may wish to follow up with a live interview with a local League member or it may want to use "Kill Only the Ivy" at a later date.

League of Women Voters . . .  
of the United States

# Memorandum

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington 6, D. C.

May 20, 1957

To: The President of the League of Women Voters of Austin, Minnesota

From: The National Office

In Re: Platter and/or film made available by the READER's Digest in connection with an article in the June issue of that magazine entitled "Civic Watchdogs in High Heels."

The magazine will go on sale May 23.

We have been informed that radio station \_\_\_\_\_ has been sent a five minute radio interview with Mrs. John G. Lee, national President of the League. We suggest you call \_\_\_\_\_ to inquire if plans have been made to use the recorded interview and if so on what day and at what time. It is possible that the radio station would like to follow up the program with Mrs. Lee with a live interview in the studio with a member of your League tying in local activities with the over-all theme of the magazine article.

Television station KMNT has been sent a five minute film about the League of Women Voters based on material in the DIGEST article. We suggest you call Jean Morris to inquire if plans have been made to use the film and check on the day and time it will be shown. For your information, the film "Kill Only the Ivy" referred to in the DIGEST film, is one recently produced by the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund. It deals with the Industrial Security Program; runs 28 minutes and will be available to you through your state League. It is cleared for television. If the station uses the DIGEST film, it may wish to follow up with a live interview with a local League member or it may want to use "Kill Only the Ivy" at a later date.



D. Anderson  
File

Nov. 25, 1957

DeArv G. Gimm  
521 Fifth Ave. S.W.  
Cambridge, Minnesota

Dear Miss Gimm,

I'm sorry not to have answered your request of Nov. 16, before now. Our week has been pretty busy with state Board meeting.

I am enclosing several of our publications, from which you can find the answers to the many good questions you asked. If you have trouble with any answer, write again, and we will try to help you. If when you are through with your paper you do not have any further use for the pamphlets, would you return them to us for our files. Anything you want to keep, you are welcome to have.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harold L. Wilson  
Organization Secretary

Enclosures:

Handbook  
By-laws, local, state, national  
Facts, state, national  
25 Years of Great Idea  
Program Record  
Legislative Report, 1957  
Minnesota Voter, March 1957  
State Board List  
List Local Leagues

NOV 20 1957

521 Fifth Avenue, S. W.  
Cambridge, Minnesota

November 16, 1957

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
417 Essex Building  
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in hope that you will be able to assist me in a project I am doing. I am a graduate student of Macalester College and am preparing to do a research paper on the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

To give you some understanding of my project, I am including the following outline:

I. History of the League of Women Voters

A. Beginnings

1. People who first organized the league.
2. Purposes, specific and general, of the early league.
3. When and where the league was started.
4. Early projects of the league.

B. Growth

1. Early structure and membership of the organization.
2. Public reaction to the league when it got started.
3. Particular years of rapid growth.
4. Outstanding figures in the league during these years of growth.
5. Size of the league today.

C. Present

1. Physical structure of the league throughout the state.
2. Areas of concentration and strength.
3. Leaders of the league today.

II. Influence of the league

A. Its part in politics

B. Particular projects of the league

1. Endeavors which have produced direct results (i. e., legislation, etc.).
2. Efforts which have made for more effective government.
3. Educational efforts of the league for a better informed citizenry.

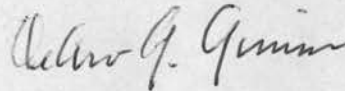
### III. Tools of the league

- A. Lobby influence in state legislature
  - 1. How it works.
  - 2. How it is maintained.
- B. Work done within the machinery of the organization
  - 1. How projects are initiated.
  - 2. How projects are carried through.

This is a rather sketchy outline of the research paper, yet it may help you understand the needs which I have as to information. I would appreciate anything that you have which fits in to my plan and any references you can make to written information on the subect of The Minnesota League of Women Voters.

Thank you very, very much for your help.

Sincerely,



DeArv G. Gimm



# THE *Freeman*

OCTOBER 1955

50¢

p. 696 }  
p. 679 }

*Young*  
*Grossman*  
*Wallinder*

## The Power Road to Power

Admiral Ben Moreell

---

## Socialism via Taxation

Samuel B. Pettengill

---

## The League of Women Voters

Bettina Bien

---



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### FRIENDLY SUGGESTIONS—

were offered the League that, "for the sake of their good name, they re-evaluate the entire project."

### THE LEAGUE REPLY—

"We will not yield to intimidation, oppression or false charge."

### CONCLUSIONS—

In contrast to pages of evidence documenting the charges against **FREE-DOM AGENDA**, the frenzied denials and recriminations of the **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** have not been convincing.

### FREEDOM (?) AGENDA

**YOU be the judge**

Compiled by, H. M. Mann

## *Have you heard about* **The Freedom Agenda?**

### ORGANIZATION—

initiated by **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**, the effort was made at first for the project to appear as community inspired.

In League memo of organizational instructions, local and state presidents were told, "From the beginning, the League must be especially careful to work with individuals and groups in the community, so that it will not seem to be a League-owned project."

Also, "It is important for the League to approach its community in the role of learner rather than advocate."



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT—

\$111,610 given by **FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC** to LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS thru **CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT MEMORIAL FUND.**

## PURPOSE—

**As stated by League,** "A plan for broad popular education in the fundamental principles of individual liberty."

**As stated by critics,** "A carefully planned attack upon Federal Security-Loyalty programs and Congressional Investigating Committees."

## MATERIAL—

Pamphlets prepared by **CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT MEMORIAL FUND.** Critics state the pamphlets are subtly but thoroughly biased.

## MEETINGS—

held in many local communities with experienced leaders in charge.

Anyone may attend and "he may have the floor—sometimes." Often persons striving to present an opposing view are ignored or even "shouted down".

## OPPOSITION TO FREEDOM AGENDA—

from individuals and organizations

### Chief reasons:

1. Freedom Agenda is neither objective or impartial.
2. The program is not properly represented to persons asked to be sponsors.
3. "Nine persons **appearing in the study material as authors or authorities** have been identified either as **Communists** or **affiliated with Communists fronts.**"

Pages of evidence document these charges.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
15th and Washington Avenues S. E., Minneapolis 14, Minnesota FE 8-8791

M  
E  
M  
O  
DATE: June 20, 1958

TO: Dorothy Anderson, copy to Jane Angrist

FROM: Grace

SUBJECT The correspondence between Mrs. Whitehead and Mr. Jack Connor  
of newspaper re using the League's name in vain re conservation  
of a vacant lot, was sent us by Mpls. office, copies, that is.  
Looks to me like Mr. Connor is the villain...

D.A.  
Dorothy, will you let Jane Angrist, see, then Jane can return to files...

OK - QA

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS  
84 S. 10th St., Room 407  
FE 3-6310

Date June 19, 1958

To: Grace or Roberta From: Elsie C.

I am sending you copies of the letters which were written by Mrs. Whitehead, and in which Jack Connor said she was speaking for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

Janet talked with Mrs. Angrist and Tuesday evening talked with Mrs. Whitehead, and this morning we received copies of the letters. I am giving one to Mrs. McGee who will talk to Jack Connor (Janet is out of town for 10 days.) Also am sending copies to Mrs. Angrist.

The Minneapolis League is having to move August 1 - Modern Medicine is expanding still more - It came as quite a shock yesterday afternoon, but hopefully we can find something better, and perhaps cheaper.

See you tomorrow noon.

Elsie



725 E. 57th Street  
Minneapolis 17, Minn.  
May 16, 1958

Mr. Ed Shave  
and  
Mr. Jack Conner  
Minneapolis STAR  
425 Portland Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:

C  
O  
P  
Y

I am attaching a copy of a letter to Mayor P. Kenneth Peterson which I hope you will find self-explanatory. Is there anything you can and would be willing to do to help the residents in this area in this matter?

For your further information I am also attaching a photostatic copy of the first page of a petition sent to the Minneapolis Park Board. In addition to this one page there were two additional pages of signatures so that the petition carried over 70 signatures.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. T. F. Whitehead

725 E. 57th Street  
Minneapolis 17, Minn.  
May 16, 1958

Mr. P. Kenneth Peterson  
Mayor of Minneapolis  
City Hall  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Mr. Peterson:

As Mayor of Minneapolis and a member of the Minneapolis Park Board, cannot you stop the apparently needless filling in of the Park Board property located at 56th and 57th Streets South between Chicago and Portland avenues? More than 70 residents signed the petition to the Park Board requesting that the filling be stopped and the property developed as a wildlife sanctuary.

C  
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P  
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This year the League of Women Voters, of which I am a member, has delved briefly into the matter of Water Resources throughout the country. At a workshop held at Macalester College last February one of the conclusions of the several speakers was that in Minnesota the Soil Bank has not been effective in getting farmers to put wetlands aside and provisions should be made to pay farmers to do so. In this connection I am attaching an article by Mr. Ed Shave cut from the Minneapolis STAR last Sunday, May 11. It is headlined, "Conservation of Water Moves Ahead in State," and points out that the Minnesota water resources board...has two main responsibilities: to apply state water policies and, upon petition, to create watershed districts."

Also attached is an article by Mr. Jack Conner of the Minneapolis STAR which appeared in the newspaper on Wednesday, May 14. It proclaims, "Congress Moving on Wildlife Bills," and states that hearings are being held on two bills for a \$3 duck stamp, "all earmarked for acquisition of waterfowl areas."

When it would appear that the State and Federal governments are promoting the attainment and preservation of breeding areas for wildlife, what valid argument can the Minneapolis Park Board give for working at odds with these other units of government? The land in question, already owned by the Minneapolis Park Board, has long been used as a breeding place for mallard ducks. With a minimum of expense to provide a little more feed, many more waterfowl would undoubtedly make their homes here. The residents in the area have asked that this be done. Instead they are having to watch the ruthless destruction of duck nests and eggs.

We have been told that a bus Y is to be made at the corner of 56th and Chicago. Enough fill has already been put in to make ample room for a bus Y. We are told that the city would otherwise have to haul this fill across town at great expense. Mr. A. G. Bogen has told the city the fill can be put in at 58th and 14th Avenue South on property the city has under a "hold" order for future use of the Airport Commission, I believe. I understand one Park Board member feels this matter is a question of "Birds versus children". Is there another park in the city where my children can go to study and learn as much about wildlife?

Can you not give this matter your attention and take immediate action?

Respectfully yours,

cc Mr. Ed Shave  
Mr. Jack Connor  
Mr. Chas. Doell

Mrs. T. F. Whitehead

"Name" / League

Fri., June 13, 1958

THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR

13B \*

# Wildlife Hassle Stirs Residents

By JACK CONNOR

Minneapolis Star Outdoor Writer

Quite a hassle with the park board is going on among the residents around 56th and 57th streets between Chicago and Portland avenues.

More than 70 of them have signed a petition demanding the park board stop the filling going on in the area, where several wild ducks are nesting. They want the site developed as a wildlife sanctuary.

Mrs. T. F. Whitehead, 725 E. 75th St., representing the Minnesota League of Women Voters, even wrote Mayor P. Kenneth Peterson asking him to stop "the needless filling." But so far the filling goes on.

MLLA apply to the U.S. Coast Guard office at Duluth for information on the types of navigational markers approved. Then it will be up to MLLA to make and place their own.

**MORE SPORTS  
ON PAGE 14B**

## BOWLING 24 LANES

The Finest Lanes  
in the Upper  
Midwest

Brunswick  
AUTOMATIC  
PINSETTERS



- Lunch Counter • Nursery
- Locker Rooms • Air Conditioned
- Fully Carpeted Concourse
- 125 Car Parking Lot
- Design—Acoustical—Quiet
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READY FOR 1ST LEAGUE SEPT.  
1ST TO FORM LEAGUES

Call R. W. WORMSBECKER  
2736 HENNEPIN AVE.  
TA. 7-3701 or JU 8-5674

**TEXA-TONKA LANES**

8200 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Pk.

**DOUBLEWEAR SHOE CO.  
WAREHOUSE NOW  
OPEN MONDAY NIGHTS**

6/14/58-

g. Auger  
Audena





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League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 15th & Washington S.E., Minneapolis 14, Minn.  
March 1958 030458D

WORKSHOP ON REACHING THE PUBLIC IN PERSON

WHAT will be the League's message this year on the state items?

WHY do we want to reach the public? (approach)

WHAT groups do you want to reach in your area? (ask delegates to list them)

WHAT METHODS can you think of which will carry the message?

SPEAKERS BUREAU (needs a better, more attractive name!)

COFFEE PARTIES

PUBLIC MEETINGS

# CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT MEMORIAL FUND, INC.

A Research and Educational Fund created by  
The League of Women Voters of The United States

461 FOURTH AVENUE, ROOM 810, NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • ORegon 9-0279

PROGRESS REPORT #26  
SPRING 1958

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY STATISTICS

Since 1948, CCCMF has carried on world wide education to increase the knowledge of citizens about self government. Information has been exchanged with every continent. More than half a million copies of Simplified Parliamentary Procedure have been placed in the hands of leaders of organizations. The original goal of \$100,000 to be raised has been passed four and a half times. The Annual Meeting in N.Y.C. on May 19 will celebrate this milestone.

## AT HOME AND ABROAD

MOVING DAY -- CCCMF's Washington Office now at 1026 17th Street, N.W., Room 509.

Egypt: CCCMF Handbook for Leaders of Organizations translated into Arabic.

A member of a lawyer's organization in the Virgin Islands requests CCCMF material for use in training leaders.

The American Language Center at Columbia University hopes the election-day tours for students, arranged by CCCMF, aided by the NYC League of Women Voters, will become an annual event.

Translated into Braille: Freedom Agenda pamphlets and The Role of Political Parties.

## FREEDOM AGENDA

Freedom Agenda marches on. In 1957, 85 teachers obtained credit for an officially approved Inservice Training Course. Techniques for teaching the Bill of Rights in the classroom were combined with lectures by experts. This year, 1,500 teachers applied. 849 had to be turned away due to lack of space in the auditorium of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, (our co-sponsors).

On May 14th, Harper Brothers will publish "Foundations of Freedom in the American Constitution" -- original F.A. pamphlets revised and brought up to date by Dr. Alfred H. Kelly.

## PERU

Mrs. Eliska Chanlett, former local League President and state board member in North Carolina, served as CCCMF consultant in Peru during Sept., Oct. and Nov., 1957, following up the contacts originally made by Mrs. Helen Gillin in 1956, on her CCCMF-State Department two and a half months' exploratory trip.

## TO ARGENTINA

CCCMF sent Mrs. Chanlett in response to an invitation from the Intercambio Social Civico Femenino. This remarkable group, with which 17 assorted organizations have already become affiliated, is the outgrowth of last winter's conference sponsored by the Pan American Union, in which CCCMF took part. Mrs. Chanlett and the officers of the Intercambio were immensely gratified by the cooperative response. We quote: "The two round tables.. were a real success." "Mrs. C's visit gave us a tremendous push to go ahead..." "20 copies of the CCCMF 'Handbook' (Spanish)...very useful."

## FROM ARGENTINA

"This visit to the U.N. and the U. S. A. has been a wonderful experience for me, from which I have gained much, new friends, new ideas, new interests and a desire to do my utmost to help to achieve a measure of understanding, among the peoples of the world, which might enable us to attain a lasting peace." Thus writes Marta Aphalo, Assistant Sec. Gen. of the Asociacion Argentina pro Naciones Unidas, who came here as a guest of the U.N. CCCMF expanded her month's study tour to include a League of Women Voters state convention and other community activities.

## BRAZIL

Mrs. Leonard Rall, former Michigan League of Women Voters Board member, another CCCMF consultant, is setting up workshops on basic LWV techniques for the boards of women's organizations in Sao Paulo.

Contributions to the Fund are Deductible for Income Tax Purposes



### COLOMBIA

Non-partisan "Get out the Vote" materials secured by CCCMF from the League of Women Voters were sent in response to an urgent plea from Medellin. With women voting for the first time, the Professional Women's Club there went into action, lectured in the small towns, teaching people why they should vote and explaining the "Plebiscito". Copies of the lectures were mimeographed, "advertisings" were distributed to be shown at the movies... Posters went up in the streets. "Use Your Right to Vote" became "Por Amor a Colombia Vote el Primero Diciembre". The newly formed Union de Ciudadanas de Colombia has requested CCCMF aid in organizing along the lines of the LWV.

### INDIA

At Lucknow's Literacy Village, Welthy Fisher is having "We the Government" revised and re-printed, thanks to another CCCMF grant. We are not alone in admiring this illustrated primer. Dr. Wm. J. Haggerty, President of World Education, Inc., tells us it has received considerable commendation in India and touches on "the very heart of the democratic process which the Indian citizens are trying to strengthen."

### GHANA

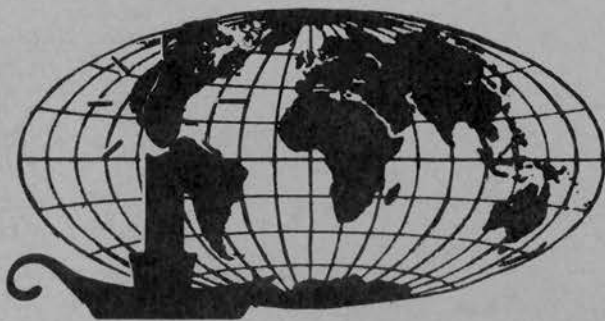
Latest news from the Federation of Gold Coast Women's Clubs at Accra (membership 3000) was brought us by their General Secretary, Mrs. Evelyn M. Amarteifio. She was briefed by CCCMF about civic organizations here and enabled to observe the League of Women Voters in action.

### TURKEY

At a Board meeting of the International Alliance of Women, Mrs. Boray, of Ankara, reported her organization had found CCCMF's "Handbook for Leaders" useful.

### A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

"Governments will perform their functions better if they are convinced of the importance of the human factor--half of which is made up of women", said Doctora Graciela Quan of Guatemala, Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, at the Feb. 13 Conference in Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the Organization of American States. CCCMF contributed field reports and consulted with representatives of 18 women's organizations, Women's Bureau and U.S. Information Agency.



WORLD-WIDE EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT MEMORIAL FUND, INC.  
461 FOURTH AVENUE NEW YORK 16, N. Y.  
ROOM 810 OREGON 9-0279

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MRS O H ANDERSON  
LWV OF MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
15TH & WASH AVE S E  
MINNEAPOLIS 14 MINN SP

*return to file*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS  
84 S. 10th St., Room 407  
FE 3-6310

Date June 19, 1958

To: Mrs. Angrist From: Elsie Coombs

Before Janet Widseth left town for 10 days she talked with Mrs. Whitehead and asked her to send copies of her letters to our office. I am enclosing copies of both of them, and am also mailing copies to Mrs. McGee, our 1st Vice President, who is going to talk with Jack Connor about the matter.

We can see nothing in her letter which justifies the interpretation that Mr. Connor put on it.

I also sent a copy to the State office.

725 E. 57th Street  
Minneapolis 17, Minn.  
May 16, 1958

Mr. Ed Shave  
and  
Mr. Jack Conner  
Minneapolis STAR  
425 Portland Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:

C  
I am attaching a copy of a letter to Mayor P. Kenneth Peterson which I hope you will find self-explanatory. Is there anything you can and would be willing to do to help the residents in this area in this matter?

O  
For your further information I am also attaching a photostatic copy of the first page of a petition sent to the Minneapolis Park Board. In addition to this one page there were two additional pages of signatures so that the petition carried over 70 signatures.

P  
Very truly yours,

Y  
Mrs. T. F. Whitehead



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Minneapolis 17, Minn.  
May 16, 1958

Mr. P. Kenneth Peterson  
Mayor of Minneapolis  
City Hall  
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Dear Mr. Peterson:

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P  
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Can you not give this matter your attention and take immediate action?

Respectfully yours,

cc Mr. Ed Shave  
Mr. Jack Connor  
Mr. Chas. Doell

Mrs. T. F. Whitehead

cc: Mpls office, J. Angrist, D. Anderson, State Office, B. Marotta

July 1, 1958

Mr. Harold Kovlin, President  
Minneapolis Jaycees  
711 2nd Ave. South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Kovlin,

Mrs. Walter Angrist, Public Relations Chairman of the State Board, talked to you today, I believe, about the reference to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in the flier "J C Conservationist", of June 26, 1958. As she explained, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has no stand on the Minneapolis question of whether or not to fill in a block in south Minneapolis, and the statement you quoted from the paper was erroneous and due to a misunderstanding, of a member and of the newspaper. We knew you would want to know the facts.

For your information, I quote the letter written to the Park Board by our president:

"Mrs. Richard Kantarowitz, President  
Minneapolis Park Board  
325 City Hall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 22, 1958

Dear Mr. Kantarowitz:

It has come to my attention that a Mrs. T. F. Whitehead of 725 E. 75 Street, Minneapolis, in speaking before the Minneapolis Park Board, has represented herself as speaking officially for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. This is not the case. I do not know the lady, nor do I know what are the motives behind this false claim, but she has no authority whatsoever, for allying herself with us. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has a Water Conservation item as a part of its national program, but we would not presume to concern ourselves with a matter of local interest, or of interest only to residents of Minneapolis.

Sincerely,

Mrs. O. H. Anderson, President."

Because of the widespread readership of your J C publication, perhaps you would want to correct the impression that the League has a stand on this particular problem in a subsequent issue.

Sincerely,

*Grace Wilson*  
Mrs. Harold Wilson, Secretary

Yes, I did call Mr. Kovlin that day, was obliivious, would take steps to correct misinformation Jane



cc: Mpls office, J. Angrist, D. Anderson, State Office, B. Marotta

F2 D4 B7

Mr. Harold Kovlin, President  
Minneapolis Jaycees  
711-2nd Ave. South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Sincerely,

*Grace Wilson*

Mrs. Harold Wilson, Secretary



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS

84 South Tenth Street, Room 407, Minneapolis 3, Minnesota

Telephone: Federal 3-6319

JUL 1

1958

June 30, 1958

Dear Grace:

This printed sheet was brought to me by a non-leaguer. She knows that we didn't take sides in this case, but thought that because of the wide distribution of this publication, we might want to do something.

The president of the JCs is Harold Kovlin - their address is 711 - 2nd Ave. S. They are having a board meeting tomorrow night, Tuesday, and perhaps they should know of their error before then. Janet said she would call them on it, but felt because it said Minnesota League, that it would bear more weight coming from your office, or from Mrs. Angrist.

*Elsie*

Bec of the no dist.  
of you "DC Com. -  
this mistake has  
perhaps you were  
want I correct  
the

Bec of the union  
under and the  
DC Publ. pre-bury  
you would want  
I correct the union  
that the U has a plan  
and this purchase good  
~~is~~  
the subscription is

84 So. 10th St.  
P.O. Box 5135

JC

Mrs. E. Laie  
Coombs  
4833 Garfield

# "Conservationist"

JUL 1 1958

Vol. 2, No. 2

June 26, 1958

## MINNEAPOLIS "JAYCEES" PASS CONSERVATION RESOLUTION

On Tuesday, June 17, 1958, the Board of Directors of the Minneapolis Junior Chamber of Commerce passed the following resolution:

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Minneapolis Junior Chamber of Commerce strongly favors the preservation of natural parks and wild-life sanctuaries in the greater Minneapolis area, and will act to instill an awareness among the public of the educational, esthetic, and recreational values of such areas."

This is another step in the continuous effort of the Minneapolis Jaycees, through their Conservation Committee, to emphasize to the public and to park administrators throughout Hennepin County that there is a definite public need and desire for "natural" parks.

It has long been of considerable concern to the Conservation Committee and others in the field of conservation that more and more of the natural beauty of Minnesota, and in particular, Hennepin County and Minneapolis, is being destroyed under the well meaning but mis-used banner of "progress".

Evidence of this feeling was a recent decision by the Minneapolis Park Board to fill in a large wildlife area in south Minneapolis bounded by East 56th and 57th Streets and Portland and Chicago Avenues. The Park Board was presented with a petition from over 70 residents of the neighborhood for the preservation of the area in its natural state. This was backed up by testimony before an open meeting on May 21 by representatives of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Conservation, Minnesota Museum of Natural History and many other interested groups. There have also been many letters to the editor of the Minneapolis Star and an editorial on May 29 in the Star---all expressing sentiment against filling in the area. The Minnesota League of Women Voters also have expressed themselves against the "needless filling." In spite of all this public support for saving the area, the Park Board resolved to continue to fill it to make another formal park.

It is the contention of the Conservation Committee of the Minneapolis "Jaycees" that there is still enough unfilled area in the park to warrant saving it and that any remaining fill could well be used to fill in the low areas in Pearl Field, a large formal park just 1 1/2 blocks away.

The Conservation Committee  
MINNEAPOLIS JAYCEES

Harold Hauken

Ma



F 2 Dy B 7

JUN 24 1958

June 22, 1958

Mr. Richard Kantarowitz  
President  
Minneapolis Park Board  
325 City Hall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Kantarowitz:

It has come to my attention that a Mrs. T. F. Whitehead of 725 E. 75th Street, Minneapolis, in speaking before the Minneapolis Park Board, has represented herself as speaking officially for the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. This is not the case. I do not know the lady, nor do I know what are the motives behind this false claim, but she has no authority whatsoever, for allying herself with us. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has a Water Conservation item as a part of its national program, but we would not presume to concern ourselves with a matter of local interest, or of interest only to residents of Minneapolis.

Sincerely,

Mrs. O. H. Anderson President

M TO: Mrs. Luigi Petrullo

E FROM: Roberta Williams

M  
O SUBJECT Criticism

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA**

15th and WASHINGTON AVES. S.E.

MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

DATE 1/30/62

Mrs. Anderson tells me you collect criticism of the League and are interested in the article that appeared in the Suburban Life newspaper last summer. Enclosed is the clipping and Mrs. Anderson's reply to a South St. Paul League member.





COPY

161 Juniper Avenue  
Mahtomedi 15, Minn.  
August 14, 1961

Mrs. George Crim  
507-7th Ave. No.  
South St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Crim:

I apologize for the delay in answering your letter about the article on the League in the July 12 Huburban Life, but I did want to use it as the basis for a discussion with the new State Board on how we in the League answer this type of criticism; this we did at our recent August Board meeting.

This article had been called to my attention in July when it appeared (by design, I am sure), the day before a public-relations and press luncheon in north Ramsey County, sponsored by four Leagues, at which representatives of this publication were guests; the same type of critical article appeared last year in this paper on the eve of a similar workshop in that area.

It was my conviction then, as it is now, that this was a deliberate attempt to attract letters of protest and rebuttal as a device for stimulating wider readership. I believe it was written with tongue in cheek. My own reaction is that any and all League members who were understandably annoyed at this false and frivolous picture of the League would answer it as they chose, but that officially, for the League to get involved in a running battle with such a dubious example of journalism, and over such patently baiting writing would serve no purpose whatever. Your statement that the editors had expected more letters of protest is the clue to the whole matter.

Some individuals, including a former state Board member, have answered this attack; however, far from its being a sign of apathy to refrain from so doing, our refusal to become embroiled in this instance might be a sign of real maturity.

You may be assured that when the League's principles, program record and policies are seriously challenged by responsible, truth-seeking journalists, we shall answer them.

I do appreciate your continuing concern for the organization we both are so proud of.

Sincerely,

Mrs. O. H. Anderson  
President

# THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Registered in U. S. Patent Office  
AN INTERNATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

November 12, 1960

## Thanks to the League

As the last election stickers begin to peel off lampposts in the November rain, one debt of thanks remains unpaid. The winning and losing candidates have quickly expressed deep-felt gratitude to all the volunteer workers who devoted themselves to campaign drudgery. But there is

national government. They set the pace of local freedom, of regional industrial growth, of community solvency. They have daily effect on the kind of lives most Americans live, the taxes paid, the schooling given children, the civic beauty or corruption in which the family grows.



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APR 18 1960

League of Women Voters  
of Iowa

April 15, 1960  
216 Main Street  
Ames, Iowa

Mrs. O. H. Anderson, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
15th & Washington Ave., S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Anderson,

We thought you would be interested in the enclosed copies of letters to the editor of the Algona Upper Des Moines newspaper. The following appeared in this paper as a reprint from the Truman, Minn. paper. Mrs. Bartholomew did not give the date of it's appearance.

"Belabors League of Women Voters"

Truman (Minn.) Tribune: The League of Women Voters might serve a genuine purpose if they had a ~~s~~their goal the initiation of women into politics. If they presented data on how political parties function, if they fairly discussed the platforms and guiding principles of the two chief parties and then urged their members to get into one of the other, the league would discharge a much needed obligation. But such is not the case. The LWV flying under the flag of neither party so that they can be properly identified and met on the field of political battle--must be classed with the political neutrals, the independents. And yet they promote or fight one issue after the other.

Whether they be Democrats or Republicans is not established but one thing is certain, they are a detriment to any rural area. Every stand they have taken and fought for or against with funds supplied from who-knows-where have been stands which would lessen the representation of the farm area and would turn the state over to the big labor bosses and their controlled political stooges. Their latest is opposition to the proposed reapportionment amendment. Oh, they want it more abundantly--on a population basis in both houses.

The League of Women Voters should be recognized for what they are--an organization controlled by and for the big cities. Rural residents and especially rural "Leagues of Women Voters", beware!"

I feel Mrs. Bartholomew wrote a very good reply. As you know we are "going thru the battle" here too.

Hope to see you at St. Louis.....if I last that long...

Sincerely,

*Loyola D. Getz*  
Loyola D. Getz (Mrs. A. T.)  
President, LWV of Iowa

April 9, 1960

Alpha Upper Des Moines  
Albion, Iowa

To the Editor:

On March 29, 1960 you reprinted an editorial from the Tribune-Minnesota Tribune concerning the League of Women Voters as an organization and particularly for their stand on legislative reapportionment in the state. Members of the League of Women Voters in Albion do not feel the statements made in this letter were made by a very well informed person, nor do they wish these charges to reflect upon themselves without opportunity to set the record straight.

The League of Women Voters is a nation wide organization, formed for the purpose of promoting "political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government". As long as the League's primary goal is to interest its members as well as all citizens in good government, it naturally follows that most members will affiliate with and become active in the party of their choice. Thus it is made up of active members of each party while the League itself is nonpartisan.

Issues chosen by the League for study are drawn from all aspects, both pros and cons. At the conclusion of the study, opinion is polled and a decision may be reached to take a stand on the given issue, providing consensus of opinion is reached. In this way the League's action is based on issues rather than candidates or parties.

The belief that every citizen should have an equal voice in his government, has led leagues in Iowa and Minnesota as well as in many other states to study the problem of legislative reapportionment. In each state leagues arrive at their independent conclusions but all are striving to protect the rights of all citizens, rural and urban. To suggest that such a movement in process as the League could be "controlled by and for the big cities" is utterly ridiculous.

We sincerely hope that citizens in our community likewise share the League's basic belief in equal representation and will join local league members in studying the problem facing us in Iowa.

Sincerely,

*Margie Bartholomew*

Mrs. M. Bartholomew, Mrs.  
Alpha League Women Voters

cc: Tribune-Minn. Tribune

Board LWF, State of Iowa

Board LWF, State of Minn.

MEMO

TO: Dorothy A.  
FROM: Beets Miller  
SUBJECT: Editorial

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th and WASHINGTON AVES. S.E.

MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

DATE

3/14/60

Last Wednesday you said no repercussions so far — here's your first, then! The original editorial appeared in the Tribune, Minn. paper — when, we know not. This copy was reprinted March 4 in the Waseca Herald with no editorial comment, so the stamp of approval must be there. Peg's letter is also enclosed since she (and I) felt compelled to answer point for point. She is a former resident of Waseca — her folks still live there. Now — don't you think there should be some retort to the Tribune Tribune — from you or someone in that area? If one other paper would use it, who knows how many others might. I don't like it!



to Licensing boats and taxing them as  
ed personal property is being protested by  
y boat owners as double taxation. Protests  
ke will become more and more intense as the  
l- tax rates continue to rise.

*Pay - not really - less  
less - not really - less  
Funds - not really - less  
Control - not really - less*

## Ladies Beware

The League of Women Voters might serve a genuine purpose if they had as their goal the initiation of women into politics. If they presented data on how political parties function, if they fairly discussed the platforms and guiding principles of the two chief parties and then urged their members to get into one or the other, the league would discharge a much-needed obligation. But such is not the case. The League of Women Voters — flying under the flag of neither party so that they can be properly identified and met on the field of political battle — must be classed with the political neutrons, the independents. And yet they promote or fight one issue after the other.

Whether they be Democrats or Republicans is not established but one thing is certain. They are a detriment to any rural area. Every stand they have taken and fought for or against with funds supplied from who-knows-where have been stands which would lessen the representation of the farm areas and would turn the state over to the big city labor bosses and their controlled political stooges. Their latest is opposition to the proposed reapportionment amendment. Oh, they want reapportionment all right, but they want it more abundantly — on a population basis in both houses.

They also favor scrapping the state constitution and framing a new one.

The League of Women Voters should be recognized for what they are — an organization controlled by and for the most liberal of the big city liberals. Rural residents and especially rural "Leagues of Women Voters," beware!—Martha Almen Peterson in the Truman Tribune.

Almost no purchaser realizes the hidden taxes that make up the selling price of an automobile or a suit of clothes. Withholding taxes deducted from a paycheck get the attention of a few; but most workers think only in terms of take-home pay. That was demonstrated by the liberals in our Minnesota legislature last year. When they learned they couldn't put over withholding they immediately cut in half their income tax increase demands.

"Any government, like any family, can for a year spend a little more than it earns. But you and I know that a continuance of that habit means the poorhouse."  
—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1932.

*File No. 4 / 60  
Wauca Herald  
Don Munro, ed*

file  
April 10, 1959

Dear Mrs. Masuck:

On the morning of our monthly state board meeting a story of your difficulties in finding a place for Mr. Ralph McGill to speak appeared in the Minneapolis Tribune. The entire board wanted me to write and express their admiration for your League. We are proud to belong to the same organization.

You have problems which we do not face and they must make your job in carrying out the League program and League principles more difficult.

It is good to know that there is an organization that because of its nature is equipped to present both sides of a most difficult problem. More power to the Columbus League.

Cordially,

Mrs. Walter Angrist  
Public Relations

# Editor Cancels Integration Talk

COLUMBUS, Ga. — (AP) — the current school crisis "in  
Editor Ralph McGill of the order to spare further har-  
to permit the league to hold  
assessment of those concerned" the meeting in a superior

denied by William H. Shaw,  
school superintendent.

The commission voted  
unanimously to ban the meet-  
ing. Commissioner Roy Wal-





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# League of Women Voters

of the United States

NOV 9 1964

# Memorandum

1026 17th Street, N. W. - Washington, D. C. 20036

This is going on  
State Board Supplement

November 6, 1964

TO: Presidents of State Leagues  
FROM: Mrs. Robert J. Stuart  
RE: 1954 Article "How Far to the Left Is the League of Women Voters"

Frequently when the League is being particularly effective the old article, "How Far to the Left Is the League of Women Voters," may appear on the scene. This happens when the League is campaigning for wider trade, the United Nations and foreign aid, when it speaks out against repeal of the 16th Amendment and quite often when members are working on generally accepted improvements in government at the local level. Sometimes when a provisional League is about to be established prospective members and leaders of the community find copies of this piece in their mail. It has been used over and over again as a tool by those who oppose the League's positions and its democratic methods.

"How Far to the Left...." by Dr. Felix Wittmer was originally published in 1954 in the now defunct National Republic and has been reprinted many times. The allegations are a good example of half truths, distortions and misrepresentation mixed with just enough truth to make the whole appear credible. The piece purported to give the background and associations of early women leaders, some of whom had had no League connection whatever. The general impression left with the casual reader was that the League was not only Communist infiltrated, but had been organized along Marxist lines. The charges against individuals named in the article could be refuted, but the general tone of the piece was such that its implications tended to linger in unsophisticated minds.

After all these years the author, Dr. Felix Wittmer, now Professor of Political Science at a college on Long Island, has sent the League the enclosed letter by way of apology. He has been trying to stop reproduction of the article, but since the copyright was held by the National Republic, he has not been able to withdraw it or ban its publication. He has given us permission to reproduce his letter, which speaks for itself. We send it to you for your information. We suggest that you use it when appropriate in any way you see fit. Any local League which is harassed by distribution of this article should have a copy. The national office will supply copies if Leagues let us know that it is needed.

We are not sending it to all local Leagues at this time, as we see no need to call attention to the article in places where it has not been distributed.

# # # # #

Enc. - Dr. Wittmer's letter

OCT 28 1964

FELIX WITTMER  
20 GIBSON AVENUE, APT. A-1  
HUNTINGTON, N. Y.

October 18, 1964

League of Women Voters of the United States  
1026 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

It has for years been a matter of grievance to me that, against my frequently expressed will, reprints of an article on the League of Women Voters, written by me and published over a decade ago, have been distributed for the purpose of harassing this important and worthwhile organization. While containing documentation of historical interest, this and similar articles of mine were written in a fighting phase of my life; they are lacking in overall objectivity.

I hold the distribution of such material, at this time, to be irresponsible, and harmful to our national effort of patiently inching forward towards world peace, and preventing atomic suicide of the human race. Unlike in the years following War II, the American people are today well informed about the nature and challenge of Communism; but ever more people now also know, and as a matter of good will ought to concede, that Communism (whatever its defects) would never have arisen had it not been for a large degree of moral callousness, economic selfishness and hypocrisy of the free world. Ours is not the time to tear open old wounds and/or inflict new ones; this is the time for all people in the world to recognize their own shortcomings, and coöperate in overcoming poverty, ignorance, and hatred.

For quite a few years I have had occasion to become acquainted with leaders as well as the rank and file of the League of Women Voters. Consequently, I have been increasingly impressed by the record of this fine organization which, never attacking anyone, spreads enlightenment and good fellowship by aiding citizens in understanding their government. Without the slightest pressure from anyone, i.e., of my own free will, I herewith declare it to be my considered opinion that the League of Women Voters is a vital force in the democratic mainstream of the United States, and is largely composed of intelligent, wide-awake and dedicated citizens.

(Signed:)

*Dr. Felix Wittmer*  
Dr. Felix Wittmer



APR 26 1965

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE UNITED STATES

1026 17TH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

April 22, 1965

Mrs. Eriek Hakanson  
950 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Hakanson:

C  
O  
P  
Y  
  
Please forgive me for not answering your letter sooner. I have received quite a number of letters on the subject of the voting situation in our Southern states but each of them was slightly different and one over-all letter did not seem to cover the questions raised so it has taken me some time to answer each one individually.

You ask why the League of Women Voters does not take a strong stand on the Negroes' right to vote in the Southern states? I am not certain from your question whether you are asking why the Leagues in the South have not acted or if you think the national Board should have spoken out, or if you are asking why the League as a whole has not taken a strong position. Whatever the question the implication is that the League has done very little in this field. That is not true.

Let us take each of these questions in turn. First, what about the South?

As you know until recently all laws governing elections have been state laws. Each state League has made its own decision about what it would do, of course, in the light of its own needs and situation -- and realistically -- where it saw a chance for action. Many Southern Leagues have worked in the field of election laws. The League in Georgia worked -- successfully -- for the repeal of the poll tax. The Alabama League has worked on the same issue; they have not been successful in getting the poll tax repealed but they have succeeded in eliminating the necessity of making cumulative payments -- i.e. having to pay poll taxes back to the time you came of voting age which is, of course, financially prohibitive.

Leagues in the South have also worked for other improvements in registration and election laws; they have issued detailed instructions on how to meet literacy requirements; they have gotten out Voters Service materials. And believe me in the South this takes real courage.

Mrs. Erick Hakanson  
St. Paul, Minnesota

- 2 -

April 22, 1965

As you know there are many issues related to civil rights besides the issue of voting. Some years ago the issue most in the public eye was integration of schools. In many states in the South when integration seemed inevitable there was a strong movement to close the public schools rather than to accept integration. The usual plan was to make tuition grants available so that parents can then set up a "private" system of education which can continue to be segregated. The League has fought this system in Georgia, Alabama, and in Mississippi. And this, too, takes real courage.

All of this has been done with little fanfare and minimum publicity because sometimes the very fact of publicity jeopardizes the effectiveness of what the League is trying to do.

I am enclosing a copy of a recent letter we received from Mrs. Hastings, President of the League of Women Voters of Alabama. I believe it will shed further light on this matter.

This leads me to the second implication of your question which concerns possible action on the part of the national Board and to the third implication what the League as a whole could be doing. Again, let me go back a little. You will recall that in the summer of 1963 there was a Civil Rights crisis on the horizon. That was the summer of the March on Washington; Mrs. Phillips and members of the national Board heard from members throughout the country raising the same questions you are raising. The national Board did a good bit of "soul-searching" at that time and thoughtful evaluation of what the League could do when the issue was not on the national Program and there was no possible opportunity of going through the proper procedures before action on civil rights was likely to take place.

The Board did decide that there were many things the Leagues could do -- quite within the framework of usual League procedures. I enclose a copy of Mrs. Phillips' memorandum which was sent out at that time. As a result of the memo plus the members' wish "to do something" there was a great deal of activity from coast to coast and in the North as well as in the South. Some of us in northern communities were surprised at situations we found close at hand; humility sometimes took the place of self righteousness.

May I remind you that all of this occurred in the summer and fall of 1963 as the Leagues were sending in their suggestions for national Program. A great deal of interest in civil rights was manifest in those program suggestions but no clear-cut call came for a civil rights or election law Program item per se.



Mrs. Erick Hakanson  
St. Paul, Minnesota

- 3 -

April 22, 1965

Delegates to the Convention did adopt the new Program item "Development of Human Resources: Evaluation of policies and programs in the United States to provide for all persons equality of opportunity for education and employment."

The emphasis on equality of opportunity in education and employment is one which thoughtful leaders throughout the country recognize as the key area as we move from a crisis situation into one in which we build for the future.

It is also the kind of long term, steady work through government which is the League's special contribution and where staying power is an important consideration. I think we can make a great contribution. I think we will.

On the other hand -- however we may feel about it now -- delegates to the national Convention did not choose an election law item under which we might have been able to support national voting legislation such as that now before Congress. Actually the way things have worked out League support is not needed. We will be needed -- very much needed -- in meeting the challenge of equality of opportunity in education and employment.

Sincerely,

*Julia Stuart*

Mrs. Robert J. Stuart  
President