



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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### Miss Harrison's Notes

The first joint meeting of the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation and the Chairmen of Committees of the League of Women Voters was held in Minneapolis, May Fifth, 1920.

### Social Hygiene

Dr. Ulrich reported on the recommendations of the Social Hygiene Committee.

The American Social Hygiene Association advocates working for a law compelling examination for venereal disease all persons applying for marriage licenses. There is such a law in Wisconsin at present but it is not enforceable and the courts have ruled that marriages made outside the state to evade the law are legal. The Committee seemed to be of the opinion that the educational value of such a law was entirely offset by the harmful effect of having laws on our statute books which cannot be enforced.

Dr. Ulrich stated that physicians are now liable to prosecution for giving knowledge of a diagnosis showing venereal disease and advocated a merely permissive law, which would allow the physician to report such diagnosis to a person about to marry a patient thus infected. The Committee seemed to approve this

suggestion, provided the law is made permissive and not mandatory. Dr. Ulrich pointed out that there is now no law forbidding a doctor to give the other party knowledge of a diagnosis of feeble-mindedness and there is no reason for any difference being made in the case of a diagnosis of venereal infection.

#### Women In Industry

Mrs. Dietrichson presented recommendations of the Women in Industry Committee. Those present were almost unanimously in favor of a straight eight hour day, forty-four hour week bill to be presented at the next Legislature. It was realized that exceptions would have to be made for some occupations but it was suggested that it would be better policy to introduce a straight bill as a matter of principle and let what exceptions were necessary be added by the Committee of the Legislature. Mrs. Morse said that a thirty-six and a half hour day, thirty-nine hour week, is working out successfully at Sauk Center in spite of her earlier belief that public institutions are the last places which could possibly be operated on the eight hour system. There was difference of opinion as to the prohibition of night work for women both on grounds of principle and expediency. Mr. Bruno and Mr. Lawson

expressed the opinion that introducing a bill for the prohibition of night work would not weaken the chances of an eight hour bill and that it is advisable in principle. Mr. Davis and Mr. Hodgson advised against introducing such a bill this next year on the ground that it is difficult to enforce a bill which is ahead of public opinion. Other members pointed out that it would be easier to get such a bill enacted now before the growth of industries has created much opposition to such legislation.



## MINUTES

### Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation.

Wednesday, May 5th, 1920

Y. M. C. A.--Minneapolis

Present: Mr. Bruno, Chairman, Dr. Folwell, Col. Faulkner, Mr. Hodson, Mrs. Morse, Mr. Steger, Mr. Davis, Miss Wells, Mr. Lawson, the Secretary, and the following guests from the League of Women Voters; Miss Rosholt, Mrs. Paige, Mrs. Dietrichson, Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Gemmell, Miss McDonald, Dr. Mabel Ulrich, and Miss Harrison.

Minutes of the last meeting, March 10th, were read, corrected and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$73.31.

Dr. Mabel Ulrich, Chairman of the Committee on Social Hygiene of the League of Women Voters discussed the proposed program for social hygiene legislation. Only two measures are of immediate need in Minnesota as follows:

- (1) Elimination of system of petty fines for prostitutes and establishment of indeterminate sentences.
- (2) A law providing for administrative machinery in local and state boards of health to hold hearings and make determinations concerning exposure to venereal disease infection, as a basis for examination, treatment or quarantine of diseased persons. The authorities,

2--Minn. Comm. on Social Legislation, May 5, 1920.

however, should not be given power to institute periodical examination of prostitutes.

The question of a eugenics law for physical examination of men or of both men and women before marriage was discussed. Dr. Ulrich suggested the law making it obligatory of physicians to take steps to prevent marriage in case of having knowledge of venereal disease.

Mr. Davis suggested a law requiring a period between application and issuance of marriage licenses.

Mrs. Paige suggested that the American Bar Association which is working for a uniform divorce law be interested in including such provision.

Mrs. Dietrichson spoke on the program of the Women in Industry Department suggesting as Minnesota's needs:

- (1) The limitation of the hours for work for women.
- (2) The prohibition of night work

which was followed by an active discussion.

It was the sense of the meeting that a bill without exceptions should be introduced and that they be made by amendment later as seemed desirable and necessary.

Mrs. Gemmell discussed the program of the Child Welfare Committee.

It was decided that another meeting should be called by the Chairman to consider the rest of the League's program. The meeting adjourned.

Joint Meeting of the Minnesota Committee on Social  
Legislation and Committee chairmen of the Minnesota  
League of Women Voters

St. Paul, June 2nd

Present:

Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation:

Mr. Bruno, Miss Wells, Mr. Steger, Mrs. Morse,  
Mr. Ward, Mr. Hodson, Judge Converse, Mr. Pfeifer,  
Mr. Davis.

Minnesota League of Women Voters:

Mrs. Gemmell, Mrs. Paige, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss  
Harrison, Miss Hansen, Miss Roshalt.

Mrs. Paige presented the program of the Unifi-  
cation of Laws Committee.

The question of mothers' pensions was discussed  
at length. There was disagreement as to whether  
attempts to improve the administration of the law  
would be timely now. Mr. Hodson holds that the  
important thing now is to develop a high standard  
of administration under the present law. Increase  
of the maximum pension provided by law was apparently  
approved by all.

The extension of civil service regulations to  
state offices was strongly opposed by many of these

present. Little exception has been taken to the personnel of State Boards and Commissions under appointive heads. These have built up excellent personnel without political favoritism and should be left free to exercise their own judgment.

Laws to protect the illegitimate child were discussed. There was no opposition to the enactment of workable laws to extend to the illegitimate child all the rights and protection enjoyed by the legitimate child. Mr. Hodson criticised the North Dakota law, recommended by Mrs. Paige, as faulty and impossible of enforcement. Recommended that we wait for model law now being drafted by a joint committee of the Federal Children's Bureau and the Unif. of Laws committee of the Am. Bar Ass. Mrs. Morse favors legislation on this subject so strongly that, inasmuch as it will probably take years to get, she believes we should start agitation at once. Judge Converse believes a law can be drafted that would be practically self-enforcing.

Miss Harrison presented the program of the American Citizenship Committee, in the absence of the chairman, Miss McDonald:

A compulsory nine-months schooling law was

approved by all, and all seemed to agree that the time for such a law is ripe. Some felt that the law should not require starting to school at six-years, because of the hardship of getting to and from school in the country districts and inadequate facilities for the younger pupils.

Laws providing night schools for adults, with state aid on the 50-50 basis, were discussed, but, while the need was agreed upon, many difficulties in the drafting of such legislation were foreseen. Such a bill failed to pass the last legislature, and Mr. Pfeiffer said the opposition was financial but that proper support for the bill was also lacking.

A compulsory nine-months schooling laws under the administration of the Department of Education with power to enforce through the giving or withholding of state aid was approved by all as necessary and timely.



MINUTES OF  
Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation  
Shanghai Cafe, St. Paul

June 2, 1920.

Present: Mr. Bruno, Chairman, Miss Wells, Mr. Steger, Mrs. Morse, Mr. Ward, Mr. Hodson, Judge Converse, Mr. Pfeifer, Mr. Davis, and the following guests from the League of Women Voters: Miss Harrison, Mrs. Gemmel, Mrs. Paige, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Hansen, Miss Rosholt, and the Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting, May 5th were read and approved.

Mrs. Paige presented the program on legislation of the League of Women Voters. Few of the measures apply to Minnesota. State civil service law, mother's pension, protection of rights of illegitimate child are the chief ones to be taken up in Minnesota. Discussion.

The question of raising the maximum of mother's pension was taken up.

Miss Rosholt and Miss Hansen told of the work of the Research Committee which is a bureau for all committees both national and state.

Miss Harrison spoke on the program of American Citizenship. The meeting adjourned.



## MINUTES

### Joint Meeting of the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation and

### Committee chairmen of the Minnesota League of Women Voters

St. Paul, June 2.

Present: Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation:

Mr. Bruno, Miss Wells, Mr. Steger, Mrs.

Morse, Mr. Ward, Mr. Hodson, Judge Converse,

Mr. Pfeifer, Mr. Davis.

Minnesota League of Women Voters: Mrs. Gemmell,

Mrs. Paige, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Harrison, Miss

Hansen, Miss Rosholt.

Mrs. Paige presented the program of the Unification of  
Laws Committee.

The Question of mothers' pensions was discussed at length.

There was disagreement as to whether attempts to improve  
the administration of the law would be timely now. Mr.

Hodson holds that the important thing now is to develop  
a high standard of administration under the present law.

Increase of the maximum pension provided by law was ap-  
parently approved by all.

The extension of civil service regulations to state  
offices was strongly opposed by many of those present.

Little exception has been taken to the personnel of  
State Boards and Commissions under appointive heads.

These have built up excellent personnel without political favoritism and should be left free to exercise their own judgment.

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There was no opposition to the enactment of workable laws to extend to the illegitimate child all the rights and protection enjoyed by the legitimate child. Mr.

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Miss Harrison presented the program of the American Citizenship Committee, in the absence of the chairman, Miss McDonald.

A compulsory nine-months schooling law was approved by all, and all seemed to agree that the time for such a law is ripe. Some felt that the law should not require starting to school at six-years, because of the hardship

of getting to and from school in the country districts and inadequate facilities for the younger pupils.

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A compulsory nine-months schooling law under the administration of the Department of Education with power to enforce through the giving or withholding of state aid was approved by all as necessary and timely.

July 2, 1920.

The first meeting of the Legislative Council was held at Dayton's at 12:30. Mrs. Ueland presided. Those present were Miss McDonald, Mrs. Blythe, Dr. Ulrich, Miss Rosholt, Miss Monchan, Mrs. Thorpe, Dr. Ethel Hurd, Mrs. Werskopf, Mrs. Louis Schwartz, Miss Wells, Mrs. Fridley, Mrs. O'Toole, Mrs. W. A. Jones, Mr. Bruno and, as guests, Superintendent McConnell and Mrs. Stark and Miss Stewart of the State Board of Women Visitors.

Miss Monohan reported for the committee on Uniform laws. She spoke of the need of improvement in Minnesota laws providing for Mother's pensions and for children's guardians, also on the present status of the law providing for indeterminate sentence and parole.

Mrs. Ueland raised the question as to whether we should try and push all social legislation or decide on certain things to push. Discussion was postponed until later.

Miss McDonald made a report on the program of the Citizenship Committee. She spoke of the americanization work. She referred the matter of continuation schools and length of school term to Superintendent McConnell.

Mrs. Ueland called on Mrs. Stewart of the Board of Women Visitors. She urged the necessity of enlarging the

Board of Control to include women, and a law to take care of girls at Sauk Center so they could not return to society until reformed. The Superintendent of the Institute at Shakapee should be a member of the Board of parole.

Mrs. Ueland asked that those making suggestions submit them to the Committee in writing.

Mrs. Stark, also of the Board of Visitors was introduced. She said there are five members on the Board and they visit the Women's reformatory and the Girl's school at Sauk Center.

Dr. Ulrich reported for her Committee. She said they had been waiting for federal action and that now there would be little need for legislation in the next session of our legislature.

Miss Wells reported for Mrs. Gemmell. She spoke of the extent to which Mrs. Gemmell was already cooperating with other social agencies. Miss Wells expressed a wish to have discussed the plan by which this Committee could be made truly representative of all social agencies of the state.

Mr. Bruno was called on to talk on this point. He spoke of the Committee on Social legislation of the state. It has been only a promotional not an initiating agency. It is a Committee of sixty to eighty members. A Board of



directors, elected, does the actual work. They would co-operate by inter-representation with this body or merge.

Miss Wells said that on all subjects on which we could agree there would be a great force behind them in this joint committee. Doubtless other problems on which we could not all agree would be sponsored only by certain of the organizations comprising the Committee.

Mr. Bruno said the problem was to conserve resources and efforts. Should either amalgamate or be a joint committee.

Miss Wells expressed the opinion that the tie to the Committee on Social Legislation should be rather loose at first.

Mr. McConnell was then introduced. He said the coming of women into political power means advancement of education. Voluntary organizations should support legislation supported by official department or board, as, State Board of Education on educational matters. This Committee can help on:

1. Teacher situation. The State board have had to allow unqualified persons to teach or close schools. Conference of School board members recommended a minimum wage. The State board made it a compulsory rule. This may lead to movement to reduce professional stan-



dards for teachers. He asked support of Committee to defeat this movement.

2. Part time education.

3. Evening schools.

4. Compulsory education laws. At present they are not well enforced especially in the country. Two to three thousand children of school ages are not in school. Could multiply by ten or more for very irregular attendance. The child must be in school forty days in order to draw per capita of state school money. The State Board of Education will ask the legislature to raise this to sixty days at least. This will arouse opposition. The State Board of Education should be given power to enforce compulsory education laws. They are good laws but not enforced.

Superintendent McConnell recommended as an organization whose legislative committee should be represented on this Council. The Minnesota Education association, Superintendent C.C. Baker of Grand Rapids, Chairman.

Conference with Miss Monahan - September 21, 1920

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Miss Monahan and  
secretary.

Miss Monahan recommended:

(1) Revision of the law so that no woman would be committed to the State Reformatory for less than one year.

At present, women are sometimes committed for misdemeanors for which the sentence is only 90 days.

(2) Changing the law regarding Jury service to read "qualified voters" instead of "male voters".

(3) Combining the Board of Men Visitors and the Board of Women Visitors in one body.

At present, the women's Board visits only Sauk Center and Shakopee, while the men's Board visits many institutions in which women and children are confined. The men's Board has an appropriation for a secretary and the women's Board has no appropriation at all. Present members of the Board of Women Visitors are Mrs. Washburn (Duluth) Mrs. Kinney, Mrs. O'Toole, Mrs. Stark (St. Peter) and Mrs. Atwater (St. Cloud).

(4) Revision of the county allowance or mother's pension law so as to increase the maximum and to provide supervision of administrations by the State

Board of Control.

At present the law provides that the state shall pay one-third of the total amount paid out per child in counties accepting the supervision of the Board of the Board, but no appropriation has been made by the state as yet so that this provision is inoperative.

Court of Domestic Relations.

Miss Monahan expressed herself as unready to make a recommendation as to this.

Indeterminate Sentence.

Miss Monahan expressed herself as being generally in favor of this principle.

For questions to be put up to candidates for state office she recommended: (1) Are you in favor of the principle of the Indeterminate Sentence?

(2) Are you in favor of a revision of the county allowance law to meet changed conditions caused by the increased cost of living?

There was discussion as to possibility of getting Mr. Vasaly to serve again on the Board of Control and it was agreed to write him on the subject.

At the conference of social workers to be held in Minneapolis, October 7 - 10 it was suggested to that the Legislative Council have a luncheon open to delegates

with Mr. Vasaly and possibly Jane Adams, if she can be secured, as speakers. Miss Wells agreed to take this up with the committee in charge of the conference.

Conference on Women and Industry - September 24., 1920

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Schutz and secretary.

Miss Evans was out of town and unable to attend but sent as her recommendation that the appropriation for the Minimum Wage Commission be increased from \$5000 to \$25,000. The Federated Clubs are already on record as in favor of this increase.

Mrs. Dietrichson recommended first of all that we make our present laws effective. To accomplish this an increase in the present appropriation is absolutely necessary. The Minimum Wage Commission now has \$5000 annually to pay Miss Evans, two assistants, travelling expenses, postage and mailing, and all printing. (This is the only State Department which has to pay for its own printing). Additional funds are needed for investigation work but it is impossible now to make a real survey of conditions.

Miss Schutz recommended a uniform eight hour day, 48 hour week and one day rest in seven for women employed outside of the homes. Exception, if any, should be made for towns under 2000, with possible adjustment of restaurant, hotel and telephone hours in such towns.

Opposition is to be expected from hotel and restaurant owners. At present there is no limitation on the hours in hotels, and none for restaurants in cities outside of the first and



second class.

Miss Schutz spoke of the need for increased appropriation for inspectors in the Bureau of Women and Children in the State Labor Department. At present women inspectors get \$114 per month. The positions are filled by excellent women but it will be impossible to keep them without increase of salary. Men inspectors get \$1700 to \$1800 a year. At least one additional woman inspector is needed. Recommendations for such increase could be made by Mr. Gardiner to the Appropriation Committee.

Miss Schutz also pointed out that conditions, as found throughout the state, show the need of a compulsory school attendance law with enforcement by the State Labor Department.

There was discussion of the difficulty of getting judgments on cases of prosecution against violators of the Minimum Wage and Child Labor laws in certain of the courts. Agreed that the remedy lies in working up public opinion to stand back of the law.

Miss Dietrichson agreed to collect data and literature relative to these proposed measures.



Conference with Miss Schutz on School Enforcement  
Laws. Sept. 28, 1920

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Miss Schutz,  
Miss Burton and Secretary.

Miss Schutz was invited to explain how poor enforcement  
of school attendance laws effects her work in the  
Child Labor Department of the State Labor Bureau.

Miss Schutz said that the attendance situation  
throughout the state generally is extremely bad.  
This is due to the fact that enforcement is in the  
hands of the county superintendent's supervision:  
The superintendents are too often influenced by  
personal or political pressure or if conscientious  
they are too busy to see that the law is enforced  
adequately. In some counties the superintendent's  
livery bill is paid out of his salary, the result  
that he travels as little as possible.

Miss Schutz's recommendations were that the  
State Educational Department should supervise the  
enforcement of school laws and that state aid should  
be made dependant on a higher percentage of attendance.  
It was suggested that the number of days a child must  
attend school to receive state aid be raised from  
thirty to sixty and possibly one hundred days.

Prosecutions are very helpful but are hard to secure at present because of the unwillingness of the superintendents to face unpopularity and because the State Labor Department has an inadequate force of inspectors.

Miss Schutz agreed that it would take more money to centralize enforcement in the Department of Education and provide for more inspectors, but believes the expense justified.

Another difficulty in Minnesota is that county superintendents have no authority over graded schools in the matter of truancy and there is no way at all of checking conditions in such schools.

Miss Schutz believes we should work towards the goal of the consolidated school system in Minnesota.

The second conference was held October 1st to discuss the same matter with Miss Elizabeth Hall, new Chairman of the American Citizenship Committee. Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Miss Hall, Mrs. McDonald and Secretary.

Miss Hall said she believed the situation in Minneapolis could never be made right until the city has home rule.

She recommended a strong effort in behalf of the Smith-Towner Bill.

She was not ready for recommendations for Minnesota but she said the most obvious difficulty was the lack of the Central Attendance Department in the Department of Education. The difficulty with the present system, which leaves enforcement in the hands of County Superintendents, is not so much that the superintendents have the power to enforce, but that they have the power not to enforce.

Arrangements were made to interview Pres. Coffman of the University the morning of October 4th.

Miss Hall agreed to formulate three questions to be put to state candidates.

Conference on American Citizenship -October 4. 1920

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Miss Hall and  
President Coffman.

President Coffman stressed need for equality of educational opportunity for rural children as compared to city children. He made these points:

(1) City children have ten month's school, while in the country law is permissive and as low as six months in some counties.

(2) Restrictions to make law compulsory more strict in city than in country.

(3) Quality of teachers should be stressed, should have four years special training in addition to high school.

There are eighty or ninety high school normals of one year each, costing in addition to overhead \$135,000 which ought to be abolished.

The four year's normal program ought to be obtainable by 1925.

Places to live in country should be secured for teachers. Teachers often come to the city, giving up jobs in country and take lower pay because they can find no decent place to live in country.

Salaries should include not only a living sum, but also a saving sum, a cultural sum, all three of which



should be paid every teacher and in addition teachers of distinction should be paid more.

(4) There should be consolidated high schools and dormitories in connection with them.

(5) Physical training and inspection in rural schools.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

should make a study of whole situation but is obliged at present to spend most of its time inspecting. It will probably advocate for legislation this year, first, continuation schools.

Should provide for 288 hours

Hours should be in day time

Schools should be on employer's time

#### STATE AID

There are twenty-one different bases for state aid at present.

All state aid should be based upon 100 days attendance.

Principles upon which all state aid should be made:

1. Provide equal opportunity
2. Should stimulate local sentiment
3. A part should be held in reserve to

be used in assisting counties who have tried to meet requirements but failed to do so for lack of funds.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS SHOULD NOT BE ELECTED as they are now. Should be appointed by a Board as is done in Iowa.

#### REFERENCES

Coffman and Swift's study of State Aid is the best one in the United States.

Kent's report published by the University

R.A. Kent on State Aid in Minnesota

The Carnegie Foundation Report for State of Missouri is best thing published.



The second meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the Curtis Hotel, Thursday, October 7th, 1920

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Presiding; Mmes. Sriver, Dietrichson, Guise, Fridley, Blythe, Misses Monahan, Wells and Harrison, and as guests, Finsterbach, (also secretary of Blind Association) and Dr. Hurd.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mrs. Guise reported on the Legislative Council of the Minnesota Federation of Womens Clubs. The eleven departments each sent in a number of recommendations to the Resolutions Committee which were adopted at the recent annual meeting at Northfield. From the considerable number of recommendations endorsed, two or three will be selected to receive active backing at the time of the next legislature. Mrs. Guise will furnish copy of the general resolutions as soon as available and it is proposed to call a meeting of the Legislative Council of the League of Women Voters soon after.

Mrs. Fridley reported that this is the first year the Woman's Club has had a real Legislative Committee and their method of procedure has not yet been worked out. She has already appointed Mrs. Bruno on the committee and will announce other appointments

soon. Mrs. Scriver reported that although the College Womens Club has had a legislative committee, it has not attempted any active work to date. She believes that educational needs should be the first consideration of her organization.

Mrs. Dietrichson submitted the following recommendations as Chairman of the Woman's Industry Committee of the League of Women Voters:

"Believing that the enforcement of laws we already have is the first consideration and that therefore the state bureaus entrusted with this duty be given more adequate support, we recommend:

(1) That the appropriation for the minimum wage commission be increased from the very inadequate sum of \$10,000 for a two year period to \$25,000 for the same period.

(2) That the appropriation for the state labor bureau be increased or readjusted so as to give a more adequate budget to the Bureau of women and children.

We recommend in this connection that a letter be authorized by this body to Mr. Gardnier, head of the Labor Bureau, asking him to arrange his budget for presentation to the legislature, basing the amount for the Bureau of women and children on the principle of equal work for the women inspectors as compared with the man

inspectors in their department, and providing for the addition of at least one woman inspector.

(3) As the most essential new legislation we recommend the amendment of the laws regulating hours of labor, so as to provide for an eight hour day, a 48-hour week and one day's rest in seven for women employed outside the home."

Mrs. Dietrichson moved that the Legislative Council send a letter to Mr. Gardnier, Chairman of the Minimum Wage Commission expressing the interest of this council in the prompt establishment of a minimum wage based on the present cost of living. This motion was amended to read that the Legislative Council send a letter to Mr. Gardnier expressing the interest of the Legislative Council in the immediate increase of the minimum wage to meet the increased cost of living, and the motion was carried as amended.

Miss Monahan as chairman of the League Status of Women committee of the League of Women Voters submitted the following recommendations:

(1) That the present laws be revised to make all voters eligible to jury service instead of men only.

Miss Monahan was instructed to write the Attorney General for a ruling as to whether women are eligible

to jury service under the present laws.

(2) a. Increase in the maximum allowed under the county allowance on "Mothers' Pension" Law.

b. Appropriations as already provided by law for state aid to counties accepting supervision by the Board of Control.

Mrs. Fridley speaking of her experience in the Red Cross heartily endorsed this recommendation.

(3) Establishment of courts of Domestic Relation.

(4) Regulation of street trades to prevent the employment of children.

(5) Revision of the law so that no woman could be committed to the State Reformatory for a sentence of less than one year.

(6) Combining the Board of Men Visitors and the Board of Women Visitors into one body.

(7) Consideration of the principle of the Indeterminate Sentence.

It was moved, seconded and carried that recommendations submitted to the Legislative Council be referred to a committee of three to be appointed by the chairman and to include in all cases the person making the recommendation, the chairman of the

appropriation committee of the League of Women  
Voters and the Chair, to report back at an early  
meeting of the Council.

The meeting adjourned.



Confidential

A SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION IN MINNESOTA was held in the office of the Commissioner of Education in St. Paul, October 13th, 1920

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Hall, Mr. McConnell and the Secretary.

ADMINIS-  
tration

Mr. McConnell first talked of certain problems in school administration such as the advisability of having certification of teachers centered in the State Department of Education. Some change in the law will be necessary to carry this policy out.

The summer training schools once maintained by the State Department of Education have been discontinued, but the problem of giving proper training and help to rural teachers has not yet been solved. At present eight or nine regional educational meetings are held annually and are splendid inspirational opportunities. One-week teachers institutes are also conducted by the State Department of Education under the special charge of Miss Anna Swenson, and have a real value. Unfortunately the regional meetings and teachers institutes interfere somewhat since it is impossible for the average school teacher to spare so much time from her work. There is also difficulty in securing the right kinds of teachers for the institutes, although salaries paid are above the average. Four out of the

six normal schools have special rural school instructors on their faculties equipped to give special service.

The great problem of the rural teacher is the lack of adequate supervision. Recommendations on this matter are included under the report of State Aid.

The ideal solution is school consolidation but we must face the fact that this solution can not be reached in Minnesota for many years. Meanwhile, the problem of the one-room isolated school is acute.

#### COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

One recommendation which may be made by the State Department of Education to the next Legislature will be to make the office of County Superintendent appointive with confirmation of the appointee by the State Department, part of the salary to be paid by the county and part by the state. There should be county boards of education corresponding to the state Board of education. Mr. McConnell's recommendation is that the county board of education should be elected by the members of the town school boards who are elected by the people. There are from fifty to one hundred eighty school districts to a county, with three members on the school board of every common school district. These school Board members would elect from five to six members of a county board of education on which would rest the responsi-

bility for the appointment of the county superintendent. Mr. McConnell suggested that the proper body to recommend such a recommendation to the Legislature is the legislative committee of the M.E.A. The recommendation would probably encounter much opposition from legislators from rural districts if proposed by the State Department of Education due to the fact that the legislators and county superintendents are apt to be in closest political relation.

#### STATE AID

At the last Legislature the law which provided for a State Board of Education with power to appoint the state commissioner ordered that a special investigation on the general subject of State Aid for education should be undertaken and a report presented to the next regular session.

Five members were appointed on the committee to make this investigation: Mr. Phillips, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Swain Miss Baldwin. This committee has been at work since the law was passed, its report has already been adopted by the State Board of Education and copies ~~of~~ for general distribution are expected from the printer any day. Mr. McConnell reviewed the general provisions of this report.

The entire educational system in Minnesota is based on the principle of State Aid. Interest from the permanent school fund, which was established by the constitution, is

distributed to every school in the state on the basis of so much per pupil. At present the minimum of forty days attendance is required from every pupil considered in ~~this~~ the distribution of this fund.

Additional funds are appropriated by the state Legislature so that the efficiency of the educational system throughout the state depends upon the temper of the Legislature at its various sessions.

For the sake of stability Mr. McConnell recommends that a general two-mill tax be authorized. This would be just a little more than the amount usually appropriated by the state Legislature and would insure a permanent school policy. This recommendation has been presented to two legislatures. Four years ago it passed one house and two years ago it did not come up for a vote.

The Board recommends that the minimum of attendance for pupils receiving State Aid be ~~ix~~ raised from forty days to sixty days. Mr. McConnell believes that it would be impossible to put this higher at the present time, basing his opinion on a poll of members of the Legislature taken within the last six months. Mr. McConnell feels that raising the number of days might cripple some of the schools financially and believes that compulsory attendance laws can be enforced in other ways. Enforcement should be in the hands of county boards with machinery in the state depart-



ment to check up on results and to set standards.

Mr. McConnell then reviewed the points in the report of the committee on State Aid, including provisions for State Aid for:

1. Supervision of rural schools ~~and~~ libraries
2. Transportation for children in isolated districts
3. Standardization
4. Supplementary aid where districts are too highly taxed at present
5. Supervision of Physical training
6. Special instruction for defective children
7. Part time and evening schools
8. Compulsory schools attendance for ~~publix~~ pupils from fourteen to ~~18~~ eighteen years old unless actually at work.

Miss Baldwin of the Library Commission should be consulted on the provision for school ~~and~~ libraries.

Mr. McConnell said that under the provisions of this report most of the flat aid to schools would be taken off.

Important new provisions in this report are for State Aid for supervision of rural schools; physical training; part time and evening schools in cities as well as rural districts.

Mr. McConnell agreed to prepare eight or ten talking points briefly and attractively stated and based on the recommendations in this report for use in a publicity campaign to get public opinion behind these recommendations.



A meeting of the Legislative Council was held October 19th<sup>1920</sup> at the headquarters of the League of Women Voters.

Present: Ueland, Wells, Coonan, Dietrichson, Hall, Sriver, Blythe, and Secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

It was moved that a letter be sent to members of the League Council stressing the importance of full attendance and asking what time would be the most convenient for future meetings. Carried.

Moved that eight persons be necessary for a quorum. Carried.

It was moved that measures, when endorsed, be put on an approved list, open to reconsideration on motion of any member of the Council.

Mrs. Dietrichson read letters from Mr. Gardiner of the Labor Department replying to our recommendations on the increase of appropriation for the Bureau of Women and Children in the State Labor Department, and for immediate increase in the minimum wage for women to meet the increased cost of living.

Moved that a second letter be sent Mr. Gardiner, clearing up points in our first letter which he misinterpreted, reiterating our position.

Mr. Gardiner reported that he had already incorporated in his report the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women, and the addition of one woman inspector.

Note: It may be necessary to take up the question of this appropriation with the newly elected Governor according to a suggestion from Miss Evans. Her letter is on file.

Moved that Miss Wells be made an ex-officio member of this Council with power to vote. Carried.

Miss Hall reported on conferences with President Coffman and Mr. McConnell on the subject of necessary educational legislation.

Miss Hall recommends that the League of Women Voters accept the report of the State Department of Education relative to State Aid, provided two features of this report are found to be satisfactory. The first question which requires further study is whether or not the provision of the report gives ample assurance of the enforcement of school attendance for the full term. Miss Hall is of the opinion that Mr. McConnell is probably right in holding that State Aid should not be conditional on an attendance per child of more than sixty days, but is not convinced that sufficient

machinery is established for the enforcement of the attendance laws.

The second question is the matter of establishing County Boards of Education to be elected by members of local School Boards and with power to appoint the County Superintendent.

It was moved to ask Miss Hall to confer with the legislative committee of the M.E.A. , expressing our interest in this matter and urging full consideration of the same at their annual convention in November.  
Carried.

Miss Hall also suggested that it would be advisable to invite Mr. Phillips to speak at the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters and also at a preliminary meeting of this Council.

Adjourned.

Meeting of the Legislative Council was held November 15, 1920 at the Headquarters of the League of Women Voters.

Present: Mmes. Ueland, Coonan, Fridley, Weiskopf, Gilman, O'Brien, Roberts, Guise, Forrestal, Scriber, Wilde, Blythe, Miss Wells, Miss Hall, Miss Hanson, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Phillips of the State Department of Education, and the Secretary.

Mrs. Guise reported on the legislative program of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs based on the resolutions adopted at their annual meeting, and the reports of special committees. Mrs. Guise agreed to submit this program in writing for further consideration by <sup>a</sup>special committee appointed by the Chair, consisting of Mrs. Guise and Miss Wells.

Mr. Phillips presented the report of the State Department of Education containing 5 proposed bills, including a general revision of the plan of state aid. <sup>The</sup> Report was referred to a special committee appointed by the Chair, consisting of Miss Hall and Mrs. Wilde, to be reported back at the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

The meeting adjourned.

A meeting of the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation to consider the proposed Street Trades Bill was held November 16, 1920 with Miss Wells and Miss Harrison present as representatives from the League of Women Voters. Representatives were present from the Minneapolis Tribune (Mr. Medley), the Minneapolis Daily Star, and the St. Paul Dispatch (Mr. Oppenheimer, Attorney).

The history of previous attempts to pass such a bill was briefly review<sup>d</sup> by Judge Waite who spoke of the bill prepared by the Minnesota Child Welfare Commission in 1915, which was abandoned because the opposition encountered from newspaper interests was so great that it was felt that its retention would imperil the success of the other Child Welfare measures proposed at that time. Miss Felsenthau spoke of the work of a second group consisting of representatives of the schools, various social agencies, the juvenile court, the Labor Bureau, etc., which prepared an ordinance similar to the one proposed previously by the Commission. Considerable opposition to this ordinance was encountered in the City Council, and as the State Legislature was about to meet, it was decided to give up the project and attempt to get state legislation to cover the need.

Miss Schutz of the State Labor Department pointed out that the word "employed", as used in the proposed bill, did not cover children who buy and sell newspapers independently.



Representatives of the Minneapolis Tribune and Minneapolis Star and Mr. Oppenheimer, who came to the meeting later, agreed that the newspapers would have no opposition to a law forbidding the selling of papers by boys under 12. Mr. Medley of the Tribune argued that the proposed bill is too drastic and that it is not right to take away from boys under 16 the opportunity to earn money by selling papers. He also argued the difficulties of law enforcement.

Mr. Oppenheimer of the St. Paul Dispatch read the present St. Paul Ordinance which provides for a system of licensing badges similar to that proposed in this bill, and reported that the law is absolutely unenforced in St. Paul. Miss Schutz of the State Labor Department pointed out that it is at present impossible to enforce in that city any laws through the agency of the school attendance authorities as the records are notoriously ill-kept and there is only one truant officer in the entire city. She held that there is no inherent difficulty in the enforcement of such a law as that proposed.

The representative of the Minneapolis Star raised the point that while prohibition of the sale of papers by boys on the downtown streets might be desirable, little harm results from their sale in the up-town districts. He expressed himself as generally open-minded as to the value of the bill.

It was agreed that a sub-committee of three members representing the Minneapolis Committee on Social Legislation, the group which has made a previous study of such legislation, and the press be appointed to make an intensive study of this proposed legislation and report back to the Committee for further action. Suggested that Mr. Bickelhof of the Minneapolis Journal be the representative of the press on this sub-committee. This was agreeable to the other press representatives at the meeting.

# Legislative Council

Minnesota Division of the National League of Catholic Women

Mrs. Daniel Coonan

College Womens Club

Mrs. Albert Scriver

Faculty-Womens-Club

Visiting Nurses Assn.

Mrs. Thos. S. Roberts

Jewish Womens Council

Mrs. Henry Weiskopf

League of Women Voters

Mrs. Andreas Ueland  
Marguerite M. Wells  
Mrs. Gerhard Dietrich-son

Miss Florence Monahan  
Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws  
Miss Eliz. Hall

Miss Alta Hanson

Dr. Mabel Ulrich

Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne

Minn. Committee on Social Legislation

Mr. F.J. Bruno

Minn. Federation of Fraternal Women

Mrs. Frances B. Olson  
Mrs. John M. Guise

Minn. Federation of Womens Clubs

State Board of Education

Mr. Jas. M. McConnell

Minn. W.C.T.U.

Mrs. Chas. La Du

Womans Club of Mpls

Mrs. F.L. Fridley

Womens Co-operative Alliance

Mrs. Virginia Blythe

Mpls Committee National Women's Trade Union League

Mrs. Joan Dorr O'Brien

Womens Welfare League

Mrs. Fowler

Minn Federation Bus. Women Mrs. Forestal

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the headquarters of the League of Women Voters December 1st at 10:30. <sup>1920</sup>

Present: Mmes. Ueland, Roberts, Dietrichson, Blythe, Blythe, Fridley, Brown, O'Brien, Paige, Misses Wells, Monahan, Hall, Mr. Bruno and the secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and a correction was made in the minutes of the meeting of October 19th to include, "It was moved and carried that the recommendations of the Women in Industry Committee for a more adequate appropriation for the Bureau of Women and Children in the State Labor Department be put on the approved list".

Miss Monahan reported on a bill drawn up by the Attorney General to permit women to serve on juries, changing the wording to read, "twelve men or women or both, etc.,".

Moved, seconded and carried unanimously that we place upon the approved list the first recommendation of the Women in Industry Committee, as follows:

That the appropriation for the Minimum Wage Commission be increased from the very inadequate sum of \$10,000 for a two year period to \$25,000 for the same period.

Moved that we place upon the approved list the third recommendation of the Women in Industry Committee, which reads as follows: "As the most essential new legislation we recommend the amendment of the laws regulating hours of labor, so as to provide

for an eight-hour day, a 48-hour week and one day's rest in seven for women employed outside the home." Carried unanimously.

The second and only other recommendation of the Women in Industry Committee was placed upon the approved list at an earlier meeting of the Council.

It was moved that the amended bill presented by the Legal Status of Women Committee to permit women to serve on juries be placed on the approved list. Carried unanimously.

Moved that we place upon the approved list the recommendation of the Legal Status of Women Committee (2 a) as follows: "Increase in the maximum allowed under the present county allowance or Mothers' Pension law". Carried unanimously. Moved that we place upon the approved list the recommendation of the Legal Status of Women Committee (2 b) as follows: "Appropriations as already provided by law for State Aid to counties accepting supervision by the Board of Control in the administration of the Mothers' Pension Law". Carried unanimously.

Miss Hall presented the recommendations of the American Citizenship Committee in detail. It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that we place upon the approved list the general report of the Minnesota State Board of Education with the following provisions: (1) That a committee, of which Miss Hall shall be chairman, be appointed to consult with the Attorney General to draw up a bill for compulsory school attendance. (2) That the



Legislative Council prepare an amendment to the existing school laws increasing the minimum school term to 8 months. (3) That we recommend changing the phraseology of Section 10 B (d) of an act relating to "State Aid to Public Schools" to read that, "Nothing in this act shall be interpreted to mean compulsory instruction in sex-hygiene".

Mr. Bruno of the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation discussed the proposed bill regulating street trades. The proposed measure is now under consideration. It was moved, seconded and carried, that whatever measure shall be decided upon by the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation shall be adopted by this Council and placed upon the approved list.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the Headquarters of the League of Women Voters January 3rd, 1921

Present: Ueland, Wells, Monahan, Dieudonne, of the League of Women Voters, Bruno, of the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation, Mrs. Kantrowitz representing Mrs. Weiskopf of the Jewish Women's Council, Mrs. Scriber, of the College Women's Club, Mrs. Ladd, O'Brien, of the Mpls. Committee on National Women's Trade Union League, LaDu, of the W.C.T.U., Hendrix and the secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Mrs. Ueland, in the absence of Miss Hall, reported on the status of the educational bills. Amendments to the existing school laws, increasing the minimum term to eight months and strengthening the provisions for enforcement of the attendance provisions are being prepared by Miss Hall in consultation with the Attorney General. Miss Hall telephoned a report that the Board of Education had not accepted the substitute wording proposed by the League of Women Voters for Section 10 B (d) of the act relating to State Aid, which read, "Nothing in this act shall be interrupted to mean compulsory instruction in sex hygiene", but offered the following wording instead: "Providing that class room instruction in the field of sex hygiene should not be permitted under the provisions of this act." It was the sense of the Council that this rewording

by the State Board of Education is not satisfactory. It was agreed that we obtain a legal opinion from the Attorney General on the force of this section. Miss Wells moved that a special committee of five be appointed to take this point up again with the State Board of Education. Seconded and carried.

It was reported that a bill providing for an eight hour day and forty-eight hour week will be introduced by the State Labor Department and that this bill will contain no provision for one day's rest in seven. Mr. Bruno moved that the question of a proposed amendment to this bill providing for one day's rest in seven be referred to the Women in Industry Committee for discussion with the State Labor Department. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Blythe reported on nine bills already drafted by the Women's Co-operative Alliance and two measures which have been endorsed but not drafted, and asked the consideration by the Council of these eleven propositions:

Bills:

1. For a woman assistant County Attorney of Hennepin Co. Part of a bill for readjustments in salaries of county officers. This bill put under consideration of a special committee of Hennepin County delegation.
2. For clearing the Court Room during the taking of testimony in sex cases. (A bill introduced at the last

legislature was lost largely because it excluded members of the press from the Court room. The present bill allows newspaper representatives in the Court Room.)

3. For strengthening the laws concerning delinquency so as to reach adults contributing to the delinquency of children.
4. For requiring both contracting parties to request the marriage license and to make a statement regarding freedom from venereal infection.
5. For defining adultery to apply equally to man and wife.
6. Amendment of the law concerning the competency of witnesses, (so as to make it possible for young children to testify in case of certain offences.
7. For amending the law concerning a certain statutory offense.
8. For enabling unmarried women to bring civil action for damages in their own name.
9. For a state law similar to the present city ordinance regulating public vehicles.

Measures Endorsed:

1. Scholarships for children financially unable to attend school.
2. Family Courts or Courts of Domestic Relation.

Miss Monahan moved that the bills presented by Mrs. Blythe be referred to a special committee to report back to the next meeting of the Council. Seconded and carried. Mrs. Ueland

appointed members of this committee as follows: Mrs. Ueland, Mrs. Blythe, Mr. Bruno.

Mr. Bruno recounted briefly the movement for a Court of Domestic Relations. A committee to investigate this subject was appointed at the State Conference of Social Workers last fall to report at its next annual convention. Meantime the Bar Association took the matter up, inviting Judge Waite to address its meeting. No action was taken by the Bar Association, but a number of members were convinced of the need for such a Court and as a result a committee was formed which will report its recommendations sometime next week and bring in a bill. The theory back of the Family Court idea is based primarily on two points: First, under the present system a number of actions are taken by a number of Courts all relating to the same subject, and second, the present procedure does not bring as good results as that to be expected from an administrative organization of the court such as that now existing in the Juvenile Courts. The Family Court would have jurisdiction over the following types of cases: Custody of children; determination of maternity; adoption; mother's pensions; juvenile court laws and divorce. Probably no indictable offences would be included in the jurisdiction of the court.

Miss Wells moved that the report of the committee on this



subject, when published be referred to a committee of this Council appointed by the chair, for immediate consideration. Seconded and carried.

Discussion followed of ways by which the various organizations represented in the Legislative Council could effectively cooperate in support of the program. Mrs. La Du and Miss Hendrix advised that the program as adopted by the Council would be submitted to the W.C.T.U. and then pushed by its organization heads throughout the state. Mrs. Blythe promised the co-operation of the Co-Operative Alliance in all its branches. Mrs. O'Brien said that she would bring the matter before the women's Trade Union League and also before other organizations and groups such as the M.E.A. and labor organizations. Mrs. Kantrowitz for the Jewish Women's Council, Mrs. Fridley for the Woman's Club and Mrs. Roberts for the Visiting Nurses Association promised to secure the endorsement and support of their organizations. Mrs. Fridley and Mrs. Roberts sent in their reports by telephone. Mr. Bruno said that the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation, while it has no organization through the state, and is dependent upon other bodies for bringing political pressure, will co-operate in every way in working out the details of the program.

Miss Monahan urged that the Council take under consideration the matter of the proposed restoration of Capital Punishment in

this state and be prepared to take a definite stand in case the matter comes up in the state legislature.

Mrs. Ueland announced the Legislative luncheons to be held at the Radisson every Saturday noon.

Meeting Adjourned.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held Monday,  
1921  
February 7th at 321 Meyers Arcade. Present: Ueland, Wells,  
Dietrichson, Monahan, Ulrich and Hall representing the League  
of Women Voters; Mrs. O'Brien, Mpls. Committee National  
Women's Trade Union League; Mrs. McIntyre in place of Mrs.  
Fowler of the Women's Welfare League; Mr. Bruno, Minnesota  
Committee on Social Legislation; Miss Felsenthal for Mrs.  
Weiskopf of the Jewish Women's Council; Mrs. Blythe, Cooperative  
Alliance; Mrs. Scriver, College Women's Club; Mrs. Guise,  
Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs; and the Secretary.

Mrs. Ueland reported on the status of bills in the State  
Legislature. Members who were present agreed to be on call in case  
of emergency in the State Legislature and to organize groups of  
women to be called on whenever demonstration at the Capitol is  
needed.

Miss Monahan and Mrs. Blythe were appointed to confer with  
Mr. Parker and Mr. Putnam of the Judiciary Committees on the subject  
of proposed exemptions to jury service.

Miss Hall reported for the special committee appointed to  
confer with the Department of Education in regard to the sex hygiene  
provision in the State Aid Bill. Miss Felsenthal moved that the  
Council take steps to secure a change in the present clause.  
Seconded and passed.

It was the feeling of the Council that a letter be written to the State Board of Education, explaining why the Council is carrying this point to the Committees of Education.

It was agreed that in taking this matter up with the committee on Education, we first try to have the present clause relating to sex hygiene omitted, and failing that to secure a substitute provision.

Mrs. Ueland reported on conference with Mrs. Blythe concerning the bills of the Cooperative Alliance. It was agreed that formal action of the council on these bills should not be asked.

Mrs. McIntyre presented an act concerning habitual offenders for the consideration of the Council.

Mrs. Dietrichson spoke of the changed situation in regard to the Minimum Wage Commission and gave it as her opinion that the Minimum Wage Commission should not be placed under the proposed new Industrial Commission at the present time.

A letter was read from Mrs. Maud Wood Park on the critical situation of the Sheppard-Towner Bill. It was moved, seconded and carried that a telegram from this Council be addressed to Mr. P. P. Campbell, Chairman of the House Rules, urging him to rule that an immediate place be given on the House Calendar so that the Sheppard-Towner Bill may come to a vote this session. Individual members also agreed to take action.

Moved that the Council adjourn until Saturday, Feb. 12, at 10:30 A.M.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the office  
of the League of Women Voters February 12<sup>1921</sup> at 10:30. Present:  
Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Hanson, Mrs.  
Dieudonne, Mrs. Sriver, Mrs. Blythe.

Mrs. Ueland reported the progress of the bills in the State  
Legislature. The bills for the 8-Hour Day, the 8-Months School  
and the state appropriation under the Mothers' Allowance Act are  
to be introduced next week.

There was considerable discussion on the situation in regard  
to the Minimum Wage Commission and the proposal to place it under  
a new industrial commission, transferring the present secretary and  
employees. It was the sense of the meeting that every effort be  
made to prevent our present laws in regard to the minimum wage from  
becoming inoperative, but no course of action was decided upon.

The question of legislation in Minnesota in case the Sheppard-  
Towner bill is carried in Congress was discussed and Mrs. Dieudonne  
was appointed to consult with Mr. Bradley and Mr. Bruno on this  
question.

The meeting adjourned.



1921

Meeting of the Legislative Council was held March 5 at the headquarters of the League of Women Voters, Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Felsenthal, Dr. Ulrich, Mr. Bruno, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Blythe, the Secretary, and Mrs. Ladd as visitor.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Legislative Council adopt, as part of its program, state legislation to meet appropriations made by Congress for maternity and infancy care.

Mrs. Ueland reported on the Mothers' Allowance bill which has been delayed in the senate. It was recommended that Mrs. Ueland ask Senator Rockne to reaffirm his support of the appropriation to carry out the provisions of the Mothers' Allowance law.

The Street Trades bill is expected to come to a vote in the Senate very soon. We have a bare majority in favor of the bill, not enough to insure passage. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Brooks of Minneapolis are opposed. Mr. Guilford and Mr. Dwyer have not been seen. Mr. Bruno agreed to take the question up with the Children's Protective Society, with the Associated Charities and the Lion's Club with a view to getting action from them. Miss Felsenthal agreed to do the same for the Jewish Clubs of the city, and Mrs. O'Brien for the Federation of Teachers. Mr. Bruno also agreed to see Dr. Lyon of the Parents and Teachers Association.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Legislative Council will agree to reasonable exemptions to jury service but

to no exemption on the ground of sex alone. It was agreed to ask the House Committee for a special hearing on the subject of exemptions. At the request of Mrs. Ladd a motion was put to postpone action on the Jury bills for a period of two years, but on being put to a vote it was unanimously defeated.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Legislative Council go on record as opposed to the bill introduced in the Legislature to increase the membership of the Board of Control to 4 on the ground that it would open the door to political influences against which the Board, under the original law governing its make-up, had been successfully safeguarded.

See Resolution on following page.

It was agreed that Mr. Bruno should draft a resolution on this matter to be used as talking point in opposition to bill.

Mrs. Ueland reported that, after the hearing on the bill for an 8-hour day, 48-hour week for women employed outside the home, it was agreed to allow an amendment increasing the limit per day to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours, and a second amendment excluding graduate and student nurses and hospital employees from the provision of the bill.

Resolution of Legislative Council - March 5th. 1921

In view of the fact that the Board of Control was originally organized in such a way as carefully to avoid all political motives and considerations in its administration of the large and important responsibilities entrusted to it, and as the proposed bill destroys this protection by

- (a) making the governor a member of the board, with a vote in certain circumstances, and
- (b) that in two of each six years three of its members consist of the governor and two of his appointees

The Legislative Council of the League of Women Voters believes this bill should not pass.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the office of the League of Women Voters May 16th. <sup>1921</sup> Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Miss Hall, Mrs. Forrestal, Mrs. Dietrichson, Mr. Bruno, Miss Felsenthal, Mrs. Blythe, Mrs. Sriver, and as visitors Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Ladd, Mrs. Thorp and Miss Kneubuhl.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and corrected to read that "At the time Mrs. Ueland spoke to Mr. Fowler and Mr. Brooks about the Street Trades bill, they said they were not prepared to say how they would vote as they had not given the matter sufficient consideration up to that time."

Mrs. Ueland reported on the results achieved at the last session and emphasized the importance another year of getting our bills in within the first day or two. Mrs. Thorp suggested that certain members of the Council be appointed to have special responsibility for certain bills, to report regularly to the chairman of the Legislative Council.

Emphasis was laid on the matter of having men and women in the Legislature who will be willing to fight courageously for progressive legislation on education.

Mr. Bruno urged that attention be given to enforcement of the Street Trades bill, especially in 2nd and 3rd class cities. The bill is on trial up to the time of the next Legislature, and its permanent place on the statute books will depend on public opinion and adequate enforcement.

It was suggested that the League of Women Voters Committee on Women in Industry be organized to the extent of a chairman in each county and particularly that thorough investigation of the working hours for women in small communities be made, to assist the Council in drawing up a bill to present to the next Legislature.

It was the sense of the Council that the failure of the state to make an appropriation as provided by the Mothers' Allowance law, and the men responsible for this failure, be given state-wide publicity.

It was suggested by Mr. Bruno that we get members throughout the state committed against any back refund under this law but prepared to ask that provisions of the law be carried out by the state in the future.

The matter of re-organization of the Legislative Council, with a view to extending the membership to include organizations not yet affiliated, and to secure more effective co-operation with present members was discussed. It was moved, seconded and carried that a committee be appointed by the chair to report a definite plan of organization to the next meeting of the Council. Mrs. Ueland appointed Miss Harrison, Mrs. Dietrichson and Mr. Bruno to act as the committee.

It was suggested that the Legislative Council arrange a definite program for the consideration of various legislative needs next winter which would include publicity and educational work throughout the state and which would enable us to outline a general legislative program before candidates for the legislature file next spring.

Affiliated organizations and the legislative committees of the League of Women Voters were asked to be prepared to report at the next



meeting, in a general way, upon the legislative needs which they wish the Council to consider. Miss Wells urged that every member present make an effort to secure a full attendance of the Council at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

JUNE 6, 1921

The sub-committee on organization appointed at the last meeting makes the following recommendations to the Council:

### MEMBERSHIP

That the following organizations at present affiliated with the Council be asked to re-appoint representatives for the coming year:

- Minnesota League of Catholic Women
- Jewish Women's Council
- Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation
- Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs
- Minnesota Federation of Fraternal Woman
- Minnesota W.C.T.U.
- Woman's Club of Minneapolis
- Woman's Co-operative Alliance
- Mpls Committee National Women's Trade Union League
- College Women's Club
- Visiting Nurses Association
- Business and Professional Women's Clubs
- Women's Welfare League

It would be advisable to have the representative of the College Women's Club empowered to act also as the representative of the Association of University Women, if a state organization is to be formed. In case the Visiting Nurses Association re-appoints a representative, it is recommended that the Infant Welfare Society be requested to do the same.

In addition it is recommended that the following organizations be requested to appoint a representative:

- North Central Field Committee of the Y. W. C. A.
- Minnesota Public Health Association
- Association of County Superintendents of Schools
- Minnesota Educational Association
- Parents Teachers Association
- Housewives Union
- State Nurses Association

## Recommendations (Continued)

The following organizations have been suggested in connection with the work of the committee on Food Supply and Demand, which now has its representative on the Council, Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws. It is suggested that more information be obtained about the scope of these organizations:

State Farmers' Clubs ( of which Mr. Fred Palmer is the head and which is made up of both men and women)

The County Agents

The Housewives League

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs which are organized throughout the state and are interested in food production.

In regard to additional members from the League of Women Voters, it is recommended that Mrs. Walter Thorp, because of her valuable experience in actual work at the Legislature, be made a member but to allow every district organization of the League to have a member on the Council would too greatly increase the membership. It is suggested that such representatives may be given the privilege of sitting in at business sessions on invitation of the Council.

### PROGRAM

The committee recommends the intensive consideration of the principal divisions of work month by month, beginning September first, with a view to having a general program outlined by the time candidates file for the Legislature next spring. Included in this program should be:

Monthly business meetings of the Council, with additional meetings as needed

Monthly luncheons with impressive speakers, open to the public.

Monthly articles in The Woman Voter on the subjects before the Council.

Monthly meetings on the same subjects to be held by local Leagues of Women Voters.

### Recommendations (Continued)

It is recommended that heads of official State Departments, such as the Women's Bureau, The Minimum Wage Commission, The Children's Bureau, the State Board of Health, Dept. of Education, etc., interested in subjects to be considered by the Council be communicated with and asked to speak and to advise on definite projects before the Council. It is recommended also that a special affiliation be made with the Extension Division of the State University with a view to securing speakers and arranging special courses or conferences in other parts of the state.

It is recommended that a sub-committee be appointed to decide on suitable place and date for the monthly luncheons, to secure speakers and outline a definite program ready to be acted on in the fall. For the sake of publicity this program should be ready for announcement not later than August 15th.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held Monday morning, <sup>1921</sup> June 6th, at the home of Miss Wells. Present: Mrs. Ueland, Mrs. Thomas Roberts, Miss Felsenthal, Mrs. O'Toole, Mrs. Scriver, Mrs. Barber representing the Women's Co-operative Alliance, Dr. Ulrich, Miss Wells, and the secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. O'Toole reported that the street trades bill is not being enforced in St. Paul. Miss Felsenthal reported that Mr. Hegel has the matter in hand in Minneapolis and expects to have his machinery in working order by August 1st.

The report of the Committee on Organization was presented by Miss Harrison:

Dr. Ulrich moved that the following organizations at present affiliated with the Council be asked to re-appoint representatives for the coming year:

- Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation
- Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs
- Minnesota Federation of Fraternal Women
- Minnesota League of Catholic Women
- Women's Co-operative Alliance
- Women's Welfare League
- Jewish Women's Council
- Woman's Club of Minneapolis
- College Women's Club
- Minnesota Federation of Business and Professional Women
- Minnesota W.C.T.U.
- Mpls. Committee National Women's Trade Union League

Seconded and carried.

Miss Wells moved that we ask all organizations in the state belonging to the Association of University Women if they wish to be



represented on the Council, and if so, if they wish to empower the representative of the Minneapolis College Women's Club to act for them. Seconded and carried.

Moved that the Housewives' Union be put on the list of organizations about which further inquiry is to be made. Seconded and carried.

Moved, seconded and carried that the following organizations be requested to appoint representatives to the Council:

- Y.W.C.A. -North Central Committee
- Minnesota Public Health Association
- Association of County Superintendents of Schools
- Minnesota Educational Association
- Parent-Teachers Association
- State Nurses' Association
- Hennepin County Public Health Association

Moved that we request the Hennepin County Public Health Association to name Mrs. Roberts as its representative on the Council. Seconded and carried.

Note: Mrs. Roberts is at present the representative on this Council of the Visiting Nurses Association, one of the organizations which make up the Hennepin County Public Health Association.

Moved, seconded and carried that the Committee on Organization be instructed to make further investigation concerning the following organizations, with power to act:

- Housewives' Union
- Housewives' League
- State Farmers' Clubs
- County Agents
- Boys' and Girls' Clubs

Moved, seconded and carried that Mrs. Thorp be asked to become

a member of the Legislative Council.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Fourth and Fifth District Leagues of Women Voters be invited to name one member each on the Council, and that other districts be invited to name representatives provided that their regular attendance can be assured.

Moved, seconded and carried that a Program Committee be appointed by the chair to carry out the program suggested by the Committee on Organization, as follows:

The Committee recommends the intensive consideration of the principal divisions of work month by month, beginning September ~~first~~, with a view to having a general program outlined by the time candidates file for the Legislature next spring. Included in this program should be:

- Monthly business meetings of the Council, with additional meetings as needed.
- Monthly luncheons with impressive speakers, open to the public.
- Monthly articles in The Woman Voter on the subjects before the Council.
- Monthly meetings on the same subjects to be held by local Leagues of Women Voters.

It is recommended that heads of official State Departments, such as The Women's Bureau, The Minimum Wage Commission, The Children's Bureau, The State Board of Health, Department of Education, etc., interested in subjects to be considered by the Council be communicated with and asked to speak and to advise on definite

projects before the Council. It is recommended also that a special affiliation be made with the Extension Division of the State University with a view to securing speakers and arranging special courses or conferences in other parts of the state. -

It is recommended that a sub-committee be appointed to decide on suitable place and date for the monthly luncheons, to secure speakers and outline a definite program ready to be acted on in the fall. For the sake of publicity this program should be ready for announcement not later than August 15th.

Moved, seconded and carried that affiliated organizations be asked to bring in definite legislative recommendations as early as January 1st. Letters reminding members of this action should be sent out about September 1st.

Adjourned.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held Friday, June 30th, <sup>1921</sup> at 321 Meyers Arcade. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p. m., with the following members present: Mmes. Ueland, Dietrichson, Guise, Ulrich and Miss Lawrence representing the League of Women Voters; Mrs. Sriver, College Women's Club; Miss Geary, Minn. Educational Association; Mrs. Griswold, Minnesota W. C. T. U.; Mrs. Caswell, State Council of Americanization Agencies; Miss Felsenthal, Jewish Women's Council; Miss Sikes, College Women's Club; Mrs. J. F. McGhee, Catholic Women's Federation; and Miss Harrison as Secretary.

Mrs. Dietrichson reported for the sub-committee on industrial legislation.

Limitation of Hours for Women in Industry.

Mr. Duxberry, the member of the Industrial Commission having general supervision of the work of the Bureau for Women and Children, has expressed himself as unwilling to have a bill for the limitation of hours of employment for women introduced at the next session under the auspices of the Industrial Commission. He will not be opposed, however, to having the members of the Bureau actively support such a measure if introduced by other agencies.

Minimum Wage Law

In regard to amending the minimum wage law, Mrs. Dietrichson



read a letter received from Assistant Attorney General Markham explaining the supreme court decision on which makes it necessary for the Industrial Commission to prove that employers have received notice of minimum wage rulings if they are to be held accountable for violations. Mr. Markham is of the opinion that a change in the law would be desirable. Mrs. Dietrichson read the sections from the California minimum wage law providing for several ways of giving official notice to employers of changes in minimum wage rulings but holding employers definitely responsible in any case for observance of the law. The Minnesota Industrial Commission has been approached in regard to introducing a bill at the next session to amend the minimum wage law in conformity with these provisions of the California law, and it is expected to take a favorable attitude.

Mrs. Griswold moved that we refer to a subcommittee the matter of a change in our minimum wage law to provide a practicable means of giving legal notice of minimum wage rulings for which employers may be held accountable. Seconded, carried.

#### Women Member on Industrial Commission

Mrs. Dietrichson offered the following report of the subcommittee on this point and recommended that action be



deferred until a later meeting of the Council.

"Committee of the Legislative Council on a woman member of the Industrial Commission.

1921  
"The Committee met on June 23rd. All members were present.

It had been found on investigation that of the sixteen states having industrial commissions, six have a woman member on the same footing as men members. The laws of California, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania provide that one member of the commission shall be a woman. In New York, Ohio and Oregon, a woman had been appointed voluntarily by the governor. The Minnesota law allows appointment of women but does not make it compulsory.

"As to conditions in Minnesota making it desirable or otherwise to have a woman member of the Industrial Commission - there are 165,000 employed women, and approximately another 100,000 employed boys under 21, a total of 265,000 as compared to 742,000 men. Not quite 1/3 of our workers are women and children but they constitute a group especially in need of the protection of the law.

"There has been a slackening in the enforcement of these laws, especially of the minimum wage law. As an example: under the former administration with a woman in charge \$17,000 of back pay due girls from employers who had been

disobeying the law, was collected in eighteen months.

During the first three months under the present commission while the work was left in the hands of the woman at the head of the Bureau of Women and Children, \$15,000 was collected in back pay. Since that time for a year no back pay has been collected. The law is the same as before. It leaves the right to prosecute to obtain back pay to the girl, but experience has shown that workers are afraid of coming out of law suits, wiser but poorer than before.

No girl alone has ever instigated a suit. Employers were induced to meet their rightful obligation without legal process by the previous administrators of the law. The present commission has taken the position that since the law does not give the right to the commission to prosecute, no action whatever should be taken to help the girls collect the money due them, thus putting post-ponement of compliance with the law at a premium.

"The committee concluded that there should be one member on the commission who would have at heart the protection of the women and children with which it deals and that such a person is more apt to be a woman. We therefore recommend that an effort be made by this legislative council to have a woman appointed as one member of the industrial commission.

"There are two ways to go at this: 1. By introducing a bill, changing Section 2 of the law creating the industrial commission to read 'The commission shall be composed of three commissioners, one of whom shall be a woman', 2. To induce the governor to appoint a woman to take office July 1, 1923 under our present law.

"Because of our policy of keeping our legislative program as short as possible we recommend that the second method be tried first, with the understanding that we must be assured before January 1, 1923, of such an appointment and that we ask particularly that the appointment be made on the basis of fitness for the position by training, experience and general qualifications.

"Mary Watkins Dietrichson  
Chairman"

Miss Lawrence reported for the sub-committee appointed to consider points on the educational program not adopted at the last meeting of the Council, as follows:

In regard to strengthening the provisions of the compulsory attendance law (Point 2), the committee recommended (a) increasing from forty to sixty the number of days attendance required per pupil in calculating state aid, and substituting for (b) and (c) one new recommendation

"The appointment in the state department of education

of a supervisor of public school attendance."

In regard to part-time education (Point 3), the committee recommended consideration of the bill already drawn by Mr. Greer and other members of the department of education in Minneapolis. This bill was presented to the Council and discussed (A copy is attached to these minutes)

In regard to county boards of education (Point 6), the committee recommended the adoption of this in principle and urged that if possible a plan favored by the majority of county superintendents be adopted. It is understood that such a plan is now being worked out and that it will probably call for a county board elected by members of the present local school boards in each county and empowered to appoint the county superintendent.

No action was taken on these recommendations as Miss Lawrence urged that the Council give more time to their consideration.

Reports from other sub-committees were deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45.

Gladys Harrison  
Secretary.

*Indeterminate  
Sentence*

# THE BASIS OF PAROLE

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CHAS. E. VASALY  
Superintendent

MINNESOTA STATE  
REFORMATORY

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Reprint from Quarterly Bulletin of the  
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## THE BASIS OF PAROLE

Chas. E. Vasaly, Superintendent Minnesota State Reformatory

Originally prisons were simply places of detention until the real penalty was inflicted—loss of property, mutilation, torture, or death. Later came the general acceptance of the theory that imprisonment itself was a penalty—that the offense committed against society could be measured in time, short or long, according to the gravity of the offense. Along with this went the practically universal practice of making the sentencing judge the timekeeper, the measurer of the length of time adequate to express society's conception of the offense. Whether the jury determined guilt, or the offender pleaded guilty, the judge assessed the time, subject, however, to custom and practice which varied from time to time as the viewpoint changed, and embodied in a list of crimes and penalties which constituted the penal code.

As growth in civilization brought forth a different conception of the violator of law, and humane ideas replaced the retributive and vengeful theories of punishment, there gradually arose a questioning of the efficacy of the system as a protection to society, always the first end of punishment. In the eighteenth century John Howard, probably the greatest investigator of prisons and hospitals who ever lived, disclosed the terrible conditions then prevailing in European institutions, and began that movement for humane conditions in hospitals and prisons which glorifies his name. In the same century the philosopher Beccaria laid down, in his treatise on crimes and punishments, the fundamental doctrines of modern penology, the basis of which was that it is futile and wrong for society to be vindictive in its treatment of the offender and that it injures itself in so doing.

About the middle of the nineteenth century the theory of the indeterminate sentence began to receive consideration. The idea was not new, since the tribunal of the Inquisition, when it pronounced sentence, did so with the reservation that the penalty might be increased or diminished, according to conduct, and in other times and places there was a hint of the doctrine. It was thought that the criminal law, instead of being a matter of retribution and vengeance, should become reformatory. The first fruits of the new thought in this country were in the adoption of good-time laws—commutation of sentence through good behavior under confinement. Later came the indeterminate sentence. Previously in England, Ireland and Spain, there had been in certain cases some provision for classification and freedom in the nature of parole. In 1867 a law was enacted in Michigan providing that a prostitute sentenced for three years might be released earlier if there were belief that she meant to lead a better life. Zebulon Brockway, later first superintendent at Elmira Reformatory, New York, but then head of the Detroit House of Correction, was responsible for this first effort in enacting the principle of the indeterminate sentence into law in this country. When the law establishing the Elmira Reformatory was passed in 1869 it included provisions that courts should commit only and not limit the maximums in the penal code. From that time there was a gradual spread of the doctrine, until now over two-thirds of the states

have the indeterminate sentence in some form. I shall dwell a little on the indeterminate sentence, as it has much to do with a proper system and basis for parole. Indeed, one grows logically out of the other.

For many years after the establishment of the Minnesota prison in 1851 there was but one way to be released, outside of the expiration of the term. That was (through death or) the pardoning power of the governor. In 1867 the good-time law was enacted, providing that for good conduct in the prison six days a month were granted for the first year; seven days a month, after the first; nine days, after the second; ten, after the third. This was a step forward, but only that. In 1874 compensation of \$2.70 a month was authorized, based on good time, fines being given for misconduct. This was modified in various ways, but the present remarkable system of compensation at the prison was a product of later years, as the major industries were developed. There was no parole system, however, for many years. In 1887 the law establishing the reformatory was enacted, and it provided that first offenders between the ages of 16 and 30 should be sent to the reformatory without limit as to time except as provided by the maximums in the penal code. In 1889 the legislature provided for the transfer of first offenders from the prison to the reformatory, but it was too full to receive them. The board of managers of the prison recommended that a system of restricted conditional pardons be established, to enable something to be done for first offenders in the prison. This was done, first offenders being granted conditional pardons after serving their minimums. If the sentence were a year or less, two-thirds of the time must be served, and four members of the board of managers must recommend the prisoner, he must have employment, and must report. This helped somewhat, but was unsatisfactory. In 1893 Governor Nelson urged and secured the passage of a law allowing first offenders less than 21 years of age to be sent to the prison on the reformatory plan. Others might be paroled after serving half their time, and previous felony prevented parole. The board of managers made the rules, subject to the approval of the governor. While this opened the door of hope to many, there were still a great many who had no opportunity to show that they would redeem themselves. The situation was not changed till the enactment of the 1911 indeterminate sentence law, which extended to the prison that which had been applied to the reformatory. We have no purely indeterminate sentence law and there is none anywhere. What we have is in reality an indefinite sentence, sometimes with a minimum, with the maximum provided in the penal code, and limited by various conditions relative to parole and discharge. The act of 1911 exempted murder in all its degrees and high treason from the operation of the law. Later murder in the third degree was brought under the law. The time at which parole shall begin or terminate is for the judgment of the paroling authority, subject to the requirements of law. The minimum, while expressed in the code, is not in the way of parole, it having been held by the Attorney General that minimums were made negatory by the act of 1911. The Board has full authority to make necessary rules, and appoint agents. It is composed of that member of the Board of Control who has been longest in the service, and who is ex-officio chairman, one citizen member, and the heads of the three penal institutions, who act only on cases in their insti-

tutions. Life prisoners may be paroled under what is known as the Younger law, after serving 35 years less what would be deducted for good time, making them actually eligible after serving 23 years, 7 months and 18 days. Also, life prisoners commuted by the Board of Pardons become eligible to parole.

In 1917 the law was amended, giving judges the power to limit the maximum within the time provided in the penal code. We believe this to have been a serious mistake—that it is inconsistent with the theory of the indeterminate sentence, and a hindrance to a proper system of parole. The judges should be and are men of high character, learned in the law, with high standards of justice and morality. Yet, if the object of imprisonment as we see it these days be the protection of society, and we feel that society is better protected by the rehabilitation of the offender, how is it possible for any judge to know in advance what time will be required for such a readjustment? The fixing of time by the judge is part of the tradition that an offense against the commonwealth can be measured by time—that for every specific offense there shall be a certain measure of punishment. This conception of punishment did not take into account the offender, the reasons back of what he did, nor did it consider what might be done to make him useful. We believe that the court room is not the place to determine how long it will take to make an offender ready for citizenship. If a penal institution, rightly administered, is in a sense a social hospital, then no judge, no matter how wise or good, can determine in advance how long the cure or the period of convalescence, any more than the physician who sends a patient to a hospital can know how long he is to stay. Of course, those who believe that there must be vengeance taken against the guilty wretch will not agree. History shows that severe punishment in itself alone never prevents crime. If it had, we should be a nation of angels now. Speedy, certain, impartial justice is much more effective. How can a judge who has only seen the prisoner during the trial, of whom nothing has been disclosed other than allowed under the rules of evidence, where the crime is the major issue, where the atmosphere is often ripe with contention, fairly say how long it will take to make the man safe for society? Take the stranger, the drifter, who wanders into the state and commits crime. No one knows him, no one cares very much, and, even if one did, there isn't time or equipment to find out about him. He doesn't have to tell his history. The county attorney tries to convict, the defendant's lawyer—generally a young lawyer appointed by the court—to defend. The man may be an escape, he may have seen many prisons—no one knows, and he doesn't tell. He may be plausible enough to deceive, and the result is a short sentence, too short for training to be of much use, and his past only comes to light when investigation begins at the institution. He is smart, he has blinded justice, and he goes out ready to try it again. Over and over again this has occurred. A sufficient maximum would give time to study and observe him, and a possible chance for saving him.

Every inmate has the right of applying to the Board of Pardons for pardon or commutation of sentence. This is a safeguard against the possibility of the Board of Parole's detaining a prisoner too long, although after many

years' experience on the Board of Parole my judgment is that the mistakes are more in the shortness of the period of training, rather than its length. The Board of Pardons is not, and should not be, a reviewing board for the Board of Parole. It is not its function to do parole work. In it is vested the great prerogatives of clemency and mercy, among the highest expressions of the majesty of the state. To redress the wrong done the innocent, to correct miscarriages of justice, seems to me its principal functions. It is the most powerful tribunal in the state, since it can release any offender, whether in workhouse, jail, reformatory or prison. The Board of Parole assumes that the processes of the courts have been just and fair; if convinced that wrong has been done, it calls the matter to the attention to the Board of Pardons, where power rests to remedy. For instance, if there be a claim of innocence, and there appears to be a doubt, or a possibility of error, it believes in the interest of justice that such a case should go to the Board of Pardons.

Sometimes offenders claim that they pleaded guilty because induced to do so, with the promise of release at a certain time. These statements are often incorrect, but there are enough of them to be unfortunate, since it is evident that no one has authority to make such promises or to fulfill them. A more general knowledge of the system of parole and of its workings would prevent such occurrences.

There is the offender who commits crime because he tires easily and becomes a user of liquor or drugs to recuperate. Such persons require the observation of the medical man and the psychiatrist. They are apart from the class who like to be lazy because they love idleness, and who need special training to develop interest and ambition in labor. The great difficulty with most offenders is they are self-centered, selfish, and egoists. They place their desires and their wants first, and do not understand why their family and their friends do not appreciate them, and when once in trouble, they think no sacrifices should be spared. It is a part of the task to break this feeling before such a person can realize his responsibilities.

3. The third statement of what is to be taken into account covers character, capacity, habits, tendencies and attitude. His history may have revealed much as to this, and in addition to his history there comes before the Board the report of the physician of the institution on his physical and mental condition, of the teacher on his scholastic acquirements and attitude in school, of the disciplinary officer, of the work officer, of the resident parole agent who has interviewed him, of everyone whose observation has been long enough and valuable enough to be expressed. This should include, when possible, report of examination by a psychiatrist, which, if sanely and carefully done, is of help. Character is self-built, although impulses which form come from outside, and expresses itself in many ways. It is important to know so far as possible whether the change from an anti-social to a socially conscious attitude is sincere, whether what the lips so glibly profess is the expression of real qualities of heart and mind. Capacity is the measure of the strength, physical partly, but more largely mental and moral, which the offender possesses in relation to what he expects to be and do. With great desire, and little capacity, the out-



look is not good, and a more equal balance promises a possible success. Habits are an index of character, since they may reveal weaknesses and lack of strength to resist temptation. Tendencies toward the better things as distinct from tendencies toward evil, if shown, are evidences of growing strength, while attitude of mind toward morality, toward authority, toward family and friends, are certainly of importance. It has been argued that since the offender is to go out into a world definitely organized, the nearer the life he leads in training approaches outside conditions, the more likely he is to succeed. The trouble with this is that the offender has failed because he could not adjust himself to society, he has been out of step, and whatever the causes which make him anti-social, for part of which society itself may be responsible—nevertheless he is alien to it, and must be readjusted. To expect that men who have failed and who need transformation will be successful simply through practicing a so-called system of democracy in the penal institution is more than a mistake. It is a blunder. How can men who have shown lack of self-control, little will power, and imperfect integrity, acquire the virtues of manhood and a true sense of the responsibilities of citizenship by playing at democracy? Imported into the penal institution is every passion and every instinct that animates men outside. It is the task to restrain and divert these energies, potent with good and evil. Believing that there should be no limit to the things that may be done to develop the best in the offender, I still believe that to expect those to exercise fair and just supervision and control over their fellows when they do not possess those attributes themselves, is to expect too much.

In this connection I would consider the development of the religious instinct as far more important in the moulding of character than any other influence. When all else fails, when appeal because of family, of self respect, of material advantage, fails, religion takes hold and saves. All the influences we can bring to bear, all the prospects we can point out, together have no such pull upon the heart and mind and soul, form no such foundation for success, as a sense of real religion. Men must repent the wrong done, not only because liberty is lost, but because that is the beginning of a new, a stronger and a better life, and no one more than the offender needs to have a Great Rock within whose shadow he may rest.

4. In the fourth statement we place what in the criminal law is first—the crime, its nature and circumstances. It is the distinctive fact about modern penology, and perhaps its greatest achievement, that the offender, his history, with all that concerns him, should be the principal thing in a proper system of parole, and his crime secondary. This does not in any sense mean any minimizing of the offense, or the acceptance of any evasion of personal responsibility for it, but it does mean that to understand the crime one must understand the criminal. This appears difficult to many who have conceived a horror of some crime above another, and who are likely to use the crime for which they have a particular abhorrence as a measure by which to judge every person found guilty of that crime, without reference to circumstances, motive, history or mental condition. It is not easy, with our human standards, with our emotions and feelings outraged by some monstrous offense, to judge the offender fairly and

impartially. We have no desire to judge fairly. Every instinct within us, the inherited repulsions of ages, more or less thinly veneered by custom, tradition, convention, moral and religious education, calls for vengeance, which we believe to belong to God alone, and yet, blinded by our emotions and losing the balance of reason, we talk and act like cave men. It is not sentimentalism to point this out. Law is for the protection and greater good of society, and those who violate it must be punished, not because organized society can take any pleasure in the punishment of the guilty, but because the principal aim of punishment for crime must be the protection of society, and included should be, if possible, the transformation of the offender into an asset rather than a liability and a danger. The notion is that the punishment should fit the crime, and in older times incendiaries were burned alive, the instrument of their crime being used as a punishment. There is still plenty of that sort of logic. The Board goes into the circumstances of the offense, not to excuse, but to reveal, and often the investigations subsequent to the trial disclose motives which did not appear, and which might have modified the verdict or sentence. Possibilities of a miscarriage of justice may be seen. It is quite possible, too, that the offender may have been successful in deception, and deserved a severer sentence. The crime, as an indication of the disposition and tendencies of the offender, often as revelation of a degenerate or irresponsible mentality, may show much only imperfectly revealed otherwise.

5. We pass to the next consideration—the probabilities from all the facts that the prisoner will lead a correct life at liberty. This is a summing up of all that has gone before, the weighing of the various factors—strength of will, resistance to temptation, self-control, adequacy of training, scholastic and industrial, character, prospective environment, home and family relationships, regret for the past, determination for the future, etc. The action of the Board is not a matter of clemency or mercy, prerogatives which belong to the Board of Pardons. It is a Board which determines time of opportunity to give evidence of true social conduct. Parole is another word for opportunity to prove one's self while still in charge of the state, but under larger freedom than in the penal institution.

6. Yet after this summing up there is still one other factor of vital importance. That is the sixth statement—the effect of the parole upon the administration of justice. Since the object of the system is the protection of society, and the administration of justice is of tremendous importance to its well being, no Board of Parole should do anything to imperil or damage it. In cases of grave doubt, the greater good must prevail, and society be protected. Society cannot afford to harm the least deserving of its citizens needlessly, but on the other hand, the welfare of the many must prevail. The Board of Parole must therefore be careful, while extending opportunity to the deserving, to not sap the foundations of justice.

A serious class of offender is the subnormal. Rarely does this condition, unless it be very pronounced, come up in court. Those near the borderline are difficult to diagnose, possess often much plausibility, and deceive, because there is not the time, not the equipment, nor the means, to make a study of the de-

linguent's peculiar mentality. A short sentence for such a man or woman is unfortunate for the offender, and more so for the community. With the maximum there is time to give the case the attention needed. Then, again, there are offenders who for the sake of the community should always be in custody—the irresponsible, the semi-insane, sex offenders often, who have no self-control. They should be humanely treated, but should be safeguarded as long as possible. With a short sentence, and often such persons receive short sentences, not much can be done. Yet these people need special attention.

Fitness for release should determine time for release. It cannot be determined in advance. Boards of parole, being human, are fallible and make mistakes, but they have an advantage over the judge. They know more about the offender, and often more about the crime. After a study of the reactions of a man to work, to discipline, to education, to moral influence, to religion, it would seem no presumption to say that he is better known than at time of trial. The indeterminate sentence is a principle which can only succeed at its best under humane systems of imprisonment, where endeavor is made for physical, mental and moral regeneration of the offender. We must have wise administration of penal institutions, in which there must be such training and such treatment as will develop strong incentives morally, industrially, intellectually and socially. There must be such conditions in the courts as will insure fair and impartial trial. Since the highest standards are inseparable from the successful workings of the indeterminate sentence, its adoption is in itself a means of progress and reform. Its theory is that it is for the best interests of society not only to encourage and develop the good in the offender but to restrain him if incorrigible, and that to achieve this successfully is difficult, if not impossible, under fixed sentences.

The institution should be a preparation for parole. The stay there should be a process of readjustment. The offender is anti-social. He must be made social. Modern thought on this subject agrees that the protection of society is best achieved by the rehabilitation of the offender. He is removed from society because he has done wrong, and society is for the time safeguarded by being relieved of him. He should be transformed so that he can go out prepared to be a good citizen, and ready to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. His point of view, his habits, his actions, his mind, must be changed. He is taught that loss of liberty, with its deprivation of companionships and opportunities, is unprofitable as well as unpleasant; that crime does not pay materially, morally or spiritually, and that self-respect is worth while. He must be readjusted to the better side of the world he has left if he is to regain it in successful parole. Considerations as to what this training ought to be and how applied are not precisely within the scope of this paper, which is more concerned with the basis of action by the Board of Parole. If the institution does its work as it should, if it is able in spirit and policy as well as in equipment to readjust men, the work of the Board of Parole is already largely done. It is admitted that the good workman or skilled mechanic has a better chance for good citizenship than the one inadequately or little trained. Men who are to go out on parole should have the opportunity to be trained in some calling

that will provide a decent living for themselves and their dependents. Such trained men, who in addition have been taught what law and order mean, what self-respect is, and what their obligations are, will become valuable citizens. The state has placed them on their feet; henceforth they must stand erect. The problem of the institution is, therefore, to increase the number of trained men, trained not only morally and socially, but industrially. The man who leaves able to earn his living is an economic asset. It pays in a utilitarian, as well as a moral sense, to make him so. Before men come to the Board of Parole the work of readjustment must be well under way.

Several years ago the Board of Parole adopted certain rules for the transaction of business. Included among these is Section 5, defining what the Board should take into account in considering applications for parole. Section 5 is divided into six statements, which seem to me to create a complete foundation for action, and which may well be termed the basis for parole. Let us consider these statements:

1. Conduct while an inmate. While this is placed first, it is by no means dominant. The six statements must be considered in relation to each other, and as a whole. In some cases, one may seem more important, more of a determining factor, than another, yet all deserve attention. It is well known that good conduct in a penal institution does not necessarily mean repentance or reformation. It may mean simply a clever recognition of the situation, knowledge that to obey the rules is pleasanter and makes life easier. To the superficial observer, or to one saturated with the old tradition which judged solely or largely by conduct, some inmate who never breaks a rule may seem more worthy than the impulsive person who finds it hard to control himself, yet there may be better material in one than the other. On the other hand, credit and appreciation should not be withheld from the inmate who does obey the rules and whose conduct demonstrates that he has self-control and power of will. The importance of good conduct is recognized by the fact that the grades are based upon it, that good conduct earns the first grade, and keeps one there, being a pathway to freedom, since only those who have been in the first grade six months are eligible to parole. Good conduct in the case of many inmates is the triumph of strength over weakness. Lack of self-control being the cause of the inmate's troubles in the first place, as he gradually acquires control over his passions and habits his conduct improves. Many reports, especially if serious, would indicate weakness, lack of will power, or disinclination to improve, all of which would be serious handicaps to parole. Conduct in the institution is a vital and important element in parole, but must be considered with reference to the personality of the man. In this connection it would seem that the allowance of good time, which shortens a term of confinement by reason of conduct alone, and which is part of our prison laws, is utterly inconsistent with the indeterminate sentence law. It may have its value as an aid to discipline, and yet where release is proper, the motives and reasons for such release should lie with the Board of Parole, limited only by the maximums in the code.

To permit shortening of the term prescribed by law through good conduct as defined by obedience to rules without consideration of past history, or



any possibility that there has been transformation of character, or any likelihood of better living, seems to me to be in itself an attack on the system of parole. It is a thing old offenders like, because they object to supervision under parole, where their conduct may be tested out. They have accustomed themselves to look on imprisonment as a game in which they lost the stakes of liberty, and feel that the accounts are balanced by the time they stay. Another side is that those sent to the reformatory, where no good time is allowed, feel an injustice is done in giving older and presumably more serious offenders an advantage which they do not have. The matter would not be so serious were all sentences limited only by the maximums in the code, but with judges fixing maximums, including one, two and three-year sentences, it makes a difference. One year at the reformatory means one year, subject to possible release by the Board of Parole after six months in first grade, which may mean eleven months after entrance. At the prison one year would mean 10 months.

2. The second statement of what is to be taken into account is history previous to commitment. This means everything possible that may be learned about the offender from babyhood to the time he enters, and even before babyhood, since information as to family history may be of great value. With the commitment papers, there comes, if the statutes have been obeyed, a synopsis of the testimony if there has been a trial, the record of the examination of the man by the judge at time of sentence, and the impressions of the judge and the prosecuting officer. Invariably where no statement is made by judge or attorney, attention is called to the omission, as we welcome and desire the viewpoint of the judge and prosecutor. The process of investigation begins as soon as the offender enters. He goes into the second grade when he enters, and by good conduct may reach the first grade in five months, or at least in six months; then he must be in the first grade six months before he can appear before the Board of Parole. During this period of 11 or 12 months we seek to learn everything possible about him. We want the opinion of his parents, of his pastor, of his teacher, of his employer, of his friend, as well as the facts they reveal. In the trial his actions and his standing in school are not ordinarily disclosed and have no bearing; in the study of his career they may be very important. Whether he was diligent or careless in labor, saving or extravagant in expenditures, clean or coarse in speech, a faithful son, husband and father, or faithless to his obligations, his environment, social, moral, religious—all this information is of value. It is rarely or never disclosed at time of trial. In the trial much matter which has to do with the man, but not with the facts of his crime, would not be considered pertinent or necessary, yet such information may be of great value. Petitions, if in favor, are received as evidences of good will; if against a parole, as expression of opinion. They can have no weight, one way or the other, with a board anxious to do its duty impartially and justly. When the applicant comes before the Board of Parole, and he must appear personally, the board has before it a digest of his history as it has been learned.

After the man has been seen and examined by the Board, it may continue his case one or more months, or deny his application for parole or dis-

charge, and the case is again heard in six months, and every six months so long as he remains in the first grade. He has had an opportunity to explain his case, to discuss his prospects, and the reasons why he desires a parole. If paroled, employment must be found for him, and if his people do not secure it, the parole agents endeavor to do so.

There has been a gratifying improvement in the attitude of employers toward the paroled man, and there has been, even in the present time of depression, less trouble than might have been expected in placing men. Exploitation of the paroled man is not permitted. We insist that he must receive as well as give a square deal. The Board may make any rules it sees fit in regard to the paroled man. A recent decision of the supreme court, affirming the constitutionality of the parole law and the power of the Board to make and enforce rules of parole supervision, has placed the law on a firm foundation with reference not only to parole but to discharge. Reports are made monthly as a rule, and must be verified by some one, generally the employer. We insist that the facts of the man's career shall be known to the head of the firm, superintendent of the factory, or foreman, but they are not disclosed to anyone else, and never to newspapers. We do not tell when the men are paroled or where employed. They may reveal it, or sometimes there is an unusual case where there has been great public interest and where it may be well that the fact of parole be known. Ordinarily that is not the case, and we believe it is best for the man and for the community.

The paroled man may be returned for any reason—because his work is not properly done, because his relations with employer are unsatisfactory, because he does not treat his family well, because he keeps bad company, because he doesn't report promptly. It is not necessary that he commit a felony to lose parole. At the end of a year, on the average, the paroled man is discharged, and the Board may recommend in its discretion that his citizenship be restored by the governor. In some cases this may be withheld, but if the man has shown himself reliable, faithful to his obligations, he should be allowed to join his fellow citizens on an equality. He gets back the right to vote, the greatest privilege of a citizen, which he forfeited by his misconduct. If he is returned, he may be again paroled, or he may have to serve his full time. Sometimes, even though the case be not a hopeful one, the Board feels that it is better to have the man under observation and restraint under parole for the remainder of his time, rather than to keep him until expiration to be turned out entirely free. There is opportunity to try him out this way, and return if there is failure, which otherwise could not be done. The rules of parole are not irksome if one wishes to be a good citizen, but the hand of the state is there, to hold up if necessary, to restrain or return, if needed. I do not intend to burden this paper with statistics, but the past few years have shown a lesser number of violations of parole than formerly. I think this is largely due to a clearer understanding of the principles of parole and their application. Those who laid down those principles were farsighted and realized that as developed and applied they would form standards.



It is evident that no board can properly perform functions which deal with the rehabilitation of the offender if it is not independent and uninfluenced by politics. Happily the Minnesota Board has so far escaped this danger, which in some states has made the system of parole a farce. There may be disagreement with the judgment of the Board in one case or another, and it should not be free from honest, constructive criticism, but such criticism should be based on knowledge of what is being done, and the principles that animate the work. With the elimination of the power of the judge to limit the maximum, with such improvements in our penal system as will still better train men for citizenship, the system of parole can be made more than ever a safeguard and protection to society and a more potent and powerful instrument of good.

If I were to add anything to this statement of principles, it would be that restitution be considered a vital part of parole. There are indeed offenses where there can be no restitution. This would be true of certain sex offenses and crimes against the person. In cases involving property, which are 75 to 80 per cent of all the cases, there is a large field where restitution can be applied. Not enough attention has been paid to this as an element in the formation of character, aside from the justice involved in recompense, even if small, to the person injured. Imprisonment may satisfy the state; it does not recompense the victim.

I have thus defined what I believe should be the basis of parole. No claim is made that the Board of Parole follows with exactitude in every case the rules here defined, nor that invariably its conclusions are thus reached. I have sought, however, to define the spirit in which the task should be approached, in order that justice be done to the offender and to the community.

*Send Mrs. Bayne*  
1922.

Meeting of Legislative Council, May 26, 1922. 10.30-12.30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 by the chairman,  
Mrs. Ueland.

Present: Miss Wells, L.W.V.

Mrs. Caswell, Council of Americanization Agencies

Miss Wesley, State Registered Nurses Ass.

Mrs. Griswold, W.C.T.U.

Mrs. Hawley, Y.W.C.A.

Miss Mary Geary, Minn. Educational Ass.

Miss Felsenthal, Jewish Women's Council

Mrs. Roberts, Henn. Co. P.H.A.

Mrs. Guise, 4th District L.W.V.

*Mrs. Taylor, 5th District*  
Miss Davis, Fed. of Business and Professional Women

Mrs. Blythe, Women's Co-operative Alliance

Mrs. Thorp, L.W.V., Committee on Education  
L.W.V.

Miss Monahan, Committee on Uniform Laws

Dr. Ulrich, L.W.V. Committee on Social Hygiene &  
Public Health

Mr. Bruno, Minn. Committee on Social Legislation

Mrs. Fowler, Women's Welfare League

Mrs. Scriber, College Women's Club

and the secretary.

*Mrs. Ladd, guest*

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. Ueland briefly reviewed the purpose and policies of the  
Council. New members of the Council were introduced.

Miss Wells moved that sub-committees be appointed to consider recommendations brought before the Council, these committees to have not less than three members and include the person bringing in the recommendation, the chairman of the corresponding League of Women Voters committee, and one other. to be appointed by the chair. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Roberts moved that meetings be held monthly at League of Women Voters headquarters. Seconded, carried.

After discussion, 13 members voted to hold the meetings on the afternoon of the 4th Friday of the month, this arrangement subject to reconsideration.

Mrs. Hawley moved to ask the Council of Americanization Agencies to appoint Mrs. Caswell as a representative on this Council. Seconded, carried.

Miss Wells moved that the recommendations of the member organizations be made a special order of business at 11.40.

Mrs. Thorp explained that it had been necessary to reverse the ordinary procedure, and have a tentative education program approved by the League of Women Voters board before referring it to the Council in order to present recommendations to the Interim Committee on Education last winter. She then presented this program under six heads.

1. A minimum school term of not less than 8 months.

Miss Wells moved that this be indorsed and placed on the

approved list. Seconded, carried.

2. Strengthening the provisions of the compulsory attendance law
  - a. increasing from 40-60 days the number of days attendance required in calculating state aid
  - b. strengthening the provisions of the present school attendance laws.
  - c. providing more adequate machinery for enforcement.

Laid over.

3. Provision for part-time continuation schools

Laid over.

4. An effective program of physical education encouraged by state aid.

Miss Wells moved we indorse the principle of physical education. Seconded, carried.

5. Increased provision for teacher helpers in rural districts.

Mrs. Griswold moved that this be placed on the approved list. Seconded, carried.

6. Provision for county boards of education with power to appoint qualified superintendents.

Mr. Bruno moved that this be placed on the approved list. Motion withdrawn on explanation that this was new business not before on the program adopted by the Council

Mrs. Dietrichson moved that a sub-committee be appointed to investigate and report on Points-2 and 6.

Mrs. Thorp asked that Miss Isabel Lawrence be accepted as her representative Council during her absence. No objection.

(Committee appointed:



Mrs. Thorp also brought up the matter of a proposed allegiance test for teachers, said to be recommended by the American Legion, and voiced the opinion that we should be on the watch to see that no such measure be proposed which might lead to abuse and the introduction of tyrannous methods.

The time for the special order of business having arrived, Miss Wesley presented the following recommendation of the State Registered Nurses Association for the consideration of the Council:

1. Board of Nurses' Examiners to consist<sup>a</sup> of 2 members, all nurses
2. Authorization to hold nurses' examinations throughout state as well as in St. Paul
3. An Educational director under the Board of Nurses' Examiners
4. Two years' high school to be requirement for entrance in training schools up to 1924 - after that full high school course
5. Minimum of two years in training school
6. Licensing of all trained attendants (6-9 months training)

The bill to be made compulsory, with exceptions to permit of gratuitous nursing, Christian Science practitioners, etc. An increased examination fee, to provide funds for the hiring of the educational director.

Mrs. Hawley moved that this recommendation be referred to a special committee. Seconded, carried.

Dr. Ulrich presented the following recommendations of the State Board of Health:

1. Appropriation for a Division of Public Health Nursing in the state Board of Health
2. Appropriation for the Sheppard-Towner Bill
3. Increased budget for the Division of Vital Statistics

For the Social Hygiene Committee she recommended a bill



forbidding travelling street carnivals on the ground that these have a direct bearing on juvenile delinquency and the increase of prostitution and venereal diseases.

Miss Wells moved that these matters be referred to a special committee. Seconded, carried.

Mr. Bruno gave notice that the Committee on Social Legislation expected to recommend legislation on the following subjects.

1. Revision of the marriage bill drawn by the Child Welfare Commission of 1917.
2. Increased provision for care of feeble-minded
3. Indeterminate sentence - a new and better bill
4. Family Court
5. Protection of State Board of Control

Mrs. Taylor moved the reference of these matters to special committees. Seconded, carried.

*Woman*  
Mrs. Griswold presented the recommendation of the W.C.T.U that one member of the State Industrial Commission be required appointed. ~~Seconded, carried~~

It was voted to refer this recommendation to a special committee

Mrs. Finsterbach (not a council member) announced that the Pension Bill for the Blind would again be presented.

Mrs. Thorp moved that this be referred to a special committee. Seconded, carried.

Mrs. Caswell asked whether this Council would stand for the Towner-Sterling Bill. Explained that this Council does not handle national legislation.

Mrs. Dietrichson for the Committee on Women in Industry presented the recommendation adopted last year for an eight-hour day, a 48 hour week, and one day's rest in seven for women employed outside the home.

Mr. Bruno moved that we re-indorse this principle. Seconded, carried.

Miss Wesley explained that while nurses wanted an 8-hour day they did not wish to be governed by legislation on the subject.

Miss Wells moved that a special committee be appointed to consider this special question. Seconded, carried.

Mrs. Dietrichson also recommended that an amendment be made to the minimum wage law, as the courts have ruled that employers are not responsible for the enforcement of minimum wage orders unless it can be proved that they have received notice of same. Suggested that published notices of orders be made sufficient, but the assistant attorney general is being consulted as to the legality of this method of changing the law. Another suggestion is that employers wishing notification be required to file such request with the commission.

Miss Monahan announced that her committee on the Legal Status of Women was to make a survey of the legal status of women in this state, in order that legislation might be drafted for the removal of any remaining disabilities.

Meeting adjourned at 12.20 to attend luncheon at the Radisson on the subject of the Family Court.

Supplementary Report of the Secretary May 26, 1922.

The program adopted at the last meeting has been carried out, with one important exception. The monthly business meetings recommended have not been held during the winter months, it being felt that opinion on proposed subjects of legislation had not crystallized sufficiently to afford a working basis. The monthly luncheons, however, have been carried out with a very satisfactory attendance.

October 2            The Sheppard-Towner Bill (then pending)  
Speakers, Mr. Walter H. Newton  
             Dr. A. J. Chesley  
             Mr. Wm. Hodson

November 28        Problems of the State Board of Control  
Speaker, Miss Caroline Crosby

January 16          Educational Program  
Speakers, Mrs. Walter Thorp  
             Mr. Philip Carlson  
             Dr. C. A. Prosser

March 2            State Policy in the Care of Defectives  
                 and Delinquents  
Speakers, Mr. Frank J. Bruno  
             Mr. William Hodson  
             Dr. Katherine Brannock  
             Dr. Hamilton

March 20           Jury Service  
Speakers, Mrs. Nathaniel McCarthy  
             Mrs. C. Albert Carlson  
             Judge Molyneaux  
             Mr. Floyd B. Olson

May 26            The Family Court  
Speakers, Judge E. F. Waite  
             Mr. W. H. Cherry  
             Mrs. John M. Guise.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held Friday,  
1922  
June 30th, at 321 Meyers Arcade. The meeting was called to  
order at 2:10 p. m., with the following members present:

Mmes. Ueland, Dietrichson, Guise, Ulrich and Miss Lawrence  
representing the League of Women Voters; Mrs. Scriber, College  
Women's Club; Miss Geary, Minn. Educational Association;  
Mrs. Griswold, Minnesota W. C. T. U.; Mrs. Caswell, State  
Council of Americanization Agencies; Miss Felsenthal,  
Jewish Women's Council; *Miss Rankiellum, State Hyg. Nurse Ass.*  
~~Miss Sikes, College Women's Club;~~  
Mrs. J. F. McGhee, Catholic Women's Federation; and Miss  
Harrison as Secretary.

Mrs. Dietrichson reported for the sub-committee on industrial  
legislation.

#### Limitation of Hours for Women in Industry.

Mr. Duxberry, the member of the Industrial Commission having  
general supervision of the work of the Bureau for Women and  
Children, has expressed himself as unwilling to have a bill  
for the limitation of hours of employment for women introduced  
at the next session under the auspices of the Industrial  
Commission. He will not be opposed, however, to having the  
members of the Bureau actively support such a measure if  
introduced by other agencies.

#### Minimum Wage Law

In regard to amending the minimum wage law, Mrs. Dietrichson



read a letter received from Assistant Attorney General Markham explaining the supreme court decision on which makes it necessary for the Industrial Commission to prove that employers have received notice of minimum wage rulings if they are to be held accountable for violations. Mr. Markham is of the opinion that a change in the law would be desirable. Mrs. Dietrichson read the sections from the California minimum wage law providing for several ways of giving official notice to employers of changes in minimum wage rulings but holding employers definitely responsible in any case for observance of the law. The Minnesota Industrial Commission has been approached in regard to introducing a bill at the next session to amend the minimum wage law in conformity with these provisions of the California law, and it is expected to take a favorable attitude.

Mrs. Griswold moved that we refer to a subcommittee the matter of a change in our minimum wage law to provide a practicable means of giving legal notice of minimum wage rulings for which employers may be held accountable. Seconded, carried.

#### Women Member on Industrial Commission

Mrs. Dietrichson offered the following report of the subcommittee on this point and recommended that action be



deferred until a later meeting of the Council.

"Committee of the Legislative Council on a woman member of the Industrial Commission.

"The Committee met on June 23rd. All members were present. It had been found on investigation that of the sixteen states having industrial commissions, six have a woman member on the same footing as men members. The laws of California, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania provide that one member of the commission shall be a woman. In New York, Ohio and Oregon, a woman had been appointed voluntarily by the governor. The Minnesota law allows appointment of women but does not make it compulsory.

"As to conditions in Minnesota making it desirable or otherwise to have a woman member of the Industrial Commission - there are 165,000 employed women, and approximately another 100,000 employed boys under 21, a total of 265,000 as compared to 742,000 men. Not quite 1/3 of our workers are women and children but they constitute a group especially in need of the protection of the law.

"There has been a slackening in the enforcement of these laws, especially of the minimum wage law. As an example: under the former administration with a woman in charge \$17,000 of back pay due girls from employers who had been

disobeying the law, was collected in eighteen months.

During the first three months under the present commission while the work was left in the hands of the woman at the

head of the Bureau of Women and Children, \$15,000 was

collected in back pay. Since that time for a year no back pay has been collected. The law is the same as before. It

leaves the right to prosecute to obtain back pay to the

girl, but experience has shown that workers are afraid of coming out of law suits, wiser but poorer than before.

No girl alone has ever instigated a suit. Employers were

induced to meet their rightful obligation without legal

process by the previous administrators of the law. The

present commission has taken the position that since the

law does not give the right to the commission to prosecute,

no action whatever should be taken to help the girls collect

the money due them, thus putting post-ponement of compliance

with the law at a premium.

"The committee concluded that there should be one member on

the commission who would have at heart the protection of

the women and children with which it deals and that such a

person is more apt to be a woman. We therefore recommend

that an effort be made by this legislative council to have

a woman appointed as one member of the industrial commission.

"There are two ways to go at this: 1. By introducing a bill, changing Section 2 of the law creating the industrial commission to read 'The commission shall be composed of three commissioners, one of whom shall be a woman', 2. To induce the governor to appoint a woman to take office July 1, 1923 under our present law.

"Because of our policy of keeping our legislative program as short as possible we recommend that the second method be tried first, with the understanding that we must be assured before January 1, 1923, of such an appointment and that we ask particularly that the appointment be made on the basis of fitness for the position by training, experience and general qualifications.

"Mary Watkins Dietrichson  
Chairman"

Miss Lawrence reported for the sub-committee appointed to consider points on the educational program not adopted at the last meeting of the Council, as follows:

In regard to strengthening the provisions of the compulsory attendance law (Point 2), the committee recommended (a) increasing from forty to sixty the number of days attendance required per pupil in calculating state aid, and substituting for (b) and (c) one new recommendation

"The appointment in the state department of education

of a supervisor of public school attendance."

In regard to part-time education (Point 3), the committee recommended consideration of the bill already drawn by Mr. Greer and other members of the department of education in Minneapolis. This bill was presented to the Council and discussed (A copy is attached to these minutes)

In regard to county boards of education (Point 6), the committee recommended the adoption of this in principle and urged that if possible a plan favored by the majority of county superintendents be adopted. It is understood that such a plan is now being worked out and that it will probably call for a county board elected by members of the present local school boards in each county and empowered to appoint the county superintendent.

No action was taken on these recommendations as Miss Lawrence urged that the Council give more time to their consideration.

Reports from other sub-committees were deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45.

Gladys Harrison  
Secretary.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

Educational Legislation:

Miss Isabel Lawrence, Chairman, Miss Mary Geary,  
Mrs. John M. Guise, Mrs. Alexis Caswell, Mrs. Albert Scriver.

Nurses' Registration Bill, Establishment of a Division of  
Public Health Nursing in the State Board of Health, Increased  
Budget for Division of Vital Statistics:

Mrs. Thomas Roberts, Chairman, Miss Caroline Rankiellour,  
Mrs. C. R. Fowler, Dr. Mabel Ulrich.

Legislation to Abolish Travelling Street Carnivals:

Dr. Mabel Ulrich, Chairman, Mrs. Virginia B. Blythe,  
Mrs. F. E. Griswold.

State Appropriation to Meet Sheppard-Towner Act:

Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne, Chairman, Dr. Mabel Ulrich,  
Miss Marguerite M. Wells.

The Family Court, the Indeterminate Sentence, Increased  
Provision for the Care of the Feebleminded, and Revision  
of the Marriage Laws:

Mrs. John M. Guise, Chairman, Mr. F. J. Bruno, Miss  
Florence Monahan, Dr. Mabel Ulrich, Mrs. Virginia B.  
Blythe.

Legislation to Require the Appointment of a Woman Member on  
the State Industrial Commission:

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson, Chairman, Mrs. F. E. Griswold,  
Mrs. E. W. Hawley, Miss Maude B. Davis.

Inclusion of Nurses in Legislation Limiting the Hours of  
Work for Women:

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson, Chairman, Miss Caroline  
Rankiellour, and Mrs. Thomas Roberts.

Very sincerely yours,

Gladys Harrison

Secretary, Legislative Council.



1922

A letter was sent out September 1st as agreed to member organizations asking their recommendations as to subjects for council consideration but none ~~XXXXXXXX~~ was received until this last week.

The membership of the Council now stands:

Y.W.C.A.	Mrs. Edward Hawley	✓
M.E.A.	Miss Mary Geary	✓
Minn. P.H.A.	Dr. Wm. F. Wilde	
State Registered Nurses A.	Miss Caroline Rankiellour	✓
College Women's Club	Mrs. Albert Sriver	✓
Henn. Co. P.H.A.	Mrs. Thomas S. Roberts	✓
Jewish Women's Council	Miss Julia Felsenthal	✓
Minn. Com. on Social Leg.	Mr. Frank J. Bruno	✓
Mpls. Committee Nat. Women's Trade Union League	Mrs. Joan Dorr O'Brien	
W.C.T.U.	Mrs. Myra Griswold	✓
<i>Federation Bus. &amp; Prof. Women</i> Women's Welfare League	Miss Davis Mrs. C. R. Fowler	✓
Women's Club	Miss Ruth Sikes	
<i>Federation</i> Catholic Women's League	Mrs. J. F. McGee	
Women's Co-operative Al.	Mrs. Virginia Blythe	✓
League of Women Voters	Mrs. Ueland, ch.	
	Miss Wells	✓
	Mrs. Dietrichson, Women in Industry	✓
	Mrs. Bertha D. Laws, Living Costs	
	Mrs. Walter Thorp, Education	✓
	Mrs. Dieudonne, Child Welfare	
	Miss Monahan, Uniform Laws	✓
	Dr. Ulrich, Social Hygiene and Public Health Secretary.	✓

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

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Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson, Chairman; Miss Caroline  
Rankiellour, and Mrs. Thomas Roberts.

Very sincerely yours,

Gladys Harrison

Secretary, Legislative Council.

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the Meyers Arcade Friday, August 25th, <sup>1922</sup> beginning at 2:00 P.. M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Dr. Ulrich, Miss Wells, Mrs. McGee, Mrs. Blythe, Miss Rankiellour, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Caswell, Miss Lawrence, Miss Davis, Miss Sikes, Miss Monahan, Mrs. Guise, and the Secretary. Also as guests; Miss D. M. Cornelisin, Mrs. Ladd and Mrs. Holman.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Legislative Council concur with the action of the Executive Committee of the League of Women Voters in regard to the representative appointed by the Women's Trade Union League.

Miss Monahan presented the survey made by her committee on the Legal Status of Women in Minnesota without any recommendations for action.

Mrs. Roberts reported that her committee was not ready with recommendations on the nurses registration bill as the State Registered Nurses Association has not definitely outlined its provisions. Dr. Ulrich also advised that action on recommendations concerning the State Board of Health be deferred until more information is available.

Dr. Ulrich told of a conference held during July with Miss Jane Ogle representing the National Bureau of Physical Education and offering the assistance of that organization in securing a law providing for physical education in the public schools.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Secretary correspond with Miss Ogle with a view to securing her to assist in legislative work.

Mrs. Guise reported that her subcommittee had had meetings during the month and made the following recommendation: that the Legislative Council support a bill for the establishment of Family Courts with the provision

that such Courts be established only in cities in the first class, that they be optional (depending on the action of District Judges) and not compulsory, and that the use of investigators be made permissive. After discussion action on this report was deferred to a later meeting pending further recommendations of the Committee.

Mrs. Guise announced that her committee would report later on the question of the indeterminate sentence.

Miss Lawrence brought up once more the three points on the tentative educational program not yet approved by the Council. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Council place on the approved list point 3 for provision for part-time continuation schools with approval of the bill already drawn up by Mr. Greer and others of the Minneapolis schools.

Miss Lawrence recommended that action on the recommendations concerning County Boards and compulsory attendance bills be deferred until a later meeting in the hope that definite recommendations of the M. E. A. would be prepared at the time.

Miss Geary, as representative of the M. E. A., asked the consideration by the Council of the question of revising the State School tax and of establishing county libraries. On motion it was voted to refer these questions to the sub-committee under Miss Lawrence.

No further business being presented the meeting adjourned at 4:15.



The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the Meyers Arcade beginning at 2:10 P. M. Friday, September 22, 1922

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Chairman; Miss Wells; Mrs. Griswold, W.C.T.U.; Mrs. Dietrichson; Miss Rankiellour, Registered Nurses Association; Dr. Ulrich; Miss Sikes, Woman's Club; Mrs. Hawley, Y. W. C. A.; Mrs. Sriver, College Woman's Club; Mr. Bruno, Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation; Mrs. Caswell, State Council of Americanization Agencies; Miss Felsenthal, Jewish Woman's Council; and as visitors, Miss Westley, Mrs. Hargreaves, and Miss Zorbaugh. Mrs. Rittenhouse.

Moved by Miss Wells and seconded by Dr. Ulrich that this Council support an appropriation for the refunding by the State of one-third the amount expended by Mothers Pensions. Carried.

Mrs. Dietrichson reported for the special sub-committee on exclusion of nurses from the provisions of the limitation of hours bill and on her motion it was voted that nurses as well as domestics be excluded from the provisions of the bill.

Mrs. Dietrichson reported for the general sub-committee on industrial legislation with the recommendation that a bill be introduced to amend the act creating the industrial commission to provide that at least one of the three members shall be a woman. Motion seconded.

Moved by Dr. Ulrich that a committee be appointed to make further investigation with power to act. Motion not seconded.

Mrs. Dietrichson withdrew her original motion in order that further consideration might be given to the method of trying to secure a woman member of the Industrial Commission. Mrs. Dietrichson then moved that this Council go on record in favor of <sup>securing</sup> a woman member of the State Industrial Commission. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Dietrichson read a letter from the Industrial Commission stating that the Commission would not itself undertake to introduce a bill into the Legislature to amend the minimum wage law. She therefore moved on the recommendation of her sub-committee that this Council support an amendment to the minimum wage law in the section referring to published notice to make it read substantially the same as the provisions of the California law on this point. Seconded and Carried.

Miss Monahan presented once more the findings of her committee for the survey of legal status of women in Minnesota with testimony from Mr. S. R. Child and Dean Fraser of the Minnesota Law School that a blanket bill to remove such minor discriminations against women as exist under our present statutes is unnecessary, confusing and dangerous. The report of her survey committee concluded "There are no serious legal discriminations against women in Minnesota. <sup>that exist</sup> These can best be abolished by specific legislation amending each section of the statutes where discriminations occur". On motion of Miss Monahan duly seconded it was voted that this Council recommend that any discriminations or inequalities which women suffer under the laws of this state be remedied by specific statutory measures.

Mr. Bruno then presented the report of the sub-committee of which Mrs.

Guise is chairman as follows:

*See next page -*

*Family and mother*  
"Your Committee recommends that the principle of the Indeterminate Sentence be indorsed; that the L. W. V. oppose any effort to repeal the law; and that <sup>this year</sup> if any positive action is taken it be in the direction of the enactment of law in which the principle of the indeterminate sentence receives fuller recognition than the present law gives it". On motion seconded and carried.

Family Court Motion (insert in previous page)

"Your committee recommends legislation providing for the establishment of a Family Court, a division of the District Court, having jurisdiction over all actions and proceedings, civil or criminal involving adoption, the custody and welfare of children, prosecution or proceedings under the Child Labor Laws or the school attendance laws, actions or proceedings involving marital separation, divorce, the annulment of marriage, non-support, failure to provide or the abandonment of wife or children.

"We recommend that the establishment of this court be in cities of the first class; that the law be permissive and that cases of divorce in which the custody of minor children is not involved be exempted."

On motion, seconded and carried.

Dr. Ulrich then reported in place of Mrs. Roberts, chairman of the sub-committee to consider the recommendation of the State Board of Health and the Nurses Registration Bill, advising that no meetings of the sub-committee had been held. Dr. Ulrich read a letter from Dr. Chesley of the State Board of Health advising that the Board had not determined the recommendations which it would wish to make to the State Legislature but giving it as his opinion that the Division of Public Health nursing should not be requested and that the advisability of using Federal Aid as provided by the Sheppard-Towner Act seemed to him most questionable. Dr. Ulrich then moved that the Council defer action on these points pending the time when the State Board of Health shall have formulated its policy. Motion not seconded.

Moved by Dr. Ulrich that this Council endorse the nurses registration bill recommended by the State Registered Nurses Association. Seconded by Mrs. Dietrichson. Discussion followed in which it was explained that this bill is too special to be made a part of the general working program of the League of Women Voters and that the League does not endorse any bills to which it cannot give active backing in the Legislature. On the assurance that the bill would have the personal support and good will of members of the Council Miss Westley and Miss Rankiellour agreed that this was all the nurses would wish to ask and with their consent Dr. Ulrich's motion was withdrawn.

Moved by Dr. Ulrich that this Council support measures tending to eliminate traveling street carnivals. Seconded and carried.

Dr. Ulrich recommended Council consideration of the model anti-prostitution bill recommended by the Social Hygiene Committee of the National League of Women Voters. On her motion duly seconded it was voted to refer this bill to a sub-committee of the Council.



Miss Wells then spoke of the advisability of supporting the Sheppard-Towner Act in its operation in this State by securing an appropriation to meet the Federal aid offered by the bill. Moved by Miss Wells that the Council support a State appropriation to meet the Federal aid offered under the Sheppard-Towner Act. Seconded by Miss Monahan, and carried.

In the absence of Mrs. Thorp and Miss Lawrence Miss Harrison presented a draft for the final educational program as recommended by Miss Lawrence for her sub-committee. Moved by Miss Harrison for Miss Lawrence that the Council endorse point 2 "strengthening the provisions of the compulsory attendance law by having a supervisor of school attendance appointed by the State Department of Education". Seconded and carried. Moved by Miss Wells that the Council endorse point 6 in the following form: "That a County board of education be elected by the county with power to appoint qualified superintendents and county truant officers." Seconded and carried.

No action was taken on points 7 and 8 as it had been impossible to hold meetings of the subcommittees in the interval since the last meeting of the Council. Miss Lawrence however submitted her personal recommendation that the Council should not attempt to support a general revision of the school tax at this session and this viewpoint was supported by Mrs. Ueland after consultation with Mr. Carlson, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Nolan, and others.

Miss Harrison reported the request of the Freeborn County League W. V. that the Council consider legislation to make possible an adequate regulation of dance-halls. On motion duly seconded it was voted to refer this matter to a sub-committee of the Council.

On motion meeting adjourned at 4:30 P. M.

Minutes - Legislative Council Meeting - Oct. 27, 1922.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held Oct. 27, 1922, beginning at 2:00 P. M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Mrs. Roberts, Thorp, Laws, Dieudonne, Blythe, Balm, Cobb, Miss Lawrence, Mr. Bruno, and the Secretary, and as a visitor Mrs. P. M. Glasoe of Northfield.

Miss Lawrence reported progress on educational legislation. Mr. Swift of the University, Mr. Schulz of the M. E. A., and Mr. McConnell of the State Department of Education are to confer with the Interim Committee on the drafting of the legislative program. Miss Lawrence has been invited to meet with this group.

The M. E. A. and the State Department of Education are <sup>agreed on</sup> ~~inclined~~ ~~toward~~ a bill for a minimum school term of eight months which the State Department is expected to introduce. The same ~~thing~~ is true regarding a bill for teacher helpers.

The drafting of a bill for a county unit of education involves several ~~other~~ considerations. (1) A county tax for the equalization of taxation. At present some of the larger districts in the State are not taxed at all for school purposes while poorer districts may be taxed more than 100 mills and get very little for their money. The county superintendents and the M. E. A. are very enthusiastic about the county unit and the county tax. (2) County truant officers This feature Miss Lawrence regards as very important in the solving of the rural school attendance question. It has <sup>not</sup> been incorporated in the programs of the other groups. (3) Manner of electing the

Board. This matter is at present under discussion in the M. E. A.

The part-time bill has already been drafted and its form approved by the Legislative Council.

School Attendance. No other group has asked for the appointment of a supervisor of attendance in the State Department of Education but the M.E.A. is supporting a provision for a school census which will require a special officer in the Department if it goes through.

Miss Lawrence recommended that the Council approve an amendment to Section 3 G. S. 2981 (as amended by Ch. 488 G.L. 1921) to insert after the word "notify" the words "through the ordinary mail service or by person". The effect of this amendment would be to hold parents responsible for violations of the compulsory attendance law after notice has been served upon them by mail. At present the law requires that the county superintendent personally serve notice on the parents before they can be prosecuted for violation of the law.

Miss Wells moved to refer this amendment to the Council sub-committee on education. Seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ueland reported on the preliminary steps taken by a special committee outside the Council for the drafting of a physical education bill. This Committee was appointed as the result of a visit by Miss Ogle representing the National Physical Education Service. On it are represented the Hennepin County Health Association, the University, The M. E. A., and the League of Women Voters. No full meeting of the Committee has been held but at a meeting yesterday it was agreed that the physical education bill should provide at least for (1) a physical director in the State

Department of Education (2) making physical education compulsory in every school, (3) putting a manual of instruction in the hands of every teacher.

Mrs. Ueland reported that the printing of the manual could be done without increasing the budget of the State Department and that the only necessary increase involved in such a bill would be the salary and expenses of the director.

Mr. Bruno asked if the State Public Health Association had been represented on this Committee and advised that Dr. Wilde of the Association should be called into consultation as it is reported that he has expressed himself as very much opposed to this bill.

Moved by Miss Wells that Miss Lawrence see the chairman of the Interim Committee and as early as possible report to the Council on the extent in which the Interim Committee is in accord with our program and which of our recommendations will be embodied in bills to be drawn by the Interim Committee. Seconded. Carried.

Mr. Bruno spoke confidentially to the Council on the situation of the State Board of Control. The position at Sauk Center has not been filled. Mr. Hodson's resignation as chairman of the Children's Bureau has been before the Board for three months and will take effect January 1st but no step has been taken to secure his successor. It was reported that the Sauk Center position was offered to one of the women members of the Board of Control who declined it, and that the directorship of the Children's Bureau has been offered to the other woman member who has also declined. It is believed that at least a working majority of the Board is opposed to the suggestions, which would make the position at Sauk Center and in the Children's Bureau part-time jobs and which would divert the energy of the women members of the Board of Control to administrative details and prevent their participating in the deliberations of the



Control on a full and equal plane with the men members. It is not known whether legislation will be introduced at the next legislature requiring the Board to appoint its women members to the positions or not, but it will be important to watch the situation and to be ready to act if this threat materializes.

Mr. Bruno spoke again on the matter of the Family Court and requested that the League of Women Voters should introduce the bill. He asked also further consideration of the part of the recommendation for exempting cases where no minor children are involved. This point referred back to Committee.

It was moved that Mr. Bruno be empowered to consult members of the Bar Association to get their assurance that the League will have the support of lawyers and judges in supporting such a bill. Seconded and carried.

Moved a letter be sent the President of the Hennepin County Bar Association asking consideration of the Family Court Bill at their November meeting. Seconded. Carried.

Mr. Bruno agreed to furnish the League headquarters with a copy of the bill as drawn.

Mrs. Blythe spoke of legislation desired by the Cooperative Alliance to eliminate traveling street carnivals. Mpls. now has an ordinance making the license fee so large as to be practically prohibitive and it is the desire of the Alliance to extend this law to the entire state. Discussion followed, and different methods were suggested for accomplishing the elimination of street carnivals through legislation. It was moved, seconded and carried that this question be referred back to the sub-committee of which Dr. Ulrich is Chairman with instructions to report back on the form such legislation should take.

Mrs. Blythe agreed to supply the League office with copies of pamphlets on the carnival. Miss Harrison requested that as many as 150 of these be supplied

A statement of Mr. Nimocks, candidate for the State legislature, was read in which he advised further exemption for women in jury service. It was the sense of the Council that no further exemptions are necessary or desirable.

Mrs. Dieudonne agreed to furnish information about judges who have refused to excuse women from jury service when circumstances made such excuse desirable.

Agreed that the League office should undertake to check up lists of women drawn for jury service, the grounds for excuse on which exemption has been granted and the reaction of women who have served as to their experiences on the jury, especially in relation to the development of a sense of good citizenship. It was informally agreed that the League of Women Voters should communicate with its local chairmen to secure similar testimony about jury service and to secure their suggestions for the handling of the dance-hall and carnival question.

Mrs. Ueland reported on the meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Sheppard-Towner Act where after discussion it was unanimously agreed that Minnesota should try to secure a 50-50 appropriation to meet the Federal aid offered by the bill.

Miss Wells sounded a warning that the appeal made by Mass<sup>Schussetts</sup> to the Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the Sheppard-Towner Act would be deliberately used to prevent the states from acting under the bill while its legality was still before the courts and thus to undermine its effectiveness at the very start.

It was moved by Miss Wells that we ask for no refund under the County Allowance Law back of the current fiscal year. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Palm was appointed a committee of one to get legal opinions as to the best method of amending the laws for the regulation of public dance-halls.

At 4:30 the meeting adjourned.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held Monday December 4th<sup>1922</sup> beginning at 2:00 P. M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Blythe, Mrs. Dietrichson, Mrs. Hawley, Mrs. Goldstein, Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Caswell, Miss Lawrence, Mr. Bruno, and the Secretary, and as visitors Miss Jane Ugle and Mrs. Swarthe. By request of Miss Davis, Mrs. Blythe <sup>represented</sup> reported for the Federation of Business Women as well as the Cooperative Alliance.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A letter was read from Miss Maude B. Davis in regard to the State Board of Control advising that the Board is not contemplating any change in its general policy or organization .

A letter was read from Senator Rockne suggesting a conference in regard to the refund provision of the County Allowance law.

Miss Wells read a letter from Dr. Chesley explaining that the Board of Health would ask for a sufficient State appropriation to carry out the infancy and maternity hygiene program in this State without Federal aid, Also a letter which she had written Dr. Chesley advising that he could not count upon the support of the League of Women Voters in asking for an appropriation of this size. She also reported on the suit brought by Massachusetts to declare the Sheppard-Towner Act unconstitutional and advised that the Governor of Kentucky had invited other States to join in defending the suit.

Mr. Bruno reported that it would be inadvisable to ask for formal action of State or County Bar Associations on the Family Court Bill. He was prepared to make a minimum guarantee that two attorneys of high standing from each of the first class cities would attend legislative hearings in behalf of the bill. A

special committee to make final revisions of the Bill is now at work consisting of Mr. Harold Cant, Mr. Paul Thomson, Mr. William Hodson and Judge Waite. On request of Mrs. Ueland Mr. Bruno agreed to secure the names of some forty to fifty attorneys in favor of the bill when it is finally drawn. Miss Wells reported that the Federated Clubs may decide they want to introduce the bill again and that we felt they should have the right of way as it was their Bill two years ago. Mr. Bruno said the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation would be willing to have the Bill so introduced only on condition that it would have the same active backing from the League and he was assured this support would be given in any case.

Miss Jane Ogle spoke on the work of the National Physical Education Service.

Mrs. Dietrichson reported on the sub-committee on women in industry.

It has been definitely reported by Miss Schutz that the Industrial Commission would support a Bill to amend the minimum wage law in regard to publication of orders and that it approves the form of the California statute. The League however must take the initiative in introducing the Bill.

After discussion it was moved by Mrs. Hawley that the sub-committee be instructed to draft a bill to specify the class of workers to be included in the Bill for limitation of hours. There was discussion of the question of increasing the total number of hours permitted per week under the bill but no motion was made.

Mrs. Swarthe spoke on the physical education bill now being drawn, advising that she was reporting for Dr. Ulrich.

Miss Lawrence moved that this Council approve a bill for physical education embodying the points outlined:



1. A physical director in the Department of Education.
2. The preparation of manuals to be put in the hands of all teachers.
3. Making instruction in physical training mandatory in all teacher training courses.
4. Making physical training mandatory in the elementary schools.

Seconded and carried.

Miss Lawrence made a general report for the sub-committee on education as follows:

1. Eight months school term. This recommendation is before the Interim Commission.

2. Compulsory attendance. On account of the attitude of the State Department of Education Miss Lawrence advised dropping the recommendation for a supervisor of school attendance in the Department. The amendment recommended in the last Council meeting for making notification by mail sufficient notice for violation of the compulsory attendance law was to be presented to the Commission by the State Department. It was Miss Lawrence's understanding that the State Department might also recommend dropping the clause in the law exempting children in the country districts from attending school between April and November first, or if it is allowed to remain in the law to require that children so excused make up the time lost at some time during the year.

3. Part-time bill is before the Commission.

5. The recommendation for teacher helpers is also before the Commission.

6. The County unit. At the hearing before the Interim Commission, several members of the Commission suggested that the Board of County Commissioners be empowered to appoint the superintendent of schools and also county truant officers. It was recognized that this was a compromise proposal but Miss Lawrence felt that

it could not be refused as it was perhaps the only way in which the removal of the county superintendent from politics could be secured from the legislature. It was to be hoped also that in trusting this duty to the Board of County Commissioners would tend to interest voters, and especially women voters, in the election of commissioners of higher type.

Mrs. Goldstein of the St. Paul Housewives League reported the history of efforts to secure legislation for meat inspection. A bill introduced in the Legislature two years ago was badly drawn and so many amendments required that it could not pass. Her organization had therefore taken up the matter with the City Council in St. Paul, had secured an investigation of ordinances in other cities, and had secured the necessary ordinance and appropriation for requiring that only inspected meat be sold within the city of St. Paul. The Housewives League this year hoped to secure legislation to the effect that only inspected meat could be sold in first, second and third class cities. It was the apparent sentiment of the Council that this problem should be dealt with, at least for the present through local ordinances, and Mrs. Ueland named Mrs. Goldstein, Mrs. Laws and Mrs. Thorp <sup>as a committee to consider</sup> to discuss possible procedure in this direction.

It was moved by Miss Wells that Mrs. Ueland appoint a bill drafting committee to check up and see that bills on all the recommendations on our program should be ready for introduction in the Legislature. Seconded and carried. Mrs. Ueland appointed Mrs. Thorp as chairman of this Committee.

Mrs. Dieudonne reported the case of Mrs. Bjorkland, living on Plymouth Avenue Minneapolis, who had been required by Judge Molyneaux to do jury service in spite of the fact that she had small children dependent on her care and had been obliged to hire a nurse for them during the time she served on the jury.

Moved by Miss Wells that Mrs. Ueland and Mrs. Thorp investigate this case

and take it up with Judge Molyneaux if circumstances warrant. Seconded and carried.

Miss Harrison read a letter from Senator Sherman Child analyzing the defects in the present dance-hall statutes and recommending that "any proposed law shall be drafted after consultation with members of the Legislature." It was agreed to give Miss Lawrence a copy of this letter and to have her see Mr. Patterson of St. Cloud to see whether he is in sympathy with further regulatory measures. It was felt that Mr. Patterson would be an excellent member to sponsor such a bill if he would do so but it was understood that no formal action should be taken with him until further consultation.

Miss Lawrence was instructed to find out at the earliest possible moment just what bills will be drawn by the Interim Commission and by the M. E. A.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 P. M.