



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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A meeting of the Legislative Council was held February 5th ¹⁹²³ at 10:00 A.M. at the Meyers Arcade.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Mrs. Griswold, Miss Monahan, Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. Caswell, Mrs. Thorp, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Blythe, Mrs. Holman, Mrs. Guise, Miss Felsenthal, Mrs. Dietrichson, Mr. Hodson acting in Mr. Bruno's place, and the Secretary.

Miss Wells moved that the sentiment of this Council be that we should not in the Bill for licensing and regulating public dance-halls raise the question of whether or not the holding of Sunday dances be permitted. Seconded and carried.

Moved that it is the sentiment of this Council that the authority for licensing of public dance-halls be left to the Boards of County Commissioners. Carried.

Moved by Miss Monahan that the Council oppose making any exception to the street carnival bill to allow itinerant carnivals to be held in connection with county and state fairs. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Thorp spoke of the Part-Time School Bill on which a number of hearings have been held and reported that the House Committee may rewrite the bill entirely. She told of her visit to the Part-Time Schools in Milwaukee which seemed to her to be most successful and thoroughly approved by public sentiment, and also read letters from Mr. Cooley, head of the Part-Time Schools in Milwaukee, and others associated in this work telling of the great efforts made by the Part-Time School authorities to persuade children to return to regular full-time school.

Mrs. Caswell reported that the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are thoroughly in sympathy with the Bill.

Miss Lawrence reported that Mr. McConnell has stated that the present Part-Time School Bill is substantially the same as that introduced by the State Department of Education two years ago.

Mr. Hodson spoke on the refund under the County Allowance Act and referred to the figures reported by the State Auditor's office setting forth the amounts each County of the State would receive from such a refund.

Mr. Hodson reported that the Hennepin County Bar Association had endorsed the bill permitting District Court Judges to make a ruling referring all matters pertaining to domestic relations to the Juvenile Court Judge especially designated two years hence. Violations of the Child Labor Law and of the Compulsory Attendance School law would be transferred also to the Juvenile Court Judge, but non-support cases are still left within the jurisdiction of the District Court. The bill applies only to counties having a population of more than 33,000, namely, Hennepin, Ramsey, St. Louis, Stearns, Ottertail, Polk and Winona.

It was agreed that Mr. Hodson should send all bills endorsed by the Bar Association to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committees in both houses explaining that copies of the Family Court Bill had already been given to Mr. Sweitzer and Mr. Child for introduction by Mrs. Ueland.

Mr. Hodson called attention to the number of bills introduced to impair the workings of the indeterminate sentence law and advised that these be closely followed, the one to repeal the law completely is believed to have no chance of passage.

Mrs. Dietrichson reported that the Attorney General's office has asked for a conference on the bill introduced to make an amendment in the minimum wage law.

Mrs. Griswold reported that the bill for a woman on the Industrial Commission had passed General Orders in the House without dissent and that action in the Senate will wait until the House Bill is reported to the Senate.

Moved by Miss Wells that the Council support the recommendation of the Interim Commission for the appointment of county superintendents of school provided an amendment is made stipulating qualifications for the office of superintendent to cover professional and educational qualifications and experience to be determined in consultation with the State Department of Education. Seconded and carried.

Moved, seconded and carried that this Council send a resolution to the committees on education and to the Chairman of the Interim Commission on Education asking consideration of the 8-month minimum school term. Moved by Miss Lawrence that we refer to a committee with power to act the approval of all bills recommended by the Interim Committee on Education with the understanding that we ask for amendments requiring qualifications of county superintendents of schools and for an 8 months instead of a 7 months school term. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Ueland appointed as a committee on this matter, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Thorp and Miss Wells.

Gladys Harrison,
Secretary.

A special meeting to which members of the Legislative Council and representatives of other groups not members of the Council had been invited, was held March 10th ¹⁹²³ at League Headquarters.

Present: Mrs. W. Thorp, Mrs. J. E. Rounds, Mrs. W. J. Lieb, Joan Dorr O'Brien, Mrs. F. S. Gregory, Mrs. J. B. Phelps, Mrs. C. E. Maechler, Mrs. F. B. Roberts, Mrs. H. B. Sweetser, Mrs. M. K. Knauff, Mrs. F. E. Cobb, Mrs. John W. Helm, Mrs. Henry S. Nelson, Miss Marguerite Wells, Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Mrs. Alexis Caswell, Miss Florence Monohan, Mrs. Albert Scriver, and Medora Jordan, Bill Hodson.

Miss Wells explained the purpose of the meeting as consideration of the bill which has been introduced to abolish Child Welfare Boards, and of the proposed cut in the appropriation for the Children's Bureau.

Mr. Hodson spoke of the situation at the Legislature. He said that attacks of this kind came periodically and he hoped at this time it would be so decisively rebuked that it could never be attempted again. The bill to abolish Child Welfare Boards is not regarded as having any prospects of success but there is danger of a cut of \$10,000 in the appropriation for the Children's Bureau, which would eliminate all Field Work and practically paralyze the work of the Bureau. He pointed out that while the work of the Bureau has tremendously increased, the appropriation asked for is the same as the one of two years ago except for the allowance for one additional Field Worker.

Mrs. Sweetser spoke from her experiences on the Hennepin County Child Welfare Board. The need for the refund under the county allowance act, as already provided for by law, was discussed; and also the matter of the necessary State appropriation to secure Federal funds for the Sheppard-Towner

Maternity and Infancy work.

After discussion, Mrs. Sweetser outlined a resolution with a request that it be reworded by the Secretary, embodying the following points, and moved it adoption by the meeting:

Whereas, legislation regarding children is fundamental, and effective public agencies are necessary to see that all the children of the state receive the care which is essential for the building of good citizens,

and Whereas, the laws of 1917 relating to children have marked Minnesota as a progressive state and should be carried out in all their provisions,

and Whereas, the people of the state approve these laws and regard them with pride as effective instruments for the promotion of the public welfare,

Therefore, the members of this meeting do express their condemnation of any effort in the Legislature to undermine these laws or to weaken, through insufficient appropriations or otherwise, the state and local agencies which are charged with their enforcement and which have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the people of the state their ability to do so intelligently and effectively.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Roberts and carried unanimously. The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the resolution to the Chairmen of the Finance Committee and the Appropriation Committee. The following agreed to take the same matter up with their organizations for consideration and possible action.

Mrs. O'Brien, Minneapolis Teachers Federation;

Mrs. Caswell, American Legion Auxiliary;

Mrs. Roberts, Hennepin County Public Health Association;

Mrs. Scriver, College Women' Club,

Mrs. Nelson, Federation of Women's Clubs;

Mrs. Knauff, Women's Welfare League of St. Paul.

Members of the Legislative Council were asked to vote on endorsement of H. F. 418, a bill to equalize the penalty for adultery for men and women as in line with the stand previously taken by the council to work for the removal of legal discriminations against women through specific bills. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Council endorse this bill, and an informal vote showed that all the women present at the meeting were favorable.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held February 7th, 1924, at 2:30 p.m. at League headquarters.

Mrs. Ueland presided. The following were present: Mrs. F H Barney, of the Women's Welfare League; Miss Nellie L Jones, of the Minn. Federation of Business and Professional Women; Mrs. C H Hubbell, of the American Legion Auxiliary; Mrs. Ernest Mariette, of the Minn. Public Health Nurses Ass'n.; Mrs. F E Griwold of the W C T U; Miss Dora Kreutzian of the Mpls. Committee, Women's Trade Union League; Mrs. B F Rieke of the State Council of Americanization Agencies; Miss Mabel G Peirce of the Minnesota Education Association; Mr. Bruno, of the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation; Mrs. Robbins Gilman, of the Women's Cooperative Alliance; Mrs. Maurice Lefkowitz, of the Council of Jewish Women; Mrs. Walter Thorp, of the Woman's Club; Miss Isabel Lawrence, chairman of the League Committee on Education; Miss Florence Monahan, chairman of the League Committee on Uniform Laws for Women; Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson, chairman of the League Committee on Women in Industry; Mrs. John M Guise, representing the Ramsey County League of Women Voters, Miss Marguerite Wells; Mrs. L P Hall, Deerwood and Mrs. A N Nelles, Dayton, members of the Rural Advisory Committee; and Miss Gladys Harrison as Secretary.

The minutes of the last regular meeting of the Council held on February 5th, 1923, were read and approved.

Mrs. Ueland spoke of the history, purpose and methods of the Council.

Miss Harrison reported on the membership of the Council as including the following: Representatives of sixteen member organizations, the chairmen of seven standing committees of the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Guise, representative of the Ramsey County League of Women Voters, Miss Wells, and in an advisory capacity, six women who have accepted a place on the Rural Advisory Committee, and Miss Harrison as secretary.

It was moved by Miss Wells, seconded by Mrs. Hubbell, that the Council hold monthly meetings. It was informally agreed that afternoons are better than mornings and that Thursday is as good a day as any, the second and fourth Thursdays being preferred by some of the members of the Council.

Agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on the second Thursday in March.

Miss Monahan moved that there be sub-committees consisting of the person bringing in the recommendation, the chairman of the League of Women Voters committee on the subject, and one or more additional members to be appointed by the chair. Seconded and carried.

Miss Monahan moved that all measures recommended to the Council should be referred to sub-committees which should report back to the Council with a recommendation for action. Seconded and carried.

Old Business.

Mrs. Guise explained briefly the appropriation required to carry out the state refund under the Mothers' Pension Law. Moved by Mrs. Thorp, seconded by Miss Wells, that the Mothers' Pension refund be discussed at a later meeting of the Council. Carried.

Mrs. Griswold and Mrs. Dietrichson spoke on the question of requiring the appointment of a woman on the Industrial Commission. They stated that the enforcement of the minimum wage law has shown great improvement in the last year and accordingly recommended that consideration of this measure be deferred for the present.

facts
Miss Kercher reported figures showing that the highest paid woman inspector under the State Industrial Commission receives less than the lowest paid man boiler inspector. Also that the head of the Division of Women and Children receives less salary than the head of any other division under the State Industrial Commission. These figures were cited as showing that the Commission has discriminatory policy against its women employees.

Miss Wells suggested that such matters should be considered in connection with the proposed reorganization of state departments.

Miss Lawrence spoke on the measures defeated last year for teacher helpers, county boards of education, and part-time schools, all of which she felt should be supported again at the next session.

X
Mr. Bruno reported that the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation recommended the reintroduction of the family court bill in practically the same form as in 1923. This is considered justified by the progress made on the bill last year. The passage of the bill in 1923 authorizing an additional juvenile court judge in Hennepin County will increase the chances of the family court bill another session. Another approach to the problem is, however, possible through the reorganization of the probation systems so as to unite the probation work of the District and Municipal courts. He stated that in over three fourths of the divorce cases are found to have been known to the courts on other difficulties before the divorce action.

Miss Peirce presented the program of the Minnesota Education Association as including the teacher insurance and retirement fund, teacher tenure, state aid, promotion of rural education. Of these she recommended to the immediate consideration of the Council the teacher insurance and retirement fund which the Minnesota Education

Association wishes to see reintroduced as a bill in practically the same form as in 1923. Asked what was intended by promotion of rural education, she explained that the Minnesota Education Association had in mind establishing a county unit of finance, a county board of education, and professionalizing the office of county superintendent.

Miss Wells moved that the recommendation concerning the teacher retirement fund and the other recommendations of the M E A when formally presented should be considered in committee in conjunction with the education bills left over from the program recommended by the Legislative Council in 1923. Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Ueland appointed Miss Peirce, Miss Lawrence and Mr. Bruno for a committee on the education bills.

Mrs. Griswold of the W C T U recommended that the Council consider restoring the penalty under the present law requiring teachers to give class room instruction on the effect of the use of alcoholics. This recommendation was referred to the committee on educational measures.

Miss Lawrence recommended the correction of the teacher retirement fund on the ground that the existing law compells teachers to pay in their money under an unsound and inefficient system.

She also reported that the effect of the cut made in the Senate last year for the supplementary school aid was to make it impossible for the state to pay more than 55 cents on the dollar under the supplementary aid law which guarantees an income of \$40 per child to school districts which vote a 20 mill tax levy.

Mr. Bruno reported that the Committee on Social Legislation wished to have the League of Women Voters take the initiative in the support of a revised marriage law for the state, a draft of which has been made by the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation. Asked by chairman if he wished the Legislative Council to consider the same, Mr. Bruno asked that this be done, and Mrs. Ueland appointed the following committee: Miss Monahan, Mr. Bruno and Mrs. Hubbell. *9 Mrs. Jans, chair later*

Miss Wells moved that a committee be created to which all matters involving legal discriminations against women or the unequal operation of existing laws should be referred, this committee to bring in recommendations for the correction of these defects. Seconded by Mrs. Thorp and carried.

Mrs. Ueland appointed on this committee Miss Monahan, chairman, Mrs. Gilman, Mrs. Mariette, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Kercher, Miss Harrison.

Miss Lawrence brought up the problem of child labor in the beet fields and reported that California was dealing with the problem through its state attendance officer and through providing migratory schools or teachers to follow the movements of the beet field workers.

Mrs. Ueland appointed Miss Kercher to look up the present laws affecting child labor in Minnesota and report where any corrections can be effected.

Miss Kercher agreed also to examine any decisions of the courts affecting the enforcement of these laws.

Miss Wells asked that educational measures be discussed at the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

Agreed that Mrs. Dieudonne should be instructed to ask Mrs. O'Connor, chairman of the League's national Child Welfare Committee, for advice on the problem of agricultural labor among children based on the experience of other states.

Mrs. Hubbell reported that in Robbinsdale the superintendent has had the state school attendance law and the penalty provided for its infringement printed on the back of every excuse form used by the pupils.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. Teachout requesting support for the Sunset Homes bill. Mr. Bruno explained the measure as one which in its administrative features closely resembles the state law for county tuberculosis sanatoria and as wholly new in its provision for the care of the aged under semi-public auspices. Mrs. Thorp reported the criticism of labor organizations that the proposal was discriminatory in that it gave public aid to old persons having a certain amount of property which it would not offer to old persons wholly indigent. The chairman and other members expressed an opinion that something should be done to correct and improve conditions in the present public homes for the indigent aged and that this matter should precede action in behalf of old persons who are not entirely without funds.

A number of members having left the meeting, it was agreed that this matter should be taken up at a later meeting of the Council.

Mrs. Hubbell reported that the American Legion Auxiliary has not prepared its recommendations but that she hopes to report them at the next meeting.

Adjourned at five p.m.

Gladys Harrison, Secretary

February 15th, 1924

To Members of the Legislative Council: -

Your attention is called to the fact that March 13th was agreed upon for the date of the next meeting.

The office of the League of Women Voters will be glad to act upon the request of chairmen of sub-committees in calling meetings or in sending letters or material to members of sub-committees.

The sub-committees already appointed, including appointments made since the Council meeting are: -

Committee on Educational Measures: Miss Isabel Lawrence, chairman, Miss Peirce, M E A; Mrs. C H Hubbell, American Legion Auxiliary; Mrs. Henry S Nelson, M F W C; Mrs. E C Stakman, A A U W; Mrs. B F Rieke, Council Americanization Agencies; Mrs. Thorp, Mpls. Woman's Club; Mr. Bruno, Minn. Com. Social Legislation

Committee on Marriage Law Revision: Miss Florence Monahan, Mr. Bruno, Mrs. Hubbell, Mrs. Grisvold, W C T U.

Committee on Removal of Legal Discriminations: Miss Monahan, chairman, Mrs. Gilman, Women's Co-op. Alliance; Mrs. Mariette, M P H N A, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Pearl Salisbury; Miss Kercher; Miss Harrison.

Research on Enforcement Child Labor Laws: Miss Kercher

Gladys Harrison, Secretary

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held March 13th, 1924, 2:30 p.m. at the League headquarters, Mrs. Ueland presiding.

The following were present: - Mrs. Henry S Nelson, Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs; Miss Fern Chase, Woman's Co-operative Alliance; Mrs. C H Hubbell, American Legion Auxiliary; Dr. D C Lochead, Minnesota Public Health Association; Frank J Bruno, Minn. Committee on Social Legislation; Miss Nellie L Jones, Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Mrs. Myra Griswold, W C T U; Mrs. John Elliott and Mrs. Elinore H McIntosh, Women's Welfare League; Mrs. B F Rieke, Council of Americanization Agencies; Mrs. Dietrichson, League Committee on Women In Industry; Miss Florence Monahan, League Committee on Uniform Laws for Women; Miss Isabel Lawrence, League Committee on Education, Miss Alice Kercher, League Committee on Law Enforcement, Mrs. H J Bailey, member rural advisory committee, Miss Marguerite M Wells, and Miss Gladys Harrison as secretary

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with the correction that the word "supplementary" school aid should be changed to "supplemental".

Miss Lawrence reported a meeting of the sub-committee on Educational bills which was held March 1st at the State Department of Education with Mr. Selke and Mr. Jacobson of the Department as consultants. The report of the committee recommended

- (1) repeal of the provision that the payment of all other state aid shall be made before the payment of that provided by the supplemental aid law, the effect of which is to make the supplemental aid bear all the cuts occasioned by insufficient appropriations;
- (2) Revision of the Teacher Retirement Fund
- (3) Consideration of county board of education, changes in the compulsory school law, professionalizing the office of county superintendent, and provision for teacher helpers after a report which is expected from Mr. Jacobson.

No legislative action was recommended on the question of teacher tenure, the teaching of scientific temperance, or making a certificate of instruction take the place of public examinations which precede the granting of citizenship papers.

Miss Lawrence and Miss Kercher reported their investigations on child labor in the beet fields. (The reports of Miss Lawrence's committee and of Miss Kercher are attached to these minutes)

Miss Monahan reported on the meeting of her sub-committee which has undertaken to study all legal inequalities as between men and women, including inequalities under which men suffer as well as those under which women suffer. The work of investigation has been assigned to the various members of the committee. (Miss Monahan's report is also attached.)

There was discussion of the advisability of changing the legal age of majority to be the same for boys as for girls. The chair asked for a show of hands on the advisability of setting the legal age of both boys and girls at 18, and no hands were raised.

Mrs. Griswold asked for further consideration of the matter of scientific temperance instruction in the schools. The matter was referred again to Miss Lawrence's committee and Mrs. Griswold was made a member of that committee.

It was announced that Miss Pearl Salsberry has been appointed a member of Miss Monahan's sub-committee and that Mr. Bruno is not to serve on the Educational Committee.

Agreed that written reports on all matters discussed in the Council be sent to the members before ~~making~~ action is taken.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Personnel of sub-committee on

Removal of Legal Discriminations

Property Rights Miss Monahan, Miss Friedel, Miss Luverne
Miss Kercher

Contract Rights Mrs. Dietrichson

Prior Right of Father to Sue Miss Kercher

Age of Majority Mrs. Mariette

Penalties for Sex Offenses Mrs. Gilman

Domicile Miss Salsberry

Extractions from 1924 Minutes on Bills not in Leg. Program

Legislative Council meeting April 17th, 1924

SUPPLEMENTAL AID

Miss Lawrence reported for the sub-committee on Education. Recommended that a statement be drawn up explaining the situation in regard to the pro rating of state aid and that this urge that all aid be pro rated on the same basis. This statement to be sent to all candidates for the state legislature at the appropriate time.

May 28th, 1924

PART TIME SCHOOLS

Miss Lawrence asked whether the Council wished to have her committee prepare a part-time school bill, and said that they would not spend their time in preparing such a bill unless the Council considered it a good time to introduce it. Miss Wells and Mrs. Ueland asked her to have the sub-committee bring in material on part-time schools including the expense, etc. * * * Mrs. Paige spoke of the part-time school bill and that Mr. Greer will hand the bill he sponsored over to the labor group for change. Members of the group had objected to the bill because it did not provide for paying the children for the hours spent in part-time schools. Mrs. Paige said that she felt that a Lutheran minister and a Catholic priest were responsible for the defeat of the bill. She feels that we should support the bill if it is presented. She thinks that Mr. Greer will probably want some member of the labor group to present it.

ONE DAY REST IN SEVEN

Mrs. Dietrichson said that a bill providing for one day of rest in seven had been passed in the last legislature but that there were many exceptions. She said that the bill will be made much stronger in the next session of the Legislature and that she would like to have the League back the bill.

(Meeting August 27th, 1924)

Mrs. Griswold, chairman of the sub-committee of three appointed at the last meeting to report upon this law, stated that it is the consensus of opinion in the committee that no action be taken by the Council until the action of the American Federation of Labor is known. The legislative committee of that organization (Mr. Hall is chairman) is responsible for suggesting amendment to strike out the exemptions that make the law ineffective. Mr. Hall said that they would not rest until every exemption is removed from the law. Mrs. Griswold stated also that there is some question as to the constitutionality of the law. (Sub-committee members were Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Kercher)

Meeting July 30th, 1924

WOMAN ON INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

It was recommended by Mrs. Dietrichson that no bill be introduced at this session but that the Council go on record as favoring the appointment of a qualified woman member of the commission. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Griswold, second of Mrs. Gaus, that the report be made to the Committee on Final Program that the Council favors the appointment of a qualified woman on ~~xxx~~ the Industrial Commission.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held April 17, 1924,
at League of Women Voters headquarters. Presiding - Mrs. Ueland.

Present: Miss Mabel G Peirce, M E A; Mrs. Myra Griswold, W C T U,
Mrs. Sophie Olson Hein, Minn. State Registered Nurses Ass'n;
Mrs. Arthur representing Mrs. Stakman, A A U W; Mrs. McIntosh
and Mrs. John Elliot, Woman's Welfare League; Mrs. Ernest Mariette,
Minn. Public Health Nurses Ass'n; Mr. Bruno, Minn. Committee on
Social Legislation; Miss Chase representing Mrs. Gilman of the
Women's Cooperative Alliance; Mrs. H J Bailey and Mrs. H O Tellier,
Rural Advisory Committee; Miss Lawrence, League Committee on
Education; Miss Alice Kercher, League committee on Law Enforcement;
Mrs. John M Gaus, League committee on Social Hygiene; Mrs.
Dietrichson, League committee on Women in Industry; Mrs. C M
Denny, Minneapolis League; Mrs. John M Guise, St. Paul League,
Miss Marguerite M Wells, Dr. Ruth Boynton, and Miss Harrison
as secretary.

Miss Lawrence reported for the sub-committee on Education.
Recommended that a statement be drawn up explaining the situation
in regard to the pro rating of state aid and that this urge that
all aid be pro rated on the same basis. This statement to be sent
to all candidates for the state Legislature at the appropriate
time.

Recommended also that a statement be drawn up explaining the
present condition of the Teachers' Retirement Fund and that the law
endorsed by the trustees committee for its revision be endorsed.
This statement also to be sent to the candidates for the Legislature
and their attitude determined.

The committee requested more time for the consideration of
the question of enforcing the teaching of scientific temperance
in the schools.

No motion was made for the adoption of these recommendations, the secretary calling attention to the agreement made at the last meeting of the Council that an explanation of all recommendations be prepared ^{in writing} and given to members of the Council for their consideration before the meeting at which action is taken.

Miss Wells moved and Mrs. Guise seconded the following motion: That the Chair appoint a committee of five, of which she shall be a member, to be known as the Committee on the Final Program;

That when the sub-committees make their recommendations to the Council, the vote of the Council be taken upon whether these recommendations be rejected entirely or go to the Committee on the Final Program;

That this Committee on the Final Program consider all the subjects committed to it at one time, selecting from them those most important to go upon a program not too large to be successfully supported by the League of Women Voters at one legislative session. The Committee on Final Program may recommend to the Council that certain measures be made a part of this final program only under the condition that other organizations also agree to do definite work in their support. The Committee on the Final Program may recommend in respect to other measures that although the League of Women Voters shall not support them at the coming session of the Legislature they shall be presented to other organizations represented in the Council for their support if desired. Carried.

Mr. Bruno gave a resume of the proposed marriage law which is similar to the one introduced in the Legislature during the last session. The following suggestions for changes in the bill were made in the course of discussion:

- (1) That the waiting period between the issuance of the license and the time of the marriage be ten days instead of five in view of the fact that in rural districts newspapers are ordinarily published only once a week.
- (2) That the license be not granted on application but at the end of the waiting period.

It was explained by Mr. Bruno that this bill is modelled on the uniform law proposed by the committee of the American Bar Association but that some of its provisions are more advanced than would be possible in a bill designed for adoption in all of the states.

The Chair introduced Mrs. Gaus as the new chairman of Social Hygiene for the League of Women Voters, and as chairman of the sub-committee of the Council to consider the marriage bill.

The Chair asked Mr. Bruno to keep in mind the question of the family court and to bring it before the Council if its consideration by the Council should be thought advisable.

Miss Kercher reported two conferences which have been held since the last meeting of the Council on the question of the

employment of children in the beet fields. The first was held with *Mr. H. A. Douglas and four other* five representatives of the beet sugar industry, ^{*who meets*} at which the proposed expansion of the industry in Minnesota was discussed and assurances of cooperation secured that the representatives of the ~~sugar company~~ ^{*sugar company gave assurances that they*} industry would ~~attempt to~~ cooperate with officials in the enforcement of the school attendance laws, ~~although~~ ^{*sugar company, however, does*} The representatives of the industry did not regard the problem as ~~their~~ ^{*the*} particular responsibility inasmuch as the employment contracts are made with the farmers rather than with the sugar company directly.

The second conference was held with representatives of State Departments which are charged with the enforcement of the Child Welfare and School Attendance laws, including the Department of Education, the Children's Bureau and the Industrial Commission, also ~~with~~ Miss Currie of the United Charities in St. Paul, where the congregation of a large number of Mexican families in the winter following the beet field season has created a serious housing and employment problem. Agreement was reached at this second conference to make an investigation of conditions in the beet growing areas this summer in order to test the enforceability of the present laws and to acquire information on which to base the consideration of any proposed legislation.

Mrs. Dietrichson brought up the matter of the equal rights amendment now before the United States Congress which, if adopted, would in the opinion of the leading constitutional lawyers throw

all protective legislation for women into the courts and probably result in its nullification. It was pointed out that the League of Women Voters has secured the passage of bills in nearly every state correcting actual legal discriminations which do exist against women, including in Minnesota the passing of the law making women eligible for jury service. It was also pointed out that the passage of such a constitutional amendment would nullify many laws which have been enacted in the state at the recommendation of the Legislative Council and would make impossible to careful consideration of legal disabilities which is being given to the question by Miss Monahan's committee. Mrs. Dietrichson reported that the Woman's Party is trying to revive organization in Minnesota and is concentrating its efforts in this state in the hope of getting a plank supporting the equal rights amendment in the Third Party platform. The Farmer-Labor federation held in St. Paul in March did pass a resolution in support of the measure but without any discussion, and with many of the leaders ^{being} even unaware that the matter was included in the resolutions which were of an extremely hurried and informal character.

Mrs. Bailey pointed out the necessary ^{ity} of reaching the sources of publicity in this matter, reporting that the papers of the Webb Publishing Company are carrying articles in support of the measure. The request was made that material on this question be sent to the members of the Council.

The Chair introduced Dr. Ruth Boynton as director of the Child Hygiene Division in Minnesota and in charge of the Sheppard-Towner work in the state. Dr. Boynton spoke of the state appropriation needed to carry on the work and explained that this will first be passed upon by the State Board of Health in making up its budget for submission to the next Legislature. At present the Division has about \$47,000 available per annum for the work, made up as follows:

\$15,000	appropriated by the State Legislature
1,500	as a gift from Olmsted County
1,500	" " " " St. Louis County
3,000	from the American Child Health Association
<u>21,000</u>	

making a total of \$21,000 which is matched by an equal amount from the federal government, plus the \$5,000 which is given by the federal government outright to any state taking advantage of the provisions of the act.

Dr. Boynton on request then gave an account of how the Sheppard-Towner work is being carried out in the state. In response to questions Dr. Boynton said that it was impossible as yet to test the results of the work by statistics. She said she felt that the letters the Division was constantly receiving from women in the state requesting the help of the Division or expressing appreciation of its work would provide the best argument at present for the continuance of the appropriation. She said that the work was encountering little opposition of any kind. In order to secure the cooperations of the

physicians, the clinical work had not been pushed except in selected counties where the cooperation of the physicians was assured. At the present time about half of the requests for aid which come to the Bureau are referred to them by the physicians. This is considered a very fine indication of the cooperation which prevails. There has also been no difficulty whatever with the federal authorities and no dictation or interference of any kind, the only requirement made by the United States Children's Bureau being that the work be strictly within the limits of the Sheppard-Towner Act. The county administrative boards consisting of two physicians, a member of the Child Welfare Board, and two women are active in about one third of the counties. The women are very interested and valuable members. It is the hope of the Division that these boards will give more active cooperation in the future.

Miss Wells referred to two editorials which have recently appeared in the Minneapolis Journal, condemning the extension of federal aid and particularly singling out the Sheppard-Towner Act as an example of the dangerous tendency to extend federal authority over state matters.

It was moved by Miss Wells that a committee be appointed to interview the editor of the Journal to protest against its editorial policy in respect to the Sheppard-Towner Act. Seconded and carried.

The Chair appointed Mrs. Mariette, Mrs. Gaus and Dr. Boynton to interview the editor.

Mr. Bruno spoke of a bill which is now before Congress to create a Board of Public Welfare for the District of Columbia, abolishing various boards and uniting their functions. There will be nine members appointed to this Board for six year terms, so appointed that terms of three of the members will expire together. Such a bill will make possible administration of laws concerning children by methods similar to those followed in Minnesota. He pointed out the fact that local government in the District is governed by Acts of Congress and that the only way good legislation for the District can be secured is by exerting influence on the Congressman of the various states.

It was explained by the Chair that such a measure was hardly within the scope of the Legislative Council, but it was urged that members of the Council individually write to the Minnesota members of Congress in behalf of it.

Moved by Mrs. Gaus that the regular meeting day of the Council be changed from Thursday to Wednesday. Seconded and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Gladys Harrison, Secretary

A meeting of the Legislative Council of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at League headquarters, May 28th, 1924, Mrs. Ueland presiding. Present: Mrs. E C Stakman, A A U W; Mrs. C H Hubbell, American Legion Auxiliary; Miss Peterson representing Dr. Lochead of the Minn. Public Health Association; Mrs. Mariette, Minn. State Organization for Public Health Nursing; Mrs. Myra Griswold, W C T U; Miss Mabel Peirce, M E A; Miss Marguerite Wells, Miss Alice Kercher, League Committee on Law Enforcement; Mrs. Dietrichson, League Committee on Women in Industry; Miss Lawrence, League Committee on Education, Miss Monahan, League Committee on Legal Status of Women; Mrs. C M Denny, Minneapolis League representative, and Mrs. A N Nelles of the rural advisory committee. Mrs. James Paige was present later.

Mrs. Ueland announced the appointment of the following committee on Final Program, of which she is chairman - Miss Monahan, Mrs. Guise, Miss Peirce, and Mr. Bruno.

Mrs. Ueland announced that Miss Wells will take her place as chairman of the Legislative Council during her absence from the city this summer.

The committees of the Council were asked to meet during the summer months in order to have the program ready for the convention of the League of Women Voters. The Committee on Final Program must report not later than the September meeting.

Mrs. Mariette, chairman of the sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting to visit the editor of the Journal and protest against his attitude in regard to the Sheppard-Towner Act, was asked to give a report. She said that the committee called at the Journal office and interviewed Mr. Chamberlain on Saturday, April 18th. He did not have anything in particular against the Sheppard-Towner Act but objected to the principle of federal aid. He said he would be glad for data on the subject and the same was sent to him by Dr. Boynton on the following day by special delivery. Mr. Chamberlain told the committee that he had just sent in another editorial on the Sheppard-Towner Act, and what he said led the committee to think that he had met with a change of heart. Their surprise can be imagined when they read this editorial which appeared in the Journal on the evening of April 22nd.

Miss Monahan reported on the work of her sub-committee and said that Miss Salsberry is making a study of laws regarding domicile. Miss Monahan stated that unquestionably the selection of domicile rests with the husband in this state and that the question of support arises when the wife refuses to live where the husband wishes to make his home. Miss Wells asked if man had his right to choose domicile taken away would he not cease to be responsible for support. Miss Monahan reported that Mrs. Mariette is studying the subject of the age of majority to see whether the girl does really mature earlier than the boy. Miss Monahan said that the subject of sex offenses is in the hands of Mrs. Gilman. The maximum penalty only for such offenses is named in

law. Mrs. Gilman thinks that the minimum penalty should be named as a protection to women and children.

Miss Monahan asked just how far the Council wished to have her committee go in this work which they have undertaken. She said that they are getting in deeper and deeper. At first they made a study of the laws of Minnesota but found it necessary to study the laws of other states in order to know what changes to recommend in our laws. Miss Monahan reported that Miss Kercher has made a study of the prior right of the father to sue in a case of the seduction of a minor daughter. Miss Monahan said they had made no digest of property laws dealing with the property rights of husband and wife and read a bill proposed for the state of Texas which would give husband and wife an equal interest in all money earned after marriage. Reference was also made to a similar law in Calif.

Miss Monahan said that Mrs. Dietrichson has made a study of the contract rights of women and finds that they are not affected by the laws of Minnesota, although opponents of the minimum wage law/regulating the hours of employment for women claim that they interfere with the right of contract. Mrs. Ueland said that Mr. S R Child thinks that the wife should have the right to sell the home after the death of the husband and not have merely a life interest for it often happens that the home is the only property that a man leaves. Those who oppose this idea claim that a woman is not capable of caring for money.

Miss Monahan remarked that the burden is on men in choosing their wives.

Miss Kercher said that the inequality comes from the custom of having the homestead in the man's name. Miss Monahan stated that she considers that the law on adultery and prostitution could be altered now. Miss Wells asked her to prepare material on the subject for members of the Legislative Council.

Miss Lawrence said that Mr. Jacobson had reported that the Agricultural and Labor Departments should provide a report on where the beet sugar industry has been developed. The Agricultural Department will prepare a report for the June meeting of the Legislative Council. Miss Lawrence reported for the sub-committee on education. She spoke of the bill stating the qualifications for county superintendent, but said it would not be constitutional. She also spoke of a proposed bill providing for the election of a county board of five members who shall take over the work of the county commissioners and appoint the superintendent of schools. To illustrate the need of such a bill, Miss Lawrence told what a change it would make in the city superintendent of Schools if he were elected. Miss Lawrence said that the schools in some districts have had great trouble to get money for the extra month which the seven months school bill calls for so we cannot ask for a longer school year. These schools expected aid but it was pro rated. She spoke of a law in California providing that instruction in morals, the effects of the use of alcohol and narcotics shall be taught in all grades and classes and that the teachers shall receive necessary instruction in the same.

Mrs. Ueland said that we have worked for the County Board for two years and should continue our work of educating the people/ A County Board is recommended by the sub-committee. Miss Wells moved that Miss Lawrence put the material on the subject in shape and present it to the Council. Seconded by Miss Monahan and carried.

Miss Lawrence asked whether the Council wished to have her committee prepare a part-time school bill, and said that they would not spend their time in preparing such a bill unless the Council considered it a good time to introduce it. Miss Wells and Mrs. Ueland asked her to have the sub-committee bring in material on part-time schools including the expense, etc.

Mrs. Dietrichson spoke of the 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour law for women in industry, (with the exception of nurses, and domestic service, and telephone operators in towns below 1500) and said that the law is being enforced and that a number of cases have been tried in court. Mrs. Dietrichson said it is wise not to introduce a bill in the next Legislature carrying this farther for there is much groaning over the present law. Let pretty good alone at the present time.

Mrs. Dietrichson said that a bill providing for one day of rest in seven had been passed in the last Legislature but that there were many exceptions. She said that the bill will be made much stronger in the next session of the Legislature and that she would like to have the League back the bill.

Miss Kercher reported for the sub-committee on Law Enforcement. She spoke of the enforcement of the League's legislation, of the compulsory education and physical education law. She reported that a complete program of physical education has been prepared and sent to all rural schools and that a program for grade and high schools will be in their hands by September 1st.

Miss Lawrence said that the compulsory school law is not enforced, that sometimes a whole family of children will be out of school without being brought into court.

Miss Kercher told of a recent enforcement of the dance hall bill. Mrs. Paige spoke of the part-time school bill and that Mr. Greer will hand the bill he sponsored over to the labor group for change. Members of the group had objected to the bill because it did not provide for paying the children for the hours spent in part-time schools. Mrs. Paige said that she felt that a Lutheran minister and a Catholic priest were responsible for the defeat of the last bill. She feels that we should support the bill if it is presented. She thinks that Mr. Greer will probably want some member of the labor group to present it.

Miss Wells moved that we omit the next meeting, meeting again in July. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Dietrichson and carried.

Miss Wells said that if we omit the June meeting much work must be done by the committees in order to get the necessary work done in the next eight weeks. She asked if she might be permitted to have several committees meet with Mrs. Wittich on subjects that involved

Efficiency in Government. Mrs. Ueland said it was the sentiment of the meeting that Miss Wells could use all the authority she wished.

Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Mabel S Denny, secretary pro tem

July 30th, 1924

Personnel of Sub-Committees

Committee on Final Program

Mrs. Ueland, chairman
Miss Monahan
Mrs. Guise
Miss Peirce
Mr. Bruno

Committee on Educational Measures

Miss Lawrence, chairman
Miss Peirce
Mrs. Hubbell
Mrs. Nelson
Mrs. Stakman
Mrs. Rieke
Mrs. Thorp
Mrs. Griswold

Committee on Marriage Law Revision

Mrs. Gaus, chairman
Mr. Bruno
Miss Monahan
Mrs. Hubbell
~~Mrs. Griswold~~

Committee on Removal of Legal Discriminations

Miss Monahan, chairman
Property Rights Miss Monahan, Miss Friedel, Miss Luverne,
Miss Kercher
Contract Rights Mrs. Dietrichson ✓
Prior Right of Father to Sue Miss Kercher
Age of Majority Mrs. Mariette
Penalties for Sex Offenses Mrs. Gilman ✓
Domicile Miss Salsberry ✓

Research on Enforcement of Child Labor Laws

Miss Kercher

Committee on bill providing for One Day Rest in Seven

Mrs. Griswold, chairman
Mrs. Dietrichson
Miss Kercher

Legislative Council Meeting

July 30th, 1924

The regular meeting of the Legislative Council of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at League headquarters, Wednesday, July 30th, at 2 p.m., Miss Wells presiding. The following were present: Mrs. Walter Thorp, Woman's Club; Miss Nellie Jones, Business and Professional Women; Mrs. Sizer, W C T U; Mrs. John Elliot, Women's Welfare League; Mrs. Myra Griswold, W C T U; Miss Lawrence, League committee on Education; Mrs. Wittich, Miss Kercher, League Committee on Law Enforcement; Miss Monahan, League committee on Legal Status of Women; Mrs. Gaus, League committee on Social Hygiene; Mrs. C M Denny, Minneapolis League; Mrs. H J Bailey, Rural Advisory Committee; Miss Florence Harrison, Mrs. Metzinger of the North Dakota League, Miss ^(Fargo.) Marion Roth and Miss Emily Child as secretary.

The legislative program of the National League of Women Voters as agreed upon at the convention in April was read by Miss Florence Harrison for the information of the Council.

Miss Wells then reviewed the procedure for clearing recommendations on proposed state legislation to the Committee on Final Program of the Council. She called attention to the fact that each sub-committee dealing with a special subject is expected to prepare material which may be sent out in mimeograph form to Council members in advance of the meeting at which they will be asked to vote upon the recommendations of such committees.

MEASURES

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL/ Miss Isabel Lawrence, chairman

TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND - Miss Lawrence reported the committee's recommendation, not included in the mimeographed statement in the hands of members at this meeting, that the bill on this subject prepared by the Minnesota Education Association, be supported. In the discussion these facts were brought out: the committee now administering the fund is unable to carry out the provisions of the law - it can meet only approximately 40 percent of the payments called for. Cities of the first class are not affected by the law as they have their own arrangements for pensioning teachers. As a result the best teachers leave country and small town positions for other states and for the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth where retirement funds are solvent. This defeats the purpose of the fund which is to hold well trained teachers in the state at large.

Mrs. Wittich reported that in the hearings of the Interim Commission on reorganization of state departments there had been discussion of the fact that something should be done to make the fund solvent. She offered to talk with members of the Commission and learn what action they will take on the subject in their report.

Miss Lawrence called attention to the fact that the pension idea is wrong, that the plan should be on an annuity basis so that young teachers leaving the state could receive back the amount of their payments. At present it works an injustice in such cases as they receive back only half of the sum total of their payments.

Miss Wells announced that a comprehensive report put into writing by Miss Mabel Peirce, a member of the sub-committee on education, will be mimeographed and sent out before the next meeting when final action will be taken on this subject.

SUPPLEMENTAL AID TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS - The discussion on the statement sent to members of the Council recognized the fact that there is no legislative action possible - that the only way to prevent the crippling of the purpose of the bill is to keep in touch with the members of the appropriations committee.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Thorp, second of Miss Kercher, that the question be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION - The statement of the committee supplementing its recommendation in favor of a bill providing for a county board of education with power to appoint a county superintendent of schools, has been sent to all Council members. The question was asked whether the state department of education would whole heartedly support the bill. Miss Lawrence stated that the department would not sponsor the bill but, she thought, would undoubtedly support it. She stated further that it was thought wisest not to include a definition of qualifications for county superintendents at this time.

IT WAS VOTED, on motion of Miss Lawrence, second of Mrs. Thorp, that the bill as recommended be referred to the committee on Final Program.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON REMOVAL OF LEGAL DISCRIMINATIONS

AGAINST WOMEN - Miss Monahan, chairman.

Miss Monahan not having arrived, Miss Kercher was asked to present the report of the committee as it had been sent out to members. Miss Kercher commented upon the report that the two measures recommended are two of the most glaring discriminations against women and are often cited by the Woman's Party in their propaganda for an Equal Rights bill. Miss Child read a letter from Miss Monahan ~~antedating~~ the committee report in which she questioned the advisability of going forward with one of the measures recommended - the prior right of the father to sue. In her letter she also proposed consideration of changing the law on prostitutes to apply equally to men and women.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Kercher, second of Miss Lawrence, that the adultery law as recommended for change by the committee, should be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

Miss Monahan, having arrived, explained her opinion on the question of taking action on the Prior Right of the Father to Sue. She said that the law undoubtedly discriminated against the mother but that the proposal of a change in the law would arouse a great deal of discussion and trouble which might not be worth while.

IT WAS AGREED that this question with the question of a change in the law on prostitutes be referred back to the committee for further report.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF MARRIAGE LAW - Mrs. Gaus, chairman

Mrs. Gaus reported the recommendations of the committee as formulated in the mimeographed statement which had been sent to members.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Gaus, second of Miss Monahan, that the proposed bill as outlined by the committee be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

MOTHERS' PENSION REFUND

Mrs. Thorp reviewed the previous history of this matter for the information of new members of the Council. Miss Child read the letter of C F Hall, director of the Minnesota Children's Bureau, written in reply to Miss Wells' request for information as to the amount of the appropriation that would be asked from the coming legislature as refund to counties for expenditures under the law. Judge Hall's letter contained a comprehensive review of the actual expenditures by all counties for the years from 1918 through 1924 (estimated), with an explanation of special facts that may affect the support of individual counties for the appropriation request.

IT WAS VOTED, on motion of Mrs. Griswold, second of Mrs. Elliot, that the recommendation be made to the Committee on Final Program that an appropriation be supported covering a refund for the biennium period, 1923-24, amounting to \$562,795.79

INFANCY AND MATERNITY

The letter of Dr. A J Chesley of the State Board of Health on the question of the appropriation to be asked for infancy and maternity work written in reply to Miss Wells' request for this information, was read. The State Board of Health will ask for an appropriation of \$21,099.65 per annum for the biennium period, 1925-26, the amount necessary to secure the total allotment from the federal government under the Sheppard-Towner Act,

thus providing for a state appropriation of \$42,200 for the coming biennium as compared with the appropriation of \$30,000 for the present biennium period.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Thorp, second of Miss Lawrence, that the recommendation be made to the Committee on Final Program that a request for the above named appropriation for the work of the Division of Child Hygiene of the State Board of Health, be supported.

RATIFICATION OF CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT

The letter of Miss Julia Lathrop of the National League on the legislative program of the League with a special section on this subject was read by Miss Florence Harrison. There was some discussion of the development of the beet sugar industry in Minnesota involving the labor of children. Miss Lawrence reported that she has now received from the State Department of Agriculture a list of 31 counties in the state having a total beet sugar acreage of 17,259 acres. It was suggested that superintendents of schools in the counties listed be approached to learn how much interference there is with the school attendance of children employed. The Inspector of Rural Schools in the State Department of Education might be willing to send out a letter on this subject. It was agreed that he should be interviewed. Mrs. Gaus mentioned the drifting of families employed in the beet fields to the city too late to secure work, thus increasing the charitable problems of the city. Miss Lawrence said that Minneapolis and St. Paul

already have classes for over-age children designated as beet-children classes because of being formed for this particular group of children.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Jones, second of Miss Lawrence, that the Council recommend the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the Committee on Final Program for inclusion in the program.

SUNSET HOMES BILL - The history of this bill was reviewed by Mrs. Thorp. She made the point that, in her opinion, it is not proper to tax the state for the support of an institution that is open only to those who can make the required initial payment of \$500. No action was taken providing for further consideration of this bill.

NEW BUSINESS

There was brief discussion of the PART TIME SCHOOLS bill. Miss Wells suggested that the Council take action in support of a bill provided one is presented by the American Federation of Labor but that otherwise no action be taken. It was the sentiment of the Council that the Education Committee be asked to watch the action of other organizations and keep the Council informed.

The statement of Mrs. Dietrichson, chairman of the standing committee on Women in Industry for the Minnesota League, was read containing a recommendation that the Council act upon a bill introduced at the last legislative session by the American Federation of Labor providing for ONE DAY REST IN SEVEN for both men and women. A SUB*COMMITTEE to report further on this bill was appointed by the chair to consist of Mrs. Griswold, chairman, Mrs. Dietrichson and Miss Kercher.

The question of taking action in opposition to the introduction of an EQUAL RIGHTS BILL into the legislature was brought up but no action taken.

On the question of a WOMAN ON THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION, it was recommended by Mrs. Dietrichson that no bill be introduced at this session but that the Council go on record as favoring the appointment of a qualified woman member of the commission.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Griswold, second of Mrs. Gaus, that the report be made to the Committee on Final Program that the Council favors the appointment of a qualified woman on the Industrial Commission.

Mr. Bruno's report on the FAMILY COURT was received too late to be sent out in advance of this meeting. It will be sent to members and voted upon at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned on motion.

Respectfully submitted

Emily Child, secretary

The regular meeting of the Legislative Council was held Wednesday, August 27th, 1924, at League headquarters, Miss Wells presiding.

Present - Miss Wells, Mrs. Griswold, W C T U; Miss Frances Smith, newly appointed delegate from the Minnesota Education Association; Miss Ruth Junkin, newly appointed delegate from the Minn. Public Health Association, Miss Lawrence, League committee on Education, Mrs. Denny, Minneapolis League representative, Mrs. Gilman, Woman's
Mrs. F W Wittich
Cooperative Alliance/and Miss Child

One Day Rest in Seven Mrs. Griswold, chairman of the sub-committee of three appointed at the last meeting to report upon this law, stated that it is the 'consensus of opinion in the committee that no action be taken by the Council until the action of the American Federation of Labor is known. The legislative committee of that organization (Mr. Hall chairman) is responsible for suggesting amendment to strike out the exemptions that make the law ineffective. Mr. Hall said that they would not rest until every exemption is removed from the law. Mrs. Griswold stated also that there is some question as to the constitutionality of the law.

The Council took no action to refer the matter to the Committee on Final Program.

Teacher's Retirement Fund Miss Lawrence and Miss Smith presented reports. Attention was called to the fact that the cost to the state of putting the fund on a sound financial basis has been estimated

at \$350,000.00^{a year} for a two year period. This would mean an increase from 1/20 to 5/20 of a mill tax levy. It was suggested that certain state income might be set aside to supply the necessary funds. Miss Wells asked what is the situation in other states. Miss Lawrence stated that there are 34 states with some form of pension law; about half of them are financially sound. She will inquire into the financing of the funds by other states and report at the September meeting.

Miss Smith stated that teachers in general are much dissatisfied with the present situation and that we are building up among them in the state great dissatisfaction with a plan that should have their support. Miss Lawrence mentioned the possibility of the legislature repealing the law entirely if too much attack is made on it. Mrs. Wittich said that it seemed to her very bad business for the state to be administering an insolvent fund.

Miss Wells spoke of the fact that the expenditure involved is greater than for any measure supported up to date. She suggested postponing vote on the bill until more information can be had as to how the necessary funds can be secured and what is the support and opposition that can be expected for the bill.

Mrs. Wittich reported upon an interview with W I Norton of the Interim Commission on the reorganization of state departments, in which she was unable to learn anything definite as to the commission's recommendations on this subject.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Lawrence, second by Mrs. Denny, that action on this bill be postponed until the September meeting and that the Committee on Final Program be asked to formulate its recommendations with the possibility in mind that this bill may be added to the program then.

It was suggested that Mr. Vaughn, president of the Minnesota Education Association, and Mr. McConnell of the State Department of Education, be asked to attend the September meeting of the Council for the purpose of contributing to the discussion of the bill.

Family Court Miss Child read Mr. Bruno's statement as sent out to members of the Council and called attention to the fact that the proposed bill provides only for the reference to the Juvenile Court Judge (in counties over 33,000 in population) of cases involving the welfare of children and marital relations providing the judges of the district court shall so decide. Mrs. Gilman called attention to the fact that even our so-called Juvenile Court of Hennepin County is not a separate court but is rather constituted as a calendar of the district court. The bill under consideration would extend the calendar to include the types of cases mentioned.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Gilman, second by Mrs. Griswold, that the bill be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

Removal of Legal Discriminations Against Women Miss Monahan being absent there was brief discussion of her recommendation that the law regarding prostitutes be amended so as to apply to men as well as women.

Report of Committee on Law Enforcement for Minnesota League Miss Kercher being absent, Mrs. Denny reported upon her interviews in Minneapolis with those concerned in the enforcement of the laws passed with the support of the League ~~at the last session of the Legislature~~ (Dance Hall, Street Trades). As the result of Mrs. Denny's inquiry into the facts and other reports secured from outside the city, Miss Kercher recommended consideration of the following amendments to the DANCE HALL LAW: (1) a provision requiring all dance halls to close/at midnight, and remain closed (2) a provision making the reissue of a license after revocation impossible for a specified time, and (3) some provision for regulating dancing in cafes.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Gilman, second by Mrs. Griswold, that the suggested amendments to the Dance Hall law be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

Miss Kercher also recommended in her written report consideration of the following amendments to the STREET TRADES LAW: (1) a provision making the employment of an unbadged boy an offense; (2) a provision requiring the police to share responsibility for the enforcement of the law.

Mrs. Gilman said on this question that in her opinion it is waste of time to try to secure regulatory measures for children in street trades since such measures are merely begging the question that children should be eliminated from street trades entirely. This is the only way to improve the situation in the large cities. Miss Wells said also that amendments of this character should be initiated by authorities in charge of administering the law instead of all the responsibility for the preparation of the amendments being left to such an advisory body as the Council.

Miss Wells announced that Owen Lovejoy of the National Child Labor Committee is to be in the state the week of September 8th and that he is open for engagements to speak in behalf of the Child Labor Amendment. Mrs. Griswold reported that there is concentrated opposition to the amendment in Owatonna so that she hoped he might speak there. Miss Lawrence thinks St. Cloud will want him.

Miss Lawrence reported that she has communicated with the state Inspector of Rural Schools on the matter of getting reports from the county superintendents of schools on attendance of children engaged in work in the beet fields and that he will send out a letter asking for such reports.

Mrs. Griswold read the legislative program adopted by the W C T U at its recent state convention.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Emily Child, Secretary

Legislative Council Meeting
September 24th, 1924.

The regular meeting of the Legislative Council was held Wednesday, September 24th, 1924 at 2:30 o'clock at League Headquarters, Mrs. Ueland presiding.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Gilman, Miss Nellie Jones, Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Denny, Mrs. Junkins, Mrs. Mariette, Mr. Morse, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Griswold, Mr. McConnell, Pres. Vaughn, Mr. Schulz, Mr. Mothersill, Miss Beggin, Miss Child .

Report of Committee on Final Program: Mrs. Ueland reported for the Committee on Final Program and announced that action would be postponed until after the discussion on the Teachers' Retirement Fund and other measures which have not yet been acted upon in the Council.

Teachers' Retirement Fund: Mrs. Ueland called upon Miss Lawrence who reported upon her inquiry into the cost of pension funds in other states in 1921, as follows:

Many of the states are changing from unsound to sound pension laws. This necessitates carrying a heavy burden for a period up to twenty years. When the transfer is complete, compound interest and wise investment in bonds will take care of the annuity on insurance principles to a great extent.

Massachusetts	\$233,542.23	
Connecticut	111,760.62	<u>Began</u> with a sound law
Vermont	Not available	Sound Pension.
New York City	\$ 2,913,944.92	
New Jersey	350,000.00	
Pennsylvania	2,000,000.00	
Ohio	2,075,000.00	Liability assessed on cities who alone receive benefit.

Wisconsin	\$ 1,000,000.00	Uses surtax on incomes of \$5000 or over. Last year produced \$1,300,000.
Arkansas		Uses receipts from tax on cigars and cigarettes
Kansas	App. \$50,000 per year	Unsound.
Maine	\$35,000.	Pensions of \$300. only. Sound from first.
Minneapolis	\$140,000.	Tax of two mills. Sound.
California		Funds derived from 5% of inheritance tax.

Mrs. Ueland asked Mr. McConnell, State Commissioner of Education, to review the facts on the Teachers' Retirement Fund in this state up to date, from the time the fund was established in 1915. He stated that in respect to funds paid in by teachers, the fund is not insolvent since the Pension Board in administering the Fund has used only the interest of the money derived from teachers' payments. In respect to paying the annuities called for by the law, it is insolvent. The Pension Board is made up of the Attorney-General, Auditor and Commissioner of Education as ex-officio members together with two elected members. This Board recommended a bill to the 1923 Legislature to remedy the situation and it failed to pass. The Board will recommend substantially the same bill in the next Legislature. Mr. McConnell explained that the Teachers' Retirement Fund bill is not the immediate concern of the Department of Education and that it is not his purpose to urge action by the Council.

In his opinion the bill cannot be characterized as class legislation. Mr. McConnell distributed to members of the Council, in printed form a "Tabular Statement of Teachers' Pension Systems", in the following States: Minnesota, Mass., Conn., Vermont, New Jersey, Penna., Ohio, Wis., New York City.

In response to a question from Miss Lawrence, Mr. McConnell said that it is proposed to raise the tax levy to provide the necessary funds. Mrs. Ueland asked how much backing the teachers would give the bill. Mr. McConnell said, in general, they will support it, but that there is some opposition which will be for the most part done away with by the modification in the proposed bill making the contribution voluntary for teachers between ages of 18 and 25 years. Miss Wells asked whether the adoption of an executive budget plan would solve the problem. Mr. McConnell replied that the bill calls for a separate budget which would be fixed by the Pension Board. At the last session, the request for funds was made on an appropriation basis. At the next session support will be asked on a millage basis, the amount being five-tenths of a mill. The difficulty with the millage basis is that it may provide a fund too large at first, and too small later. No action by the Legislature is permanent, however, as the provision may be changed or repealed by a new legislature.

Mr. Mothersill, the actuary employed by the Pension Board, was asked to speak on the bill. He said, the question as to why the fund is insolvent can be answered by asking any insurance company what it costs to buy an annuity of \$500. a year for a teacher at 50 years

of age for the balance of her life . The cost is \$7300. Under the present system, the teacher pays \$400. and the State \$200. supplying a total of \$600. as against the necessary \$7300. The new bill provides for asking a teacher to pay half the necessary sum, or \$3650. at the rate of \$65. a year from the year she begins teaching. The State will be asked to pay half and to begin to accumulate its \$3650. at the end of the first ten years of the teacher's service. There are about 17,000 teachers in this state outside the three cities. Of this number, 80% are in the first year of service. The total cost to the state will be in the neighborhood of \$600,000. a year which will be steadily reduced after the older teachers have been taken care of. Mr. Mothersill stated that this cost compares favorably with that borne by other states. He pointed out that the money paid into the fund is not spent but is accumulated and invested ready to pay annuities when due. In reply to a question by Mrs. Griswold, he said that present expense borne by the state is about \$60,000. a year. He distributed to members of the Council mimeographed figures showing an "Individual Teachers' Account in Accordance with the Proposed Teachers' Pension Plan." On the question as to the apparent advantages of a pension on a percentage basis of the salary earned, as against a flat annuity, he said that the percentage basis would involve a larger payment by the state than dollar for dollar; and this was not considered desirable . A teacher who leaves, or dies, or is discharged before she has reached the age of 50, may draw out all the money she has paid in, but may not draw out the state's money.

Mrs. Ueland explained the disadvantage to such a group as the Council of supporting too many bills that have small prospects of success. She also said that the question as to whether the full responsibility for the bill must be borne by our organization should influence the decision with regard to it.

Mr. Vaughn, President of the Minnesota Education Association, reported that his organization feels as a body that this bill is a matter of paramount importance that should have precedence over all other educational measures. The M. E. A., now has under consideration the plan of having someone whose sole business it will be to work in behalf of the bill during the legislative session. It realizes that its legislative committee is inadequate to the situation in respect to this bill.

Mrs. Ueland and Miss Wells felt that such an arrangement would give important help in following the bill through the legislature. In response to a question, Mr. Vaughn said that the decision as to this would be made in the meeting which will take place the first week in November.

Mr. McConnell in reply to Miss Wells' question as to what the Pension Board can do in support of this bill, said that it will appear in behalf of the bill at the invitation of the legislative committee, but that it cannot undertake an active lobby.

Mr. Schulz of the M. E. A., spoke urging the importance of the bill. There was some discussion on the question of the retiring age. Miss Harrison called attention to the fact that the age in most other states is set at 60. Mr. Mothersill pointed out that the important point is the requirement of 30 years of service and that very few teachers have this period of service at the age of 50. Mr. Mothersill said that the cost of retiring teachers at 60 instead of at 50 years of age would mean about ten per cent difference in the total sum needed, but that after careful consideration the Pension Board have decided in favor of the 50-year provision. Mrs. Wittich said that this seemed a very fair provision to her.

County Board of Education: Miss Lawrence reviewed the points in favor of this measure and recommended it as the smallest step toward getting the County Superintendent of Schools freed from political involvements. Mr. McConnell stated that Minnesota is the only state west of New York that does not have the same situation in the selection of the chief state officer of education as we have in Minnesota in the selection of County Superintendents. He pointed out that the expense of the State Board of Education including per diem payments to Board members amounts to a total of less than \$600. It is therefore obvious that a County Board would not be very expensive. He spoke of the advantage in having the County Board elected by the District School Boards, since these boards are very close to the hearts of the people. School funds and school elections are separate from municipal affairs and politics do not enter in, to a great extent. He said that ideally, the County Board of Education should be

electd but this cannot be done as it would put too many district school board members out of office . Most County Superintendents, he reported, favor the change - not all of them . The evolution of the board in practice will be to do away with the local school districts.

Mr. Vaughn said that this measure is one of four on the legislative program of the M. E. A.

Miss Wells reported that, of the replies in questionnaires to candidates, fewer favorable replies were received on this issue than on any other. Mrs. Ueland reported that two years ago a questionnaire was sent to county superintendents and few unfavorable replies were received.

Child Labor Amendment: There was brief discussion of this amendment.

It was voted
On motion of Miss Lawrence, seconded by Miss Nellie Jones that the M. E. A. be asked to take formal action in favor of the amendment.

Removal of Legal Discriminations against Women: Mrs. Ueland asked for a report from Miss Monahan on the amendment to the law on prostitutes recommended by her committee. Miss Monahan said that she foresaw little opposition to such an amendment and that it is one that has been recommended both by the National League Committee on Social Hygiene and by the American Social Hygiene Committee which has called attention to the defect in the Minnesota law in that respect. Miss Monahan also said that this is one of the discriminations against women most often cited by the Woman's Party in their campaign for an equal rights bill.

She reported that Dr. Valeria Parker of the American Social Hygiene Association whom she saw last week assured her that they could send a representative to work for the amendment during the session of the legislature. Mrs. Ueland asked Mrs. Gaus Chairman of the League Committee on Social Hygiene for a statement on this question. Mrs. Gaus said that she was not in favor of offering the amendment at this time since she felt that it would result in putting a provision into the law that would not be enforced and she therefore thought that an adequate educational campaign was necessary in preparation for it.

Mrs. Ueland suggested that since there was difference of opinion on the advisability of including this measure in the program, a special committee might be asked to consider it and report on it later. It was voted on motion of Miss Lawrence, second of Mrs. Junkins that the amendment be referred to a special committee.

Action on Final Program:

Teachers' Retirement Fund - It was voted on motion of Mrs. Griswold second of Mrs. Gaus to refer the bill to the Committee on Final Program.

Mrs. Ueland called for action by members of the Final Program Committee present. It was voted on motion of Mrs. Griswold second of Miss Monahan that the bill be recommended for inclusion in the Final Program.

County Board of Education - It was voted on motion of Miss Lawrence, second of Mrs. Denny that this measure be included in the Final Program.

Mrs. Ueland asked for action on the final program as recommended by the Committee on Final Program. It was voted on motion of Miss Monahan, second of Mrs. Elliott that the following measures be recommended as the Legislative Program to be acted upon at the State Convention of the League of Women Voters:

Teachers' Retirement Fund

County Board of Education

Marriage Bill

Family Court

Mothers' Pensions Appropriation

Infancy and Maternity Appropriation

Amendment to Adultery Law

Child Labor Amendment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P. M.

Emily Child, Secretary

1 9 2 5 Legislative Session Council Membership

A A U W	Mrs. E C Stakman	14 11 Hythe St. 1366 Raymond Av. St. Paul
American Legion Aux.	Mrs. C H Hubbell	Robbinsdale
✓ Minn. Fed. of Bus. & Prof. Women	✓ Miss Nellie L Jones	c/O R G Dun Co. St. Paul, Minn.
Council of Americanization Agencies	Mrs. B F Rieke.	309 Como River Blvd. Minneapolis <i>St. Paul</i>
Jewish Women's Council	Mrs. Maurice Lefkowitz	2115 Garfield Av. Mpls.
L W V Committee Chairmen		
Social Hygiene	✓ Mrs. John M Gaus	215 Melbourne S E
Law Enforcement	✓ Miss Alice Kercher	Federal Land Bk, St. Paul
Women in Industry	Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson	✓
Child Welfare	Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne	Janesville ✓
Education	✓ Miss Isabel Lawrence	✓
Legal Status	✓ Miss Florence Monahan	✓
Living Costs	Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws	✓
Mpls. Chairman	✓ Mrs. C M Denny	
→ St. Paul Chairman	Mrs. John M Guise	
	✓ Miss Marguerite M Wells	
	Mrs. Andreas Ueland	✓
✓ Minn. Com. on Social Legislation	Mr. F J Bruno	404 So. 8th St.
M E A	<i>Miss Frances Smith</i> Miss Mabel G Peirce	Faribault
Minn. Federation of Women's Clubs	<i>Mrs. H. J. Bailey</i> Mrs. Henry S Nelson	1939 Bryant Av. So. Mpls
Minn. Public Health Ass'n.	<i>Mrs. Ruth Jenkins</i> Dr. D C Lochead	Shubert Bldg., St. Paul
✓ Minn. State Registered Nurses Ass'n.	Mrs. Sophie Olson Hein	219 S Lexington Av. St. Paul
Minn. State Org. for Public Health Nursing	Mrs. Ernest Mariette	Oak Terrace
Women's Trade Union Leage	Miss Dora Kreutzian	1304 26th Av. N E

(over)

W C T U

✓ Mrs. Myra Griswold ✓

3916 Vincent Av. So. Mpls.

✓ Mrs. Josephine Sizer

45 So. Avon St. St. Paul

Women's Welfare League ✓ Mrs. John Elliot

1955 Kenwood Pky.

Woman's Club

✓ Mrs. Walter Thorp

Mpls.

4428 Fremont So.

✓ Women's Coop. Alliance Mrs. Robbins Gilman

Rural Advisory Committee

Mrs. E A Flood

Swanville

Mrs. L P Hall

Deerwood

Mrs. H W Froelich

Thief River Falls

Mrs. A N Nelles

Dayton

✓ Mrs. H J Bailey

St. Paul Park

Mrs. Hannah J Kempfer

Erhard

Mrs. Willard Bayliss

Chisholm

Mrs. C J Selvig

Crookston

Mrs. H O Tellier

Farmington

The regular meeting of the Legislative Council was held at League headquarters, Saturday, February 14th, 1925, Mrs. Ueland presiding.

Present: - Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Gaus League committee on Social Hygiene, Miss Lawrence, League Committee on Education, Miss Kercher, League Committee on Law Enforcement, Mrs. Dietrichson, League Committee on Women in Industry, Miss Nellie Jones, Business and Professional Women; Mrs. Sizer and Mrs. Griswold, W C T U; Miss Hattendorf, Women's Cooperation Alliance; Mrs. Stakman, American Association of University Women; Mr. F J Bruno, Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation; Mrs. Denny, Minneapolis League; Mrs. Tellier of the Rural Advisory Committee, Miss Harrison and Miss Child, secretary

Reports were made on the status of the bills included in or related to the legislative program as follows: -

Educational Bills

Mrs. Wittich reported having attended a hearing before the Education Committee of the House at which the teachers' retirement fund, the county board of education, and a bill legalizing two year junior college courses in high schools were discussed. County superintendents from McLeod, Washington and Blue Earth counties presented the merits of the county board of education

bill. Mrs. Wittich commented upon the violent opposition expressed by members of the committee who sat near her to this bill.

Child Welfare Measures

Mrs. Griswold reported that the appropriation for infancy and maternity work is provided for in the budget of the State Board of Health so that it is not necessary that we be responsible for seeing that it is introduced.

Mrs. Ueland reported that a bill providing for a refund to counties for mothers pensions covering the whole period since the bill went into effect in 1918 has been introduced. She also reported the bill introduced by Mr. Hompe (House file No. 22) which would repeal the refund provision in the Mothers Pensions law, and said that Mr. Gislason can be depended upon to help defeat it. She said that she hopes for a hearing on the repeal bill before the appropriations committee and asked for suggestions of those who might be asked to speak at the hearing and report the facts that led to the passage of the law in 1917. It was suggested that Judge Waite, Mrs. Gilman and Judge C F Hall should be consulted in this connection.

Mr. Bruno reported that a bill has been introduced changing the mothers' pension law to enable any child who is under sixteen and attending school to remain in school and benefit by the allowance. This bill was prepared by the Minnesota Committee on Social Legisla-

tion in conference with the probation officers of the juvenile courts in the two cities. According to the present law a child under sixteen who has completed the eighth grade is expected to leave school and go to work. This results in only backward children between fourteen and sixteen being eligible for support under the Mothers Pension law. The proposed amendment Mr. Bruno said would affect only some twenty to thirty five children in Hennepin county - he had no figures for the state at large.

Other proposed changes in the mothers pension law were summarized by Mr. Bruno as follows: -

1. Providing that a pension may be granted after a ~~certain period~~^{year} has elapsed from the date of the issuance of a "warrant for the arrest" of the husband on the charge of child abandonment in place of "indictment" as in the present law.
2. Providing that a man convicted of child abandonment and on parole who escapes from parole ~~must be~~^{need not be} re-indicted before the wife is again eligible to receive a mothers pension.
3. Providing for the inclusion (upon the birth of the child) of the unborn child of a pregnant mother abandoned by her husband, in the allowance granted under the mothers pension law.
4. Concerning the salary of probation officers.

Marriage Bill

Mrs. Gaus reported that the marriage bill has been introduced into the House and Senate and one public hearing has been held before the Public Welfare committee of the House. The bill has been reported out by the committee with the recommendation that it pass as amended. The minor amendments include a change from five

to seven days in the waiting period. She reported the status of the poll of the House at present as indicating 33 unconditionally in favor of the bill, 6 doubtful and 7 opposed to the abolishment of common law marriage. It is expected that the bill will come to a vote on Monday or Tuesday.

Mrs. Gaus also reported a bill introduced by Senator Zamboni requiring a doctor's certificate before a marriage license is issued. Mr. Bruno stated that the bill was prepared in the Research Department of the Board of Control (by Dr. Kuhlman) with the purpose of killing off a much more drastic eugenics bill. He thought that neither bill has a chance of passing.

Part Time School Bill

Miss Wells reported a conversation with Eliza Evans Deming asking whether the League would support the part-time school bill introduced in this session. After discussion it was agreed that it would be unwise to pledge ourselves to additional work during this session for this bill not included in our legislative program.

Woman on Industrial Commission

Mrs. Griswold reported that a bill has been introduced in the House providing for the appointment of three members on the Industrial Commission, one of whom shall be a woman. It was felt that there was little hope that the governor would appoint a woman to the expected vacancy on the Commission, and the bill

was therefore introduced by Mrs. Paige (H F No. 524) Mrs. Paige has asked Mrs. Griswold to arrange for its introduction into the Senate and she will do so. Mrs. Griswold reported the W C T U as in favor of the bill and willing to help secure its passage.

Indeterminate Sentence

Mrs. Wittich reported that the bill (HF 31) affecting the indeterminate sentence, was practically killed at the hearing at which Judge Waite and Mr. Vasaly of St. Cloud spoke. It contains provisions that would in effect do away with the indeterminate sentence which has the endorsement of the Council and the League.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dietrichson, second by Mr. Bruno, that inasmuch as the legislative program for 1923 for the Minnesota League included similar measures, the bill providing for a woman on the Industrial Commission be supported by the League, and the bill providing for the repeal of the Indeterminate Sentence be opposed by the League.

Minimum Wage Bills

Two bills have been introduced into the House affecting the administration of the minimum wage law. The first excludes towns under 5,000 from the operation of the law, the second exempts hotel employees and telegraph operators from its provisions in towns under 1,500. Miss Wells suggested that the committee should be polled on both bills and an attempt made to kill them in committee. Mrs. Griswold will take charge of the poll.

One Day Rest in Seven

Mrs. Dietrichson spoke in favor of supporting this bill, calling attention to the fact that the bill passed in 1923 and rendered practically inoperative by numerous exemptions, has now been declared unconstitutional by a ruling of Judge Dickinson. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second by Mrs. Griswold, that the Council recommend to the Board of the Minnesota League that we support this bill in this session of the legislature.

Child Labor Amendment

Mrs. Ueland reported the present status of the amendment and said that it is hoped that a majority of the Committee will vote to recommend its passage when it is reported out. Mrs. Ueland suggested certain men that should hear from their constituents, and Mrs. Sizer offered to assist in seeing that messages are sent to their districts.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Emily Child, secretary

September 22, 1925

Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting
September 22, 1925
2:30 P. M.

The regular meeting of the Legislative Council of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at League headquarters, Tuesday, September 22nd, at 2:30 p. m., Mrs. Ueland presiding. The following were present: Miss Wells, (Ramsey County League) Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Prosser, (Woman's Club) Mrs. Alexis Caswell, (American Legion Auxiliary), Mrs. Sizer, (W. C. T. U), Mrs. Junkins, (Minnesota Public Health Association), Mrs. Halpern, (Council of Jewish Women), Miss Kercher, Mrs. Kreiner, Mrs. Denny, (Mpls. League) ^{secretary} and Miss Child, Miss Marguerite Owen was also present, at the invitation of the chairman.

Mrs. Ueland introduced Miss Owen as secretary of the Organizations Associated for Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment in Washington and secretary of the Department of Legislation and Law Enforcement of the National League of Women Voters. Miss Owen told the council something of the organization and activities of the Women's/Joint Congregational Committee in Washington composed of the representatives of National Women's Organizations. The membership of this group has grown from 10 to 25 organizations in the last three years. Miss Owen told of the plan followed by the Women's Joint Congregational Committee in carrying on its legislative work through special sub-committees. The sub-committee organized for support of the Child Labor Amendment contained the largest representation of organizations ^{that} ~~of~~ any ~~of the~~ sub-committee ^{has ever had.} The next largest sub-committee was that assigned to the World Court. Another recent issue that has called for ~~for~~ co-operative legislative effort is opposite ^{icon} to the Equal Rights Amendment. Action has not yet been taken on the Wadsworth-Garrett Amendment through the General Federation of Women's Clubs

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and the National League of Women Voters of the organizations represented in the joint committee have taken national convention action against it. Miss Owen explained that a sub-committee is not assigned to a legislative issue until at least five organizations have taken action for or against a certain measure.

There followed general discussion of the amendment as subversive to the principles upon which the constitution was framed. Supporters of the amendment nationally are, in the main, the same groups that opposed the suffrage amendment, the prohibition amendment, and the child labor amendment.

Miss Owen said that support of action providing for the renewal of the appropriation under the Sheppard-Towner Act would be an important task of the joint committee in the coming session of Congress. Success is not a foregone conclusion. It will be necessary to show wise use of funds in the various states, and this ~~xxxxx~~ is possible for all but three of the states that have accepted federal aid under the Act. Miss Owen recommended to the attention of the council members Miss Abbott's recent report on the administration of the Sheppard-Towner Act (Report No. 146).

Recommendations of Miss Kercher for Law Enforcement Study

Mrs. Ueland asked Miss Kercher to present a tentative plan for the program to be adopted by the Legislative Council for the coming months. Miss Kercher called attention to the fact that the Council is now three legislative sessions old and that various laws that now appear on the Statute Books are there owing to the Council's efforts. Some of these laws are self-enforcing, such as The Jury Law for Women and The Minimum School Term Law. Others depend for successful enforcement upon the public sentiment that exists to support the efforts of administrative officials. Such laws are the Carnival, Dance Hall

and Street Trades Laws. Miss Kercher said that it seemed to her that the Legislative Council in its membership is particularly suited to giving the assistance that is needed in the enforcement of these laws through:

1. Disseminating Information as to the provisions of laws
2. Establishing Co-operative relations with enforcing officials.

Miss Kercher recommended that the Council ~~xxxxxx~~ devote the next few months to consideration of laws that had its support in being passed, and that it invite public officials responsible for their enforcement to speak at ~~xxxxxx~~ future meetings of the Council. She presented the following as a tentative outline for the next four meetings:

- I. Dance Hall Law Speakers: Colonel Pratt, assistant atty. general, Chester Wilson, County Atty., and others, such as attendance officers in public dance halls.
- II. Carnival Law Speakers: Miss Fern Chase of the Women's Co-Operative Alliance, which has made a survey of ~~public dance halls~~, County Fair Officers, etc. ~~this subject,~~
- III. Street Trades, Compulsory Education, and Physical Education Laws
Speakers: Attendance Officers in Public Schools, and from the State Dept. of Education, Mr. Evarts, director of Physical Education.
- IV. Employment Laws Administered by the Minn. Industrial Commission

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Kercher, second of Miss Denny, that the next ~~two~~ four meetings be arranged in accordance with this plan.

Miss Kercher suggested that sub-committees might be appointed to work on problems of disseminating information on these subjects. Miss Wells suggested that the procedure might be that the representatives of the various organizations on the Council undertake to carry back the suggestion that each organization make such educational effort a part of its program for the year in whatever way

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seems best. In this way the idea of enforcement can be sent out over the state through the various organizations.

Following discussion upon whether the council members shall be privileged to invite ~~in~~ others to the meetings,

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Elliott, that council members shall be privileged to extend an invitation to each of the four meetings outlined, to those who would have a special concern in hearing the discussion, as members of The Legislative Committees in each organization or chairmen of committees assigned to related subjects.

The Meeting adjourned on motion at 4:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

EMILY CHILD, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, November 4th, 1925

2:30 P. M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Mrs. Robbins Gilman, Miss Harriet Vanfice (Minneapolis Y. W. C. A.), Mrs. Griswold, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Guise, and Miss Child. There were also present as guests: Miss Oswald of the Y. W. C. A.; Mrs. A. M. Burt, and Mrs. Charles M. Irwin of the Ramsey County League; Miss Chase and Miss Pratt of the Women's Cooperative Alliance; Mr. Hegel and Miss Julia Drew of the Department of Attendance and Guidance of the Minneapolis Public Schools; and Mr. Pratt, assistant attorney-general.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

DISCUSSION OF THE DANCE HALL LAW

Mr. Pratt, who was invited to speak on the Dance Hall Law and its enforcement, first reviewed the legislation regulating public dances in the period before the passage of the Public Dance Hall Law of 1923. He said that the first mention in the statutes occurred in 1885 when a law was passed providing that no minor under ~~under~~ sixteen should be permitted in public dance houses unless accompanied by parent or guardian. In 1897 the age was raised to 21 years. In 1913 the legislature first took a definite stand in defining "public dance halls" and passed a law applicable throughout the state prohibiting immodest dancing and the sale of liquor in public dance halls. This law also provided for the granting of a permit to public dance halls by the governing bodies in cities of the first, second, and third class.

In 1915 and in 1921, the power to license public dance halls was extended to villages of any size and to town boards. However, no penalty was provided for a violation of the provisions of the township law as amended, so that enforcement was handicapped as to towns, unless the town meeting adopted a by-law covering the penalty.

It was not until 1923 that an attempt was made to regulate public dances on a complete state-wide basis. The law passed at that time provides a substantial code for licensing and regulating public dances, and definitions of public dances and of public dance halls were provided, so carefully drawn and so comprehensive that they may hardly be bettered. A great deal of credit is due to those responsible for the form of the law and for its passage.

Attempts to evade the provisions of the law are made. For instance, the doing away with an admission fee and substituting checking charges and fees for an *alleged* club membership are such instances. The definition in the law providing that a public dancing place is one in which "dancing, wherein the public may participate, is carried on and to which admission may be had by the public by payment either directly or indirectly of an admission fee or price for the dancing" is a very valuable part of the law and makes it possible to enforce it even where such attempts at evasion are made; so also the reference to a "fee for membership in a club" *in the definition of a public dance.*

Section 5, providing for the form in which applications for permits shall be made, is not always observed, and ^{in small places} where the applicant is personally known, the formalities are often dispensed with. However, it is a very good provision and may be invoked if needed. The provision for revoking a license upon petition of the citizens is applicable only in villages of one thousand or under and in townships. The danger of action under this provision for "spite" and the resulting nuisance explains its being applicable only outside the cities. It is, however, a good provision and is an instance of "home rule" and placing responsibility upon local groups.

Mr. . Pratt concluded his talk with the statement that there is little doubt that this law was better enforced in 1925 than in 1924. The public is better informed, and there is more sentiment in favor of it than at first. In certain communities it took some time to learn that such a law existed. Printed copies of the law were sent out by the attorney-general all over the state and in some places local newspapers published it. Some county attorneys sent copies to all township and municipal officers in their counties. The whole secret of successful enforcement is gaining the support of public sentiment. In counties where this exists there is little trouble with enforcement.

Mr. Pratt said that in too many instances citizens are willing to write letters complaining of conditions but are not willing to sign

the complaint. They wish to place the responsibility upon the county attorney of appearing both as complaining witness and as prosecutor in cases of violation of the law. This is not fair to him and does not represent a proper attitude of responsibility on the part of the individuals who claim to have the facts. There is rarely any difficulty in getting an effective prosecution for violations of this law if a complaint is made. By the statute the responsibility for prosecution is clearly placed upon the county attorney and any county attorney who wilfully fails to perform his official duties can be removed by the governor under a statute that has existed for the last sixty years. Sheriffs and other peace officers are **charged** with the enforcement of this act, the same as other criminal laws. The trouble is that citizens are not willing to do their share of the work of securing law enforcement by appearing as complaining witnesses, or even testifying when called as witnesses. In certain instances, reports that reach the county attorney are "spite work" and if he unknowingly assumes responsibility for the complaints in such cases, he places himself in an embarrassing and difficult position. For this reason, Mr. Pratt urged that the necessity of having the complaint made by a citizen, instead of asking the county attorney to sign the complaint, be brought to the attention of people wherever this law is discussed. Attention should also be invited to the possibility of

injunction proceedings for "padlocking" some of these places as nuisances.

Mrs. Robbins Gilman was asked to speak to the question of administration and enforcement of the law in Minneapolis. Mrs. Gilman said that her organization had met the difficulty of becoming involved in intricate technicalities and had found itself unsuccessful in getting the law enforced. She reported that a check-up by the Women's Cooperative Alliance some months ago had shown that practically every public dance hall in the city was violating from one to four provisions of the law. Mrs. Gilman announced that her organization has now arrived at the point of view that the licensing and attempted regulation of such places is ^{so} subject to abuse that the only way out is for the city to take care of the recreation of its young people itself. She said that the Women's Cooperative Alliance has therefore been attempting to prevent the increase of public dance halls in the city and that it believes that an educational program by which public opinion would support the elimination of public dance halls is the ideal toward which we should work. It does not believe that it will ever be possible to have the provisions of the law observed by commercial dance halls, and that the principle of legalizing them by license is wrong. The substitution of other non-commercial dancing places where the pressure to violate the law does not exist is the solution suggested.

Mr. Hegel, director of the department of attendance and vocational guidance in the Minneapolis public schools, spoke of the fact that properly supervised dances for school children are held in school buildings and that in the future the public schools might take over some part of a public recreational program for young people outside the schools as well. He called attention to the fact, however, that the public schools could never undertake such a program unless under pressure from public opinion favorable to it.

Miss Chase, of the Women's Cooperative Alliance, reported upon the efforts of that organization to prevent the increase in public dance halls by preventing the licensing of undesirable places. She said that the license committee of the City Council had been unwilling to revoke licenses of dance halls except following a prosecution, in spite of the provision in the law that "it shall be the duty of the governing body to revoke a permit for a public dance hall whenever it shall appear that - - - - - intoxicating liquor is sold or that persons in attendance - - - - - drink intoxicating liquor within one thousand feet of the entrance - - - - - or that the holding of such public dance - - - - - contributes or is detrimental to public morals". The license committee as constituted since the last city election is much more ready to listen to facts than the previous committee and has refused licenses to several dance halls in the last few months, in instances

where a group of citizens in the community have definitely requested this action.

Miss Kercher asked whether application blanks for permits with the items required by the law are available to small places in the state. Mr. Pratt said that the attorney-general had such a blank prepared in 1921 and sent it out wherever a request was made. The publishing houses have the blanks and constantly push their sale. He thought this was all that could be done in this connection. Miss Kercher also spoke of the fact that the presence of interested citizens at a public dance hall is the best guarantee for enforcement of the law.

After further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

EMILY CHILD, Secretary

1926 Legislative Session Council Membership

American Assn. of University Women	- Mrs. James S. King	- St. Paul
Minn. Federation of Women's Clubs	- Mrs. Fred Spafford	- Mpls.
Minn. American Legion Auxiliary	- Mrs. Alexis Caswell,	Mpls.
Minn. Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs	- Mrs. Virginia Blythe-	Mpls.
Minn. Parent-Teacher Association	- Mrs. Louis Michaud	- St. Paul
Minn. Education Association	- Miss Elizabeth Fish-	Mpls.
Minn. Public Health Association	- Mrs. Ruth Junkins, Ex. Secy.	
Minn. Registered Nurses Association	- Mrs. Frederick Hein-	St. Paul
State Organization for Public Health Nursing	- Mrs. Ernest Mariette	Glen Lake
Minn. Women's Christian Temperance Union	- Mrs. Myra Griswold	- Mpls.
Minn. Committee on Social Legislation	C. F. Hall	- St. Paul
Mpls. Council of Americanization	- Mrs. K. E. Mo	- Mpls.
Young Women's Christian Association	- Miss Harriet Vance	- Mpls.
Minneapolis Woman's Club	- Mrs. C. A. Prosser	- Mpls.
Minneapolis Women's Welfare League	- Mrs. John Elliott	- Mpls.
Minneapolis Council of Jewish Women	- Mrs. Samuel P. Halpern	Mpls.
	Mrs. Israel Kreiner	Mpls.
Women's Trade Union League (Mpls. Committee)	- Miss Dora Kreutzian	
Women's Cooperative Alliance	- Mrs. Robbins Gilman	
Minn. League of Women Voters:		
	- Miss Marguerite M. Wells,	Pres.
	- Mrs. F. W. Wittich,	1st Vice-Pres.

Minnesota League of Women Voters
contd.

Standing Committee Chairmen:

Council
Law Enforcement
Women In Industry
Social Hygiene
Legal Status of Women
Child Welfare
Living Costs
Education

Mrs. Andreas Ueland - Mpls.
Miss Alice Kercher - St. Paul
Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson - Mpls.
Mrs. J. M. Gaus - Mpls.
Miss Florence Monahan - Shakopee

Minneapolis League -

Mrs. C. M. Denny - Mpls.

Ramsey County League -

Mrs. John M. Guise - St. Paul

Rural Advisory Committee:

Mrs. L. P. Hall

Deerwood

Mrs. A. N. Nelles

Dayton

Mrs. H. O. Tellier

Farmington

Mrs. E. A. Flood

Swanville

Mrs. C. G. Selvig

Crookston

Mrs. Hannah J. Kempfer

Fergus Falls

American Association of University Women	- Mrs. James S. King, St. Paul
Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs	- Mrs. Fred Spafford, Minneapolis
Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary	- Mrs. Alexis Caswell, "
Minnesota Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs	- Mrs. Virginia Blythe, "
Minnesota Parent-Teacher Association	- Mr. F. A. Snyder, St. Paul
Minnesota Education Association	- Miss Elizabeth Fish, Minneapolis
Minnesota Public Health Association	- Mrs. Ruth Junkins, (Ex. Secretary)
Minnesota Registered Nurses Association	- Mrs. Frederick Hein, St. Paul
State Organization for Public Health Nursing	- Mrs. Frank Hirschfield, Mpls. Locust 8164
Minnesota Women's Christian Temperance Union	- Mrs. Josephine E. Sizer, St. Paul
Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation	- Judge C. F. Hall, St. Paul - Miss Joanna Colcord, Minneapolis
Minneapolis Council of Americanization	- Mrs. K. E. Mo, Minneapolis
Young Women's Christian Association	- Miss Harriet Vance, Minneapolis
Minneapolis Woman's Club	- Mrs. J. C. Litzenberg, "
Minneapolis Women's Welfare League	- Mrs. Clyde R. White, " Walnut 5295
St. Paul Women's Welfare League	- Mrs. G. B. Walker, St. Paul
Minneapolis Council of Jewish Women	- Mrs. Israel Kreiner, Minneapolis
Women's Trade Union League (Mpls. Committee)	- Miss Dora Kreutzian, "
Women's Cooperative Alliance	- Mrs. Robbins Gilman, "

Minnesota League of Women Voters:

Miss Marguerite M. Wells, President
Mrs. F. W. Wittich, First Vice-President

Standing Committee Chairmen:

Council	- Mrs. Andreas Ueland
Law Enforcement	- Miss Alice Kercher (At. 5302)
Women in Industry	- Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson
Social Hygiene	- Mrs. J. M. Gaus
Legal Status of Women	- Miss Florence Monahan
Child Welfare	- Mrs. Myra Griswold
Living Costs	-
Education	- Miss Isabel Lawrence
Minneapolis League	- Mrs. C. M. Denny
Ramsey County League	- Mrs. John M. Guise

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 3rd, 1926

2:30 P. M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Miss Wells, Mrs. Griswold, Miss Lawrence, Miss Kercher, Miss Joanna Colcord, Mrs. Junkins, Mrs. Prosser, and Miss Child, secretary. There were also present Mrs. Dragoo of St. Cloud, Mrs. Bissell, Miss Pratt of the Woman's Cooperative Alliance, Miss Merrill, Mrs. Bessessen, Mrs. Michaud ^{of St. Paul} (and two others from St. Paul), and Miss Louise Schutz of the Minnesota Industrial Commission.

Mrs. Ueland made an introductory statement referring to the work of the Advisory Legislative Council in recommending the laws under discussion for support in past legislative programs of the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

Street Trades Law (discussed by Mr. W. H. Orme, Department of Attendance, St. Paul Public Schools)

Mr. Orme said that progress has been made in securing the co-operation of those involved in the enforcement of this law making it now easier to enforce it than when it first was put into operation.

The situation in St. Paul affecting newsboys is different from the situation in Minneapolis in that there are few news stands and the distribution of newspapers depends almost entirely on carriers. The maximum number of violations of the law observed is five for any one day with fewest violations in winter when there is less inducement for unbadged boys to sell on the streets. (During the winter time the newsboys are developing the sale of newspapers within office buildings, a certain boy covering certain buildings each day.) A recent check made of

boys selling on the streets showed only twenty-five boys listed. Probably fifty or sixty newsboys is the greatest number (selling at one time) in St. Paul even during the summer months.

Enforcement of the law has been accomplished without taking boys into Court for violations of the law. This is handled rather by personal interviews in the homes or asking the parents to come to the office for an interview (in order to gain their cooperation.) The selling of papers by unbadged small brothers of boys with badges is one element of difficulty in the enforcement of the law. It has been impossible to get the boys to wear the badges in plain view. This adds to the difficulty of identifying unbadged boys. It has been observed that the same boys do not remain in the field for ^avery long a time. The boys are constantly changing and older men are coming in gradually.

The plea of necessity to earn money when given as a reason for street work by under age boys is handled by securing aid for the family. In most cases necessity is not a reason for such boys' working.

Mr. Orme reported that fifteen hundred visits to the Hygiene Department of the Public Schools for the correction of physical defects ^{of boys applying for badges} have been made during the past year. A physical examination preceeds the granting of badges.

The sale of Christmas greetings, often merely a form of begging by the boys, has been discouraged ~~and~~ and this year there was less

sale of greetings than in previous years.

The cooperation of interested citizens is needed in letting the circulation managers of newspapers know that they are behind the enforcement of this law. Every time a circulation manager is changed, it is necessary that his cooperation in the enforcement of the law be gained all over again.

Miss Wells asked Mr. Orme whether defects in the law or hardships in its enforcement have been noted pointing to the need of amendment. None were cited by Mr. Orme.

Statement by Mr. N. H. Hegel, (Director of Attendance and Vocational Guidance, Minneapolis Public Schools)

Several studies of the situation in regard to boys engaged in Street Trades have been made by various groups in ^{Minneapolis,} the city, one by the Children's Protective Society, one by Miss Lane of the Attendance Department on after-school employment, one by the Attendance Department on success in school of newsboys as compared with other boys, and one by the students in Mr. Elmer's class at the University cooperating with the Attendance Department of the Public Schools. The following generalizations can be made as a result of these studies:

1. The age-grade relation among newsboys in school is lower than in the normal group.
2. Little evidence was found of special trade diseases such as enlarged heart, throat-trouble etc. as reported in studies in larger cities.
3. Economic necessity does not appear as a chief reason for the work of newsboys.

Attention was called to the fact that the purpose of the law is to remove children ~~of~~ under 12 years from the loop district of the city and from its contaminating influences. This purpose has been pretty well achieved in Minneapolis. The newspapers have been won over to give their cooperation in enforcing the letter of the law since their realization that the elimination of the younger children has resulted in a better situation for them.

The fact that there are many news-stands where stand-owners employ the boys that they can get to work most cheaply, complicated the situation in Minneapolis. They find unbadged boys cheaper and can replace them whenever they are discovered by the attendance officer so that there is a constant stream of unbadged boys resulting.

One feature of newsboy life that it has been impossible to touch, is the bad influence of older men in the trade. The stand-owners are often the worst type of men, in touch with the under-world, and a class apart as far as decent standards are concerned. The law is a step, but a short step, in improving the conditions in the street trades unless some way can be found to supplement it by activities of the right kind. The work of the Boy Scout organization and the Y. M. C. A. does not reach this group. We have a distinctly criminal element coming up in the population through this street life. Newsboys clubs are bad rather than good since they segregate the group instead of keeping it linked up with

neighborhood and normal group activities.

Mr. Hegel suggested the following needs in connection with the law:

1. An amendment to the law making it an offense for stand-owners to hire unbadged boys.
This amendment was introduced by the Attendance Department of the Minneapolis Public Schools in the 1925 legislative session. The newspapers were opposed to it. It passed the House but not the Senate.
2. A city ordinance providing for the licensing of news-stand owners.

This would make it possible to eliminate the worst individuals from the group of stand-owners, thus protecting the boys hired by them.

3. The naming of the police in the law as jointly responsible with the Attendance Department of the Public Schools for the enforcement of the law.

Under present conditions the police take no responsibility for its enforcement and do not give the assistance that they could and should.

Both Mr. Urme and Mr. Hegel thought that the type of man at the newspaper offices that distribute papers to the boys, is one of the worst elements in the situation. If the newspaper managers could be persuaded to put a different ^{sort of} man in charge of street circulation, it would make a great difference. This is difficult for enforcement officials to accomplish without the backing of an articulate public sentiment.

Compulsory Education Law

Mr. Hegel said that he would like to see the lower age limit for the attendance of children in school changed from 8 to 7 years as school officials are often handicapped in getting children to school who should

be there, ~~by this age limit.~~ He stated, in reply to questions, that the instances which he has in mind constitute a very small group of cases where parents are irresponsible and even criminal in type.

Statement on Cooperative Part-Time Vocational Education (By Miss Elizabeth Fish, Principal, the Vocational High School, Minneapolis)

In vocational school work it is important that the learning process shall include work with concrete material. This may be provided in one of two ways:

1. By a unit trade shop in the school

Providing pseudo-shops within the school presents various difficulties. The equipment is expensive; it is difficult to dispose of the product, and actual shop conditions cannot be reproduced.

2. By cooperative arrangements for part-time work in the actual industry.

Under this plan the school sends a teacher into the shop with the child. Ohio, New York and New Jersey are experimenting with this type of cooperative part-time work.

The Vocational High School in Minneapolis has been sending boys, largely over 16 years of age, in pairs into shops supervised by a "co-ordinator ." Girls also have been sent out for practical work in serving and into the stores for several days sales experience. The question now is whether it would be well to extend this part-time work to the group of 15 year old children. No change in the law would be needed as the permit machinery applying to the group between 14 and

16 years would take care of the situation.

The reasons in favor of entering into similar cooperative arrangements with employers for 15 year old children are as follows. The Vocational High School children feed the skilled and semi-skilled trades. A large percent of them leave school at the age of 16 and cannot be kept beyond that age because of economic pressure in the homes. They need practical trade training, supplementing school work, earlier than at 16 years of age if they are to have this before leaving school.

In reply to questions, Miss Fish explained that a "coordinator" employed by the public schools visits the various shops where children are placed, rather than remaining in one shop all the time. The children are paid while at work at the insistence of employers who otherwise have no control over them. The employers that have had children so far have been pleased with the arrangement. It is necessary to select carefully such employers as will be willing to assign work of educational value to the pupils placed with them.

Miss Wells asked how the part-time school bill related to this plan. Miss Fish explained that it would give the school control over children longer than at present - up to 18 years or whatever age is specified. Mr. Hegel cited the opinion expressed at the last National Conference of Social Work against the part-time continuation school plan and upon the fact that teaching technique in such part-time schools is not up to

standard.

The Physical Education Law in the State (Mr. ^{E.W.} Everto, Director of
Physical Education, State Department of Education
This law passed in the 1923 legislature carried an appropriation

of \$15,000 for the biennium. As a result of the law it has been possible to reach the rural field with intensive teacher-training in the two fields of

1. Health education directed to the forming of health habits among children and
2. Physical education involving organization and leadership in a program of physical activities.

Before the passage of the law, very few rural schools had any regular hygiene instruction. A standard has now been set of a minimum of 30 minutes a week for hygiene instruction and of 180 minutes a week ^{for physical education} in elementary and high schools. A program has been planned for the teachers at county institutes held during the last two years. Twenty-two county field days have been held, with 25,000 rural school children participating.

Normal school courses preparatory to such work in the schools have improved as a result of the demand for such training both implied and provided for in the law. Within the year a conference of all normal school physical training instructors has been held. No such coordination occurred before the law went into effect.

It has been necessary to go slow because of the economy wave but local communities and schools' superintendents are more and

more concerning themselves in making the program of activities contemplated by the law a success. There has been, in the last year, an increase of 22 part-time physical training instructors in Minnesota schools outside cities of the first class where the number has remained the same. If the law accomplished nothing else, it has been justified in having focused the attention of school superintendents and groups in the communities upon this aspect of school responsibility for the physical well-being of school children. If it is desirable to spend state money for the elimination of diseases among animals, how much more it is worth while to spend it for physical betterment of children.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child,

Secretary

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 17th, 1926

2:30 P. M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Miss Wells, Mrs. Caswell, Mrs. Denny, Miss Kercher, ^{Mrs. Dietrichson} Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Halpern, Miss Pratt, Mrs. Spafford, and Miss Child, secretary. In addition to members of the Council there were present Mrs. Quint, Mrs. Kreiner, Mrs. Bessessen, Miss Watkins, and Miss Beggin.

Mrs. Ueland announced the subject for discussion as the Enforcement of Employment Laws administered by the Minnesota Industrial Commission. She introduced Miss Louise Schutz, superintendent of the Division of Women and Children of the Minnesota Industrial Commission, as the first speaker.

Minimum Wage Law

Miss Schutz said that for more than a year past, the effort has been made to go into small towns in the state to check up on the enforcement of laws for which the commission is responsible. The earlier work was confined to the larger cities. It is part of the routine business of the division to send for and inspect payrolls and to send out investigators in instances where the law is not complied with. Some 25 thousand payrolls were examined before Christmas of last year. It has been possible to succeed in getting such reports from every employer. There are 15 men and 5 women inspectors assigned to this work under the commission.

The most difficult law enforcement problems arise in the small

towns rather than in the cities. There is a feeling on the part of some that the minimum wage or hours law is all right for city workers but that it should not apply in the smaller communities. The county attorney is the local enforcing officer. Representatives of the commission sometimes have good cooperation from the county attorney and sometimes not. In one instance the county attorney was so antagonistic that he urged the defendant in a case brought by the commission to plead "not guilty" in order to test the law. ~~His attitude was very bad.~~

Representatives of the commission usually call at local newspaper offices in every town visited and leave with the editor a printed resume of the law. The editor ~~usually~~ ^{often} asks the investigator as to conditions found in the town and publishes ^{es} a brief interview.

No adverse publicity has appeared in state papers except in two instances. An article in criticism of the law appeared in a Thief River Falls paper sometime ago and left its imprint upon public opinion in that part of the state. An article in the St. James Plain-Dealer, in September 1924, was also directed against enforcement of the law in small communities.

Compulsory Attendance Law

Miss Schutz explained that members of her staff are rarely called in, in cases of violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law, until after

the County Superintendent of Schools has tried and failed to get cooperation from the parents and from the county attorney. They are then often able to accomplish something when local officers have failed. Not many requests come to them, however, due partly to the fact that county superintendents are so swamped with work that they cannot follow up individual cases of non-attendance at school as closely as they would like.

Representatives of the Commission get in touch with members of the local county Child Welfare Board, with leading club women, with workers employed by the Red Cross in the county etc. when they visit a community. They stand ready to give talks, whenever this can be arranged, in the various towns of the state, to explain the laws which the commission enforces.

Miss Schutz explained that much of the work of the commission is ^{un}affected by the fact that the Minimum Wage Law as it applies to adult women is no longer enforced. It is still necessary to inspect payrolls for data applying to minors and the time involved is no less than before.

Miss Schutz introduced Miss Florence Burton, one of the investigators in the field, who continued the discussion. Miss Burton said that investigators are expected to oversee working conditions, wages, hours, and sanitation in the places that they visit. A very fine spirit is shown by most employers. The large concerns are for the most part not

affected by the provisions of the Minimum Wage Law since they find it good business to pay wages that are equal to or in advance of the minimum wage. There have been a few instances of difficulty in gaining the cooperation of employers in keeping required records, necessitating court cases. This is, however, the exception rather than the rule.

When it is found that violations of the law in payment of the minimum wage has occurred, a notice giving the facts is sent out by registered mail to the employer. There has been only one case in the history of this work where the commission failed to secure immediate wage adjustment as a result. The feature of the law holding the employer responsible if the registered letter was signed for is very effective. In 1923 an amendment provided that the newspapers publication of wage orders should have the same effect as a personal notice to employers. No wage rulings have been made, however, since the passage of the amendment.

The cooperation of the Minneapolis Board of Education has been very fine in cases involving minors. Hundreds of dollars in back pay for male minors have been collected in the last year. Winona County is another place where particularly good cooperation has been extended. County attorneys have not in general been very willing to take charge of cases involving enforcement of these laws.

It is noteworthy that in towns where wage adjustments have been

made, this does not result in unfriendly feeling on the part of the employer. On the contrary, they often seem to have a feeling of pride in their response to the commission's notice calling attention to the necessity of making additional payments to employees who have not received the minimum wage. The cases where ~~animosity~~^{animosity} is felt are rare. Many employers declare their belief in the Minimum Wage Law as it has operated.

Fifty-Four Hour Law

Miss Burton said that they have the most difficulty in getting employers to understand the hour law. Laundries particularly object that before holidays it is necessary to work more than $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours in one day and that they always rush the beginning of the week because many people insist on having work done on Monday and Tuesday, thus concentrating the load. In towns under 25,000, a twelve-hour day in stores on Saturday was the rule before the passage of the law. Midnight was often the closing hour on Saturday, whereas now the same towns have a closing hour of 9:30 P.M. Many employers are glad to close their stores and get away themselves at this hour with no competition from other stores that remain open longer.

This law involves the education of public opinion almost more than any other. Miss Burton stated that it would seem to her inadvisable to try for any more drastic hour legislation until there has been great ad-

vance in the favorable attitude of employers toward the $9\frac{1}{2}$ hour law.

In the last two years towns of a thousand and more have been visited in the state. The success in prosecuting violations of the law in each community depends largely on the county attorney. In a few instances where his cooperation could not be secured, other lawyers have been retained by the commission as counsel.

Miss Wells asked whether it would seem desirable to make the law more flexible so that a working day of longer than $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours would be permitted if the total weekly hours did not exceed the fifty-four hour limit. Miss Schutz thought such a change not advisable since the days when the longer hours would be required, are the days on which the employees are busiest. Miss Wells reminded the Council that there had been a long conference on this point before the law was drawn up and that a group of rural women consulted, who at first thought the $9\frac{1}{2}$ hour limit too drastic for small towns, had finally decided that it was a desirable provision in the law.

Mrs. Dietrichson asked whether the apprenticeship period of nine months specified in the law was too long. Miss Schutz said that it is sometimes too long and sometimes too short. Many employers do not observe it in their wage payments but pay the full wage before it is due. Mrs. Dietrichson asked if different apprenticeship periods could not be established for different industries. Miss Schutz thought this

might be done for large groups of ~~workers~~ and, in answer to a further question from Mrs. Dietrichson, thought that a request covering this point might be brought to the attention of the commission.

Miss Schutz then introduced Miss Esse who said that ~~(see comments on 9 1/2 hour day in laundries in the foregoing material)~~ She thought there would be an attempt by the association of laundry men to amend the ^{54 hour} law at the next ^{legislative} session to allow longer hours of work in one day.

Child Labor Laws

Miss Esse then spoke of Child Labor Laws saying that there is little difficulty in the enforcement of these laws since the school boards are very cooperative. There have been several prosecutions for violations of the provision prohibiting children under 16 from working after 7:00 P.M.

The insurance companies have assisted in giving publicity to the provisions of the laws by sending out pamphlets to employers.

Section 10 of the Child Labor Law governing the participation of children in theatrical performances is not as clear as it might be. The Women's Cooperative Alliance is planning to make a study of theatrical children to learn what may be the results of their occupation. The mayor in Minneapolis has refused to give permits to children to appear in theatrical entertainments upon school nights.

Miss Esse said, in reply to questions, that most of the children

employed in beet sugar fields in Minnesota are Mexicans. The children of German-American farmers in certain sections of the state work in the beet fields. Living conditions for the beet workers are sometimes very good but more often they are bad. There followed general discussion of the present situation in regard to the Minimum Wage Law. Miss Wells called attention to the fact that such laws are partly for the benefit of the enlightened employer who is thus protected from competition with less progressive employers. Miss Schutz referred to the opinion secured by the commission from the attorney-general's office of the state in June 1925—following questioning on this point by certain employers as a result of ^{certain} ~~several~~ Supreme Court decisions—that the sections of the Minimum Wage Law applying to adult women were unconstitutional and therefore unenforceable. She said that this fact has only recently been called to the attention of employers by the employers' organization in the state. They have continued, and in a majority of cases will probably continue, to live up to the provisions of the law and have even made wage adjustments in the last few months. Mrs. Spafford asked if it is not, after all, largely a question of educating the public to the benefit of such laws.

Mrs. Dietrichson quoted Mrs. Gordon of the Woman's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor as recommending keeping the law as it is for minors and revising the sections applying to adult women

to follow the non-mandatory provisions of the Massachusetts law, since this is probably the only form of Minimum Wage legislation that is now possible.

Miss Schutz mentioned ^{the} possibility of changing ^{the} age of majority ~~for~~ ^{to 21 years} girls ^{to} correspond with the age for boys.

Miss Kercher suggested that a request be addressed to the various officials that have spoken to the Council members in the program of meetings on Law Enforcement, asking them to inform ~~from time to time~~ us from time to time of their itineraries in the state in order that group meetings might be arranged outside the Twin Cities in case plans ^{for meetings} could be made to coincide with their visits. Mrs. Ueland suggested that the follow-up of this plan be left with Miss Kercher who will write the necessary letters.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, June 9, 1926

2:30 P. M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Miss Wells, Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Kreiner, Miss Lawrence, Miss Halpern, Mrs. Tellier, Miss Fish, Mrs. Wittich, and Miss Child. There were also present Miss Fern Chase, Mrs. Scoville, vice-president of the W.C.T.U., and Miss Beggin of the League of Women Voters, Mr. C.G. Schulz and Mr. M.L. Jacobson.

A suggestion was made that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Gause, that the minutes of the previous meeting devoted to discussion of measures affecting women in industry be postponed until a future meeting of the Council at which such measures may be considered in connection with the legislative program.

Enforcement of Street Carnival Law

The chair introduced Miss Fern Chase of the Women's Cooperative Alliance who presented the facts assembled by the Women's Cooperative Alliance in a study of the enforcement of the Street Carnival Law passed by the 1923 legislature. Miss Chase reported as follows. The law of 1923 defined, for the first time, an itinerant carnival and prohibited it as a public nuisance. Following the passage of the law, the Women's Cooperative Alliance circularized one thousand individuals in the state including local editors, county attorneys, officers of county medical societies, club women, state legislators, chairmen of county Child Welfare boards, and secretaries of local commercial organizations. The

questionnaire sent out asked information as to whether local carnivals featuring gambling devices and indecent shows were known to have been held in the community since the law passed or whether such features were a part of local county fairs. A 33% return of the questionnaire was secured and every county in the state was represented.

Analysis of the replies showed that in 67 counties in the state there had been objectionable features in connection with local or county fairs. In 28 counties carnivals of the prohibited type had been held independent of county fairs. In one instance, a request reached the Women's Cooperative Alliance for the services of an investigator of a local carnival, licensed over the active protest of a group of local women. An investigator assigned to the carnival discovered bad sanitary conditions, penny slot machines, and other games in violation of the law, bad moral conditions surrounding the carnival and she further reported that the local policewoman felt sure that drugs were being distributed though no proof of this could be secured.

Comments accompanying the questionnaires proved very enlightening. Several county attorneys stated that regulation of objectionable shows attached to county fairs was difficult because the local county fair board was made up of citizens of standing in the community against whom other citizens were reluctant

to make complaint. Attention was also called to the fact that it is difficult to secure enforcement of the law after licenses have been granted by local authorities.

In the fall of 1924 the Women's Cooperative Alliance again circularized the list mentioned above with a copy of a proposed amendment to the law governing the allowance of state money to county fairs or district agricultural societies for premiums and making the granting of the allowance contingent upon enforcement of the provisions of the carnival law prohibiting improper shows. This amendment was formulated in accordance with a similar provision in the New York state law where carnival regulation is enforced in this way. The amendment was introduced into the 1925 legislative session and referred to the House committee on state and county fairs which never reported it out.

A county attorney, after receiving the amendment proposed for passage in the last legislative session, wrote suggesting that a better provision would be that money granted by state or municipal authorities to county or local fairs should be paid only after the fair had been held and the payment then should be contingent upon the submission of affidavits by fair officials that none of the prohibited features mentioned in the Carnival Law had been present. This would eliminate the necessity of citizens bringing complaint against fair officials to force the closing of shows already licensed and place the burden of

proof upon officials responsible for fair arrangements. He also suggested that the submission of false affidavits should make the officials liable to prosecution for perjury and the fair association should be ineligible for all future time to receive similar grants.

Miss Chase concluded her report with the statement that facts as to the enforcement of the law during the past year are not definitely known but that judging by isolated instances that have come to the attention of her organization, it seems certain that many "shows" have been licensed in the state in violation of the law.

In the discussion that followed, Miss Wells asked whether a provision that licenses should be issued by the county instead of by municipal bodies would improve the situation. Mrs. Ueland commented that at the time the law was under consideration by the legislature, those supporting it recognized that there was no such thing as a good carnival. Miss Chase said that the difficulty is that there is no possibility of controlling the kind of individuals who travel with and who frequent carnivals, this being one of their worst features.

Miss Lawrence stated that in Stearns County last year gambling devices were eliminated from the county fairs for the first time, and owing to the interest and concern of the women in the matter. A Rodeo was later brought to St. Cloud which had all the bad

features that had been eliminated from the county fairs.

Miss Chase mentioned the fact that county fair officials often point out that fraternal organizations and churches have fish ponds, grab bags and lotteries in violation of the law in fairs held under their auspices. The state fair is now free from prohibited games and shows but nearby county fairs that were vitied by representatives of the Women's Cooperative Alliance last year had features in violation of the law.

Miss Chase called attention to the fact that carnivals usually come in to the poorest sections of a city and exploit the interest of children in such entertainments. Citizens in such neighborhoods are usually anxious to cooperate in any effort to prevent their coming.

We have gone as far as we can, Miss Chase suggested, in legislating directly on carnivals and effort should now be directed to enforcement of the existing law and related laws. She recommended consideration by the Council of the proposed amendment to the law governing state allowances for the payment of premiums at ^{county and agricultural} ~~local~~ fairs.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Kreiner, that the proposed amendment be referred to a sub-committee consisting of Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Gilman and a third member to be named by the chairman.

Discussion of Educational Measures

Miss Wells asked permission to review the past history ^{connected with} of this section of the program. She reminded Council members of the fact that

the legislature of 1921 made provision for a study of state school aid by the State Department of Education. The published report on that subject is available, printed in connection with the annual report of the department. The legislature of 1923 appointed an Interim Commission on Education including members of the House and Senate. No similar commission was appointed in the 1925 session. Mr. Schulz supplied the information that a commission appointed as far back as the legislature of 1913 made recommendations on desirable legislation including the county board of education.

Miss Lawrence reviewed the history of supplemental aid legislation and said that the best statement on this subject is a reprint of a talk by Mr. Phillips made in February 1925 before an educational gathering in the state. This may be obtained from the State Department of Education. Miss Lawrence mentioned the fact that newspaper discussion of supplemental aid has conveyed the impression that no rural schools have profited by it. The following figures indicate how incorrect such a statement is:

Increase Affecting Rural School Budgets	
Graded Districts, 391 Districts	Increase 226 per cent.
Ungraded Districts, 112 Districts	Increase 2 per cent.
High Schools, 120 Districts	Increase 17 per cent.

Miss Lawrence referred also to the incorrect impression that school taxes are higher in cities than in country districts. She spoke of the fact that a tax of 30 mills in Aitkin County raised only 29 cents

per capita. She urged the desirability of getting people in the state interested in study of the figures of local and state school finance. In every community supplemental aid is one subject that no one understands and it should be understood, she said, since this is the one school aid that answers the purpose in bringing aid to schools that need it most. The suggestion was made by Miss Lawrence that an effort might be made in the next legislature to increase the 40 dollars per pupil named in the supplemental aid law to 50 dollars per pupil, since this would still be a very modest standard for the giving of aid.

Miss Wells, at this point, asked permission to have inserted in the minutes the following list of measures that have been supported ^{upon recommendation of} ~~by~~ the Council in the past and suggested that representatives of organizations present be asked to add other measures to the list for consideration this year. The educational measures supported in the past are:

1. Teachers Retirement Fund
2. County Board of Education
3. Eight months' school term
4. Supplemental aid
5. Part-time schools

Miss Fish of the Minnesota Education Association suggested that Teachers' Tenure be added to the list and Mrs. Scovil of the W.C.T.U. suggested a measure for the reinstatement of the penalty qualifying the law for the ~~teaching of~~ scientific temperance in the schools. The chair asked that the proposed amendment be formulated and brought to the

Council at a later meeting.

Mr. Schulz supplemented Miss Fish' Statement by explaining that the Minnesota Education Association is committed to four measures in its legislative program this year: Teachers' Retirement Fund, Teachers' Tenure, State Aid in full, and the County Unit Plan for a County Board of Education. He said that while his organization has only fifty per cent. faith in the possibility of obtaining relief from the present unsatisfactory Teachers' Retirement Law, it will nevertheless support a new bill.

Mr. Jacobson, in response to a request for his statement on the foregoing measures, said that in general great progress has been made in the development of rural school standards through supplemental aid. He said that the Department of Education has felt that the figure might well be increased to 50 dollars as suggested by Miss Lawrence since even with this increase, we would still be a long way from equalizing the tax burden. The actual average tax rate in a certain group of schools is 39.49 mills.

Mr. Jacobson said that the results of the increase of the school term from six to seven months have been marked. At present 76 per cent of the schools of the state have a nine months' school term; 3.6 per cent. have a seven months' school term and the remainder have an eight months' ~~xx~~ term. Schools to qualify as graded schools

must have a nine months' term.

The raising of qualifications for teachers is no longer a legislative problem, he said, since there has been such increase in the supply of trained teachers in the last years. The securing of a qualified county superintendent of schools under the county unit plan would improve the situation as to quality of teachers, since it is observed that a good superintendent inevitably secures a good teaching force in the county. Mrs. Schulz cited St. Louis County as an example of this.

Discussion of Teachers' Retirement Fund

Mrs. Wittich suggested that if it should seem impossible to secure action on a new bill, an effort might be made in this session to amend the present law to provide for the return of all the money paid into the fund by a teacher leaving teaching or leaving the state instead of the present provision for the return of half the money. This would remove one of the chief bases of antagonism of teachers to the present law. It is her understanding, she said, that there is sufficient money in the fund to allow this.

Miss Lawrence asked why it is true that there is ten thousand dollars less in the fund now than in 1920. Mr. Jacobson explained it as resulting from reduction in state taxes supporting the fund. Mr. Schulz said that under the present system local communities pay more in

increased salaries to attract teachers and hold them than they would pay in taxes under the new law.

Mrs. Wittich called attention to the fact that the total amount paid into the fund by teachers throughout a 25 year period, amounts to 450 dollars and that they may secure the refund of this amount in pension payments under the present law within a period of two years, so that the worst feature of the present situation is the provision for inadequate refund to those who withdraw from the profession or from the state and thus sacrifice half of what they have paid in.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Miss Lawrence, to refer the following measures to a sub-committee on education to be appointed by the chair:

Supplemental aid
County ~~Unit Plan~~ Board of Education
Teachers' Tenure
Teachers' Retirement Fund
Change in state aid looking to a longer school

Discussion of Teachers' Tenure

term.

Mr. Schulz explained the provisions of the bill supported by the Minnesota Education Association as follows: it applies only to the three first-class cities; it provides for a three-year probationary period during which teachers may be dismissed without coming under the provisions of the standards set by the bill. At the end of the three-year period teachers are still subject to dismissal but only for cause and with special procedure as to a hearing by the board and representation

by counsel. Mr. Schulz explained that the limitation of the bill to first-class cities is because it is recognized that it would be impossible to secure a state-wide tenure law.

Miss Fish stated that teachers feel that such a law would give permanency and stability to their situation in a way to protect the morale of the teaching group. *A hearing conducted under the law* ~~In her opinion it would eliminate the~~
would make
A ~~unnecessity of an appeal to public sentiment through newspaper publicity,~~
~~while leaving to the local school board the decision as to the details~~
~~in the application of the law.~~

Statements by Mrs. Wittich and Mr. Jacobson emphasized the infringement of local autonomy involved in a teachers' tenure law. The danger of interfering with the authority of a good superintendent of schools by throwing the decision as to the professional staff into a board where politics may operate was also suggested.

Miss Lawrence reported repeated appeals to her by kindergarten association officers for support of a law which would provide for the establishment of kindergartens by petition of 25 or more citizens. Miss Wells reported the fact that the national League considers this question each year in its Committee on Education and has always decided against its inclusion in the program. Mr. Schulz said that in his opinion there would be great danger in making the establishment of kindergartens compulsory upon petition.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, secretary

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, July 7, 1926

2:30 P.M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, Miss Kercher, Miss Joanna Colcord, Miss Marie Watkins (representing Miss Vance), Mrs. Dietrichson, Mrs. Denny, Mrs. K. E. Mo, Mrs. Caswell, and Miss Child. There were also present Mrs. Silas Bryan of the Minneapolis League of Women Voters and Mr. George W. Lawson of the Minnesota Federation of Labor.

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 P.M., Mrs. Ueland presiding.

The minutes of the Maymeeting of the Council were read in accordance with the vote of the Council at its June 9th meeting to postpone the reading of these minutes until the laws affecting women in industry should be discussed again in the Council. Mrs. Dietrichson, chairman of the committee on Women in Industry of the Minnesota League of Women Voters, reviewed the history of the support of protective legislation for women by the League since its organization in 1919. Activities have centered about the following subjects.

1. Legislation to improve the administration of the Minimum Wage Law
2. Measures to secure a shorter working day for women
3. Measures to strengthen the enforcement of legislation in this field, such as the measure providing for the appointment of a woman member of the Industrial Commission

Mrs. Dietrichson reminded the Council of the passage of the Minimum Wage Law in 1913 and of the fact that the bringing of a suit to test its constitutionality held up the operation of the law until 1918 when it was sustained by court decision in Minnesota. The law was

administered first by a Minimum Wage Commission. In the fall of 1920 this commission held public hearings to secure information upon which to establish a higher minimum wage than that originally set, the need for change growing out of war conditions. At this time the League of Women Voters collected statistics, attended hearings, and aided in other ways in this effort. The functions of the Minimum Wage Commission were taken over in March 1921 by the Minnesota Industrial Commission, established by legislative enactment. ~~The~~

The history of state and federal supreme court decisions resulting in the Minnesota Minimum Wage Law becoming inoperative in June, 1925 was reviewed by Mrs. Dietrichson who emphasized the fact that the law is still operative as far as minors are concerned, this aspect of the law never having been called into question.

The effort to secure a law governing hours of work for women was then reviewed by Mrs. Dietrichson who summarized the provisions of the law existing in 1919, the outstanding weakness of which was that it did not apply to large industrial groups which should have been included. The Legislative Council recommended and the League supported in the 1921 legislature a law providing for an eight-hour day and a forty-eight hour week, applying to all industrial groups except domestics and nurses, although exceptions were defined in cases of emergency and in the case of night workers where a four-hour period

of rest was provided. This bill passed both the House and the Senate at the end of the session but too late to enable the House to pass the Senate bill or the Senate to pass the House bill. It therefore did not become a law.

In 1923 a law providing for a nine and a half hour day and a fifty-four hour week was passed by the legislature. This law contained the exemption named above for the 1921 bill and in addition excluded telephone operators in towns of less than 1500.

The law passed by the 1923 legislature and enforced since then by the Industrial Commission was adjudged unconstitutional in a recent decision in the Minneapolis Municipal Court, ^{during May, 1926,} the suit being brought by Kronicks Laundry. The law was set aside upon a technicality because, through a clerical mistake, the bill as engrossed did not correspond with the printed bill as amended in the House. Mrs. Dietrichson reported that the Industrial Commission sought the advice of the attorney-general following this decision and was informed that the 1923 law is no longer enforceable and that the law governing hours of work for women which preceded the 1923 law, having never been repealed, is now in force.

Mrs. Dietrichson reminded the Council of its recommendation in the legislative program for the 1923 legislature of a law providing for the appointment of a woman upon the Industrial Commission. This law was

supported by the League of Women Voters and passed the House but was killed in Senate Committee. In 1925 the Council decided against recommending support of a similar law on the ground that the governor has power to appoint a woman member of the Commission and that effort should be made to secure the appointment through an appeal to the governor. Mrs. James Paige, nevertheless, introduced such a bill but later withdrew it. Mr. Lawson quoted the opinion of legislators as expressed to him that this was unnecessary legislation. A new appointment to the commission is possible in July 1927, upon the expiration of the term of office of Mr. Williams.

In the general discussion, the following points were brought out. Mrs. Ueland spoke of the facts as given by Miss Schutz and her assistants that many employers in the state having become accustomed to observing the requirements of the Minimum Wage and Hours Law, will continue to do so. It is true that many of them are in sympathy with the legislation and have found it beneficial rather than otherwise in protecting them from the competition of less progressive firms.

Mr. Lawson said that it is apparent we must now start all over from where we were in 1923 and the question is as to whether we shall try for the same law passed at that session or for a different law. In reply to questions he said that the attempt to secure a 44 hour week for men in large industrial centers all over the

country has met with great success. Mrs. Dietrichson explained that it has been adjudged unconstitutional to enact legislation on hours of work for men but that such legislation for women is justified as affecting public health and welfare. The point was brought out that employers have found that the shorter working day results in equal or increased product where hand labor is involved but that where attendance upon machines is required there is a reduction of output attendant upon shortening the working day.

Mrs. Dietrichson suggested the possibility of introducing an amendment to raise the age of majority for women from 18 to 21 thus making it correspond with that for men. Miss Kercher cited Wisconsin as a state that has such a law. There was general feeling that it would be impossible to gain support for a similar measure in Minnesota. Miss Kercher called attention to the fact that the definition of a minor included in the Minimum Wage Law would prevent this raising the age of majority from affecting the application of the Minimum Wage Law. There followed general discussion as to whether an amendment to the Minimum Wage Law should be introduced to change the definition of a minor in that particular statute.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Denny that a sub-committee should be named to give more intensive consideration to laws relating to women for inclusion in the legislative program to be

recommended by the Council for support of the member organizations. The following sub-committee was named by the chair: Miss Kercher, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Colcord.

In the course of the discussion at this meeting, Miss Wells called attention to the fact that the phrase "supported by the Council" sometimes used in referring to past work upon legislation cannot properly be used since the function of the Council is to recommend a legislative program for possible adoption by member organizations rather than to act as a unit in the support of measures during the legislative session. She suggested that this point be kept clearly in mind since it would work an injustice upon member organizations to represent them as necessarily supporting the entire program as recommended. Since its organization in October 1920, the Council has acted as a clearing house for legislative measures of concern to member organizations and has served as an advisory body in connection with the legislative program presented to the state League of Women Voters for adoption in its annual convention.

Membership upon the Council is by representatives officially appointed by state-wide organizations of women and a few outstanding city organizations concerned with legislation and not by individuals selected by the League of Women Voters. It is expected that these representatives will suggest for consideration by the Council such

measures as are of particular interest to the organizations they represent and that they will report back to their respective organizations matters of interest to them that may be discussed in the Council as well as the final legislative program recommended for support in the legislature. There is, however, no commitment on the part of member organizations to any legislative measure discussed or recommended by the Council except upon official action by that organization in connection with its own legislative program.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, August 27th, 1926

2:30 P.M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Miss Wells, Mrs. Wittich, Miss Chase, Miss Colcord, Judge Hall, Mrs. Caswell, Mrs. Spafford, Miss Fish, and Miss Child.

Proposed Changes in the Marriage Law

Judge Hall reviewed the events leading up to the submission of a proposed marriage bill, upon the recommendation of the Council, in the last session of the legislature. He said that among the chief recommendations of the Minnesota Children's Code Commission that completed its work in 1917 were proposed amendments to the marriage law to correct defects that are nevertheless still outstanding. The prevention of youthful marriages and hasty marriages were two changes covered in the recommendations. The proposal for a ten-day waiting period in the granting of a marriage license aroused much public opposition then but in 1925, when the proposed bill was under discussion in the legislature, there seemed to be no particular objection to the five-day waiting period provided for in that bill.

Nothing was done between 1917 and 1923 to carry forward the proposed legislative changes. In 1923 a bill was introduced in the House by Mr. McKnight but failed of passage. In 1925 a new bill providing for a complete revision of the marriage law, prepared by members of the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation, was introduced into the legislature and supported by the League of Women Voters.

The greatest point of attack upon the 1925 law was the provision for abolishing common law marriage by requiring a marriage celebration. It is evident, said Judge Hall, that the public in Minnesota still considers this a debatable question. He cited his own observation as indicating that there is no such thing as a real common law marriage; that it is merely a makeshift drifted into by people without plan or foresight.

The clerks of court charged with the duty of issuing marriage licenses fought the 1923 bill as interfering with their profit from fees. In the 1925 legislature however they gave the proposed bill their active support.

Judge Hall outlined the following provisions as being those that he considered of greatest importance in future efforts to improve the marriage laws of Minnesota:

A waiting period of five or ten days before the issuance of the license.

The appearance of both applicants and perhaps the requirement of witnesses to vouch for the reliability of the applicants. (This is a requirement in application for citizenship.)

The establishment of a penalty for disregarding the law in the issuance of marriage licenses. The provision in the present law is wholly inadequate to meet this need.

A provision that the license clerk shall take judicial notice as to whether a person is feeble-minded, epileptic or insane and for a penalty for the non-observance of this provision. In the past a census of all feeble-minded persons in the state taken by the Children's Bureau and reported to clerks of court was wholly disregarded when marriage licenses were issued.

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The criticism of the 1925 law met with in its discussion by the Senate committee was that it in effect repealed all existing statutes and thus resulted in confusion. Judge Hall commented that perhaps we should proceed conservatively on this account and make the desired changes by a series of amendments instead of by a complete marriage code.

In reply to Miss Wells' question in regard to publicity for the application for a marriage license, Judge Hall said that it is customary to post such information in the Court House. Miss Colcord remarked that in every community this information is covered by newspaper reporters.

Discussion of Problems Connected with Regulation of Marriage

Miss Joanna Colcord, director of the Minneapolis Family Welfare Association, discussed the general aspects of legislation in this field. She said that for the last five years legislation affecting marriage has been negligible. The only good law passed during this time (in Nebraska) was later repealed owing to an organized campaign by jewelers in the state. The opposition to the passage of good marriage laws is of three types:

- 1) The ultra-conservative element who feel that slowing up the process may result in more illegitimate children in the community.
- 2) The ultra-liberal group who object on the ground of unwarrantable interference with personal liberty.
- 3) The opposition that proceeds from frankly commercial reasons such as that of license clerks.

The first two groups proceed in their thinking from the mistaken premise that marriage is not a social concern. As a matter of fact marriage customs for as long back as we know anything about them, have always recognized the concern of the state or the tribal group in the marriage relation.

Common Law Marriage

There are only five states that have laws definitely sanctioning common law marriage. In 26 states, however, common law marriages are recognized by court decisions. A federal decision as early as 1877 established the legal precedent for Minnesota. The case involved a Minnesota man who had signed a marriage contract with a Missouri woman. Upon the man's death in a railroad accident, the woman inherited his money although the two had never seen each other.

The general misapprehension that the recognition of common law marriage is a protection to women and children is not borne out by actual cases. What becomes of the wife and children of a regularly celebrated marriage when an earlier common law wife establishes the validity of her claim? As a matter of fact women and children are often the helpless victims in the common law relationship since court procedure is necessary to establish the validity of the marriage.

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Miss Colcord commented that in her experience the common law relation never starts as a bona-fide marriage but is often based upon anti-social and illegal relationships that are later seized upon to serve some selfish purpose. The recognition of common law marriage tends to lower the status of the marriage relation in any community just as the existence of two kinds of coinage results in the baser coinage dragging the other to its own level. The decision often depends on whether the couple have been recognized as man and wife by the public or, in other words, whether there has been a successful duping of the public by them.

Common law marriage is not an old institution in this country and it had been abolished in England in 1753, long before the American Colonial Period. It is a weakness of our pioneer conditions when the whole fabric of living was shaken and we have not yet gotten rid of it.

General Comments

¹³Thirty states have a higher age limit in their marriage laws than Minnesota. In twenty-five states children are allowed to marry before the law allows them to go to work.

The fee system for license clerks stands as an almost impenetrable obstacle against cooperation within the state in the interest of better marriage legislation. The establishment of a salary basis

for clerks of court by state law is desirable.

Miss Colcord suggested also the desirability of cooperation between states, similar to that in force in commercial fields, by which each state provides that anyone from a different state applying for a marriage license should present a license from his own state as a requirement to the granting of a license in the new state. This would do away with the possibility of a state with poor regulation of marriage drawing applicants from states with good marriage laws. Fourteen states already have provisions in their laws governing applicants for a marriage license leaving or coming to the state.

Miss Colcord commented upon the venereal disease provisions in the bill submitted at the last legislature, as being useless without some requirement for physical examination. The Wisconsin law is reported as working well in respect to this provision. The Russell Sage Foundation has published a pamphlet report of an inquiry among physicians of the state on this provision in the law.

There followed general discussion as to the best way to present legislative changes in the marriage law. Mrs. Wittich suggested that instead of a code in which all the changes are combined in one bill, thus uniting the opposition to every section of the bill, that several separate bills be prepared. Judge Hall

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suggested that three bills covering respectively the problems of licensing, establishing an age limit and providing for a celebration of marriage to abolish common law marriage, could be drawn.

Proposed Amendment to Mothers' Pension Law

Mrs. Ueland reported the suggestion of Mrs. F. L. Adair that an amendment be proposed to the Mothers' Pension Law to provide for the payment of a pension to the wife of a man committed to the state institution for the feeble-minded.

The present law provides for the payment of a county allowance to mothers where the husband "is an inmate of a penal institution under a sentence which will not terminate within three months after the date of such finding; or is an inmate of a state insane asylum, ^{or hospital} ~~or~~ ^{of a} state hospital for inebriates; or is unable to labor for the support of his family by reason of physical disabilities; or is ^{and} ~~or~~ for one year has been under indictment for the crime of abandoning ^{such} ~~a~~ child."

There was general discussion as to whether any provision of the above quoted section of the law might be construed to cover the case cited by Mrs. Adair. Judge Hall was asked to make inquiry and report at the next meeting as to the desirability of such an amendment to supplement the present law.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Child, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 22, 1926

2:30 P.M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Miss Wells, Miss Vance, Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Denny, Mrs. Caswell, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Wittich, Miss Kercher, and Miss Child. There were also present Miss Nellie Merrill of Minneapolis and Miss Marguerite Owen of the National League of Women Voters staff in Washington, D.C.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Miss Child read a communication from Judge Hall reporting upon his inquiry into the question of the need of an amendment to the Mothers' Pension Law to include among those eligible to receive county allowances, wives of men committed to the Institution for the Feeble-Minded in Faribault. Judge Hall stated that the records of the state Children's Bureau show only three cases over a period of two years past that would come under such a provision of the law and in only one of the three instances were the home conditions such as to justify the maintenance of the children in the home. No further action was taken in this connection.

Report of the Sub-Committee on Educational Measures

Miss Lawrence reported that her committee met with a representative of the state department of education in July and agreed to recommend to the Council the following measures for inclusion in the legislative program:

Appointment of the County Superintendent of Schools by
a County Board of Education

Revision of the Teachers' Retirement Fund law in accordance with the proposals submitted at the last legislature.

Teachers' Tenure - as a measure to insure stability in the teaching force for the benefit of the children in the public schools.

Provision for an eight months' school term instead of seven.

Amendments to the Supplemental Aid Bill changing the districts eligible to receive aid from those with a twenty mill to those with a fifteen mill tax levy for schools; and increasing the amount of aid paid from forty dollars to fifty dollars per pupil.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Kercher, second of Miss Lawrence, that the above measures be referred to the Committee on Final Program. It was agreed that Mrs. Wittich should confer with Miss Lawrence in regard to the changes in the supplemental aid bill and should be prepared to comment upon the expenditures involved when the educational measures are again under discussion in connection with the report of the Committee on Final Program.

The chairman introduced Miss Owen to report upon the latest developments in connection with the federal appropriation under the Sheppard-Towner Act and support by national organizations of ratification of the Child Labor Amendment.

Miss Owen said that no federal measure has ever had the support of so many of the organizations represented in the Women's Joint Congressional Committee in Washington. The special sub-committee formed under the title "Organizations Associated for Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment" has also in its membership organizations not included in the Joint Committee. Since the campaign for ratification two years ago, all the large national organizations originally supporting the amendment have re-affirmed their support with the exception of the American Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs which has referred the question to its local groups for study. The effort in all the organizations is to continue the ~~informing~~ education of the membership so that the facts will be known to individual members as they were not two years ago.

State legislation affecting child labor/^{since June 1924} was reviewed by Miss Owen

who called attention to the fact that legislative improvement such as there has been was obtained against the opposition of the same forces that fought the Child Labor Amendment. At the same time there has been bad legislation introduced in such states as Massachusetts that has had to be fought by friends of the amendment. Very little real progress in standards of state child labor legislation has resulted in spite of the pressure resulting from the campaign for ratification and if all fear of such an amendment is removed, it seems certain that no improvement can be looked for in the future, and even that we may lose the gains already made.

In reply to a question as to the effect upon enforcement of ^{state} child labor laws of the opposition campaign to the amendment, Miss Owen said that it is difficult to check on this but that we have the fact that state enforcement officials are glad to have federal legislation as a stimulus to observance of state laws. It seems to be true that state enforcement improved during the operation of the two federal laws regulating child labor. In fact state action in this field of legislation was helped rather than hindered by the federal laws.

Miss Owen then discussed the fate of the appropriation bill for infancy and maternity work under the Sheppard-Towner Act in the United States Senate. She stated that the only roll-call taken was on the question of discussing the measure and that the two Minnesota senators voted affirmatively at that time. Opponents of the provision for a two-year extension of the appropriation talked the measure to death. It retains its place on the calendar, however, and will come up early in the session starting December 6. It is to be hoped that it will receive favorable action at that time and not be postponed until later in the session when it would be necessary to include it in the deficiency appropria-

federal
tion bill, thus delaying/~~action~~ until after many of the state legislatures have met.

Report of the Committee on Protective Legislation for Women in Industry

Miss Kercher reported the following recommendations:

That an amendment be introduced to the Minimum Wage Law defining minor as a person under 21 years of age, providing that the attorney-general reports that such an amendment would be constitutional.

IT WAS VOTED that this amendment be referred to the Committee on Final Program after Attorney-general Hilton has ~~rendered~~ given his advice that such a measure would be constitutional.

That the fifty-four Hour Law as passed by the 1923 legislature be proposed for re-enactment.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Caswell, that this proposal be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

That a bill for one-day rest in seven for both men and women be supported by the Council.

~~IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Lawrence, second of Miss Vance~~

A motion was made by Miss Lawrence, seconded by Miss Vance, to refer this measure to the Committee on Final Program. After discussion in which it was recognized that it is imperative to shorten instead of lengthen the legislative program for recommendation this year, the motion was put by the chairman and failed ~~by a large margin~~ to carry.

That no bill be introduced providing for the appointment of a woman on the Industrial Commission but that the state Convention of the League of Women Voters be asked to appoint a committee to call upon the governor and urge the appointment of a woman to the first vacancy occurring.

Report of Committee on Amendment to Carnival Law

Miss Kercher reported the recommendation of this committee that the Council refer to the Committee on Final Program for inclusion in the

legislative program an amendment to the law providing for the state grant of money to local fair associations by which failure to comply with the ^{Itinerant} ~~Sixweek~~ Carnival Law should render the local group ineligible to receive state money. The committee recommended that "the officers of such associations be required to incorporate in their reports to the public examiner a sworn statement that the conditions in the law have been met; and that a forfeiture clause be added affecting those whose sworn statements have been found untrue." Miss Kercher explained that this amendment would have no effect upon associations observing the Carnival Law.

Mrs. Caswell reported having talked with a state officer of the American Legion and with a member of the Law faculty at the University, both of whom thought well of such an amendment. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Denny, that it be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

Miss Wells reported a letter from Miss Chase of the Women's Cooperative Alliance proposing action by the Council upon an amendment to the Sodomy Law to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ extend the definition of the types of cases that it covers. It was agreed, after discussion, that such a change in the law could be handled best by enforcement officials and agencies in close touch with the facts. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Caswell, second of Miss Vance that the secretary write Miss Chase to this effect.

IT WAS VOTED ON motion of Miss Kercher, second of Miss Lawrence, that the Committee on Final Program be named by the chair, to start work immediately. The Committee was named as follows: Mrs. J. M. Guise, Mrs. Israel Kreiner, Mrs. Louis Michaud, Mrs. C. M. Denny, Mrs. J. M. Gaus.

~~The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P. M.~~

~~Respectfully submitted,~~

~~Emily Child, Secretary~~

The chair also appointed a sub-committee to report upon the Child which it Welfare measures/recommend~~ed~~ for support by the Council. The committee named was Miss Vance, Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Denny.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Committee on Final Program
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Friday, October 1, 1926

Present: Mrs. Guise, chairman, Mrs. Denny, Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Ueland, Miss Wells, and Miss Child.

Mrs. Guise introduced the discussion of measures recommended to the committee from the Legislative Council, with a statement that ~~the~~ legislative program of four or five measures is the maximum length of program recommended for successful support in the legislature according to the statement of Miss Marguerite Owen of the National League of Women Voters. She called attention to the fact that the committee faces the problem of deciding what to do with eight old and four new measures referred to it, to keep the program from being unwieldy.

The committee first discussed the group of educational measures and agreed to recommend to the Council that the following measures be included in the final form of the legislative program:

1. County Board of Education
2. Revision of the Teachers' Retirement ^{Fund} Law
3. Changes in the Supplemental Aid law to increase the aid paid to poorer school districts and changes in the law providing state aid to schools in the interest of increasing the length of the school term
5. Teachers' Tenure

The proposed amendment to strengthen the Carnival Law by providing that state grants of money shall be paid only to local fair association upon submission of affidavits that the Carnival Law has been observed, was discussed and it was decided not to recommend its inclusion in the legislative program. The decision was based upon the fact that an active educational campaign would be necessary both to secure support for such an amendment and to assure its enforcement if adopted, such a campaign being impossible with the long legislative program that appears unavoidable.

The question of including the Fifty-four Hour Law as passed by the 1923 legislature and later declared inoperative was discussed. Attention was called to the fact that the attorney-general, in his opinion on this law, had suggested that the Industrial Commission could properly introduce the measure for re-enactment in view of the technical irregularity upon which the court decision against it was based. It was decided that this would be the better way to handle this measure, thus avoiding stirring up the opposition to it by the publicity that will be given to a legislative program recommended by the Council. The committee decided to ask Miss Kercher to write Miss Schutz indicating our hope that the commission will take the responsibility for introducing the law.

It was agreed to recommend for inclusion in the program the amendment to the Minimum Wage Law defining a minor as a person 21 years of age or over, thus extending the application of the law to young women between 18 and 21 who do not come under its provisions at the present time.

The following Child Welfare measures were agreed upon by the committee to be recommended for inclusion in the final legislative program:

1. Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment
2. Renewal of the Appropriation for Maternity & Infancy work
3. An appropriation for a refund to counties for expenditures during the past biennium under the Mothers' Pension Law.

It was agreed to recommend changes in the Marriage Law incorporating some or all of the changes defined in the proposed Marriage Law submitted in the 1925 legislature, including in addition the proposal made by Judge Hall for a section requiring license clerks to "take judicial notice" of information submitted to them on the ineligibility of certain individuals to receive a marriage license.

The committee were agreed that, in the case of each measure named for the final program, it is necessary and desirable to make the recommendation in general terms since the details of the various bills must be worked out and agreed upon later. Council action will therefore be in support of the principle to be embodied in a bill rather than in support of a specific bill which is not yet in form.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Friday - October 1, 1926

2:30 P.M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Denny, Miss Fish, ^{rs.} ~~Miss~~ Litzenberg (legislative chairman for the Woman's Club), Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Zack (representing the Council of Jewish Women), Miss Lawrence, Judge Hall, and Miss Child.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Gaus to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting in view of Miss Child's suggestion that action taken at that time to refer measures to the Committee on Final Program might prove confusing to the members in listening to the report of this committee covering the same measures.

Mrs. John Guise, chairman of the Committee on final program, presented the report of the committee and action was taken upon measures recommended for inclusion in the legislative program to be recommended by the Council to member organizations, as follows:

1) Appointment of County Superintendent of Schools by ^athe County Board of Education

Miss Lawrence suggests^{ed} that the wording for this measure might be "to continue support of the County Board of Education Bill". Miss Wells called attention to the fact that it has been the policy in the past to affirm support of a principle to be embodied in legislation rather than to name specific bills. Miss Lawrence then suggested that the proposal for this measure will probably include a provision for the election of the County Board of Education by district school officers. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Miss Fish that this measure be included in the legislative program.

2) Revision of the Teachers' Retirement Fund Law

Mrs. Wittich suggested that the qualifying phrase "to place it on a sound financial basis" might be added.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Miss Lawrence, to include this measure in the legislative program.

3) Increase in the School Term

Miss Fish suggested that it might be well to include "legal" as a qualifying word with "school term". The increase in the length of the school term would be governed by a change in the provision for granting state aid to schools.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Mrs. Gaus, to include this measure in the legislative program.

4) Supplemental Aid to Schools

Miss Child reported a telephone message from Mr. Schulz of the Minnesota Educational Association explaining his inability to attend the meeting and suggesting that when action is taken upon this measure, the Council bear in mind the fact that it is desirable not to name definite increases in the amount of aid per pupil or in the change in the millage tax for schools in districts to be affected by the amendment since even the State Department of Education does not know now just what figures it would like to see included in a proposed amendment.

Mrs. Wittich reported a conversation she had with members of the state Department of Education to the effect that it would be desirable to discontinue special aid to graded and high schools for agricultural, home economics courses and other special work and to use the money thus freed to increase the amount of supplemental aid paid since more pupils would benefit by this change in expenditure. It was suggested that the only place where this aid amounts to much is in cities.^{as} The informal work carried on in rural

schools, Mr. Phillips stated, is not of great value and is very difficult to identify and classify. However, it is recognized that there might be considerable opposition to such discontinuance of special aid and that an increase in supplemental aid will probably mean ^{Mrs. Wittich said} an outright increase in the budget for state educational expenditures.

Miss Lawrence reported that Mr. Philips, director of rural education, thought that a careful check on the requirements as to number of pupils attending school for ^Pcertain periods, etc. as required in the present law governing state aid, might result in a better apportionment of the aid paid from state funds.

There was considerable discussion as to the wording to be used to describe the amendment to the Supplemental Aid Law. Mr. Schulz suggested in his telephone conversation the use of the phrase "to liberalize the provisions of the law". Miss Wells suggested as an alternate phrase "to equalize the educational opportunities of public school children". It was finally decided to leave the decision as to the exact wording to be decided after the meeting by Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Wittich and Miss Child acting as a committee.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Miss Fish, to include amendment of the Supplemental Aid Law in the legislative program.

5) Teachers' Tenure

Mrs. Guise stated in introducing this measure that its purpose would be to stabilize the teaching profession for the good of the schools. Miss Lawrence ^{said} ~~stated~~ that it is a fact that teachers are changing three times as fast as business workers and that this is detrimental to the schools. She said that states that have good educational legislation have a tenure law.

Attention was called to the fact that the proposal for Teachers' Tenure is for a bill to apply only to cities of the first class but that it is hoped that this may be an entering wedge for a law applying in the state as a whole. Miss Fish commented that school administrators now favor such a law in Minnesota and that it is therefore a particularly good time to introduce it.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Miss Lawrence, to include this measure in the legislative program.

6) Amendment to the Minimum Wage Law

The amendment to define minor as a person under 21 years of age was recommended with the reservation suggested by the sub-committee that inclusion of this measure in the legislative program be contingent upon the advice of the attorney-general that it would be constitutional. The effect of the amendment would be to bring women under the protection of the law for three additional years and make the age of majority for women in the law correspond to that for men.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Mrs. Wittich, to include this measure in the legislative program with the reservation named above.

7) Child Labor Amendment

Following discussion in which Judge Hall called attention to the fact that it might be wise to await state action in the improvement of Child Labor Laws and in which it was pointed out that the improvement that could be expected following the active campaign in opposition to the amendment, ~~using this as an argument against it,~~ *has not come thru state action,*

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Miss Lawrence, to include this measure in the legislative program.

8) Appropriation for Maternity and Infancy Work

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Mrs. Denny, to include this measure in the legislative program, the amount of the appropriation needed in the state to be learned from the state Department of Health after the action of the federal Congress in the coming short session is known.

9) Refund for Expenditures by Counties under the Mothers' Pension Law

Judge Hall explained that without such a refund, the state has no leverage to promote uniformity of standards in the best use of money expended under the law. He mentioned the fact that one county, for instance, was found to have spent something over three thousand dollars in payments for children over 16 years of age between 1917 and 1924. The difficulty in using this argument to legislators is the antagonism aroused at the suggestion of interference with local administration. There was some discussion as to the advisability of letting the question of the refund rest in this legislature since there is little hope of getting it and there is always the danger of forcing a repeal of the law by supporting the refund. Judge Hall said, however, that to offset this danger there is the danger that bad local administration of funds under the law will prejudice legislators against it and lead in this way to its repeal.

IT WAS VOTED ~~finally~~ on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Mrs. Wittich, to include this measure in the legislative program.

10) Changes to Improve the Marriage Law

Mrs. Gais, chairman of the sub-committee on this measure, suggested that the action on this measure be taken in very general terms with the understanding that all of the changes incorporated in the law proposed in the last legislature might be included in a bill or several bills to be

proposed to the 1927 legislature if ^{groups concerned in} ~~these~~ working upon the drafting of the bills should consider this desirable.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Miss Wells, to include changes in the Marriage Law in the legislative program.

Mrs. Guise called attention to the fact that the Committee on Final Program had been unable to agree upon the omission of any of the measures referred to it from the Council with the exception of the amendment directed to strengthen the Carnival Law. The committee did not include this measure in its recommendations since an active educational campaign would be necessary both to secure support for such an amendment and to assure its enforcement if adopted, such a campaign being impossible with the long legislative program that appeared unavoidable.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary