



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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League of Women Voters of Minnesota
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THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN MINNESOTA UNDER THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT ACT

"Wanted: Young Women To Lick The Housing Crisis" is the title of a fine article on Housing in the Autumn, 1947 issue of "Living" magazine. The August, 1947 issue of "Fortune" pointed up again "the housing crisis". We have not licked it. We've not even made a dent in it. Yes, houses are being built, but not enough of them, and certainly not at prices the middle and lower-income groups can safely mortgage their next 25 years to try to pay for. The tremendous numbers of families who need rental housing are being almost totally ignored. The lowest income groups, those for whom low-rent public housing is desirable and needed, have been ignored since 1942 because of statutory building cost limitations. These problems all boil down to one thing, the need of housing leadership, which in turn means education for slum clearance and low-rent housing and a community approach to the problem. It means a community approach because no two towns or cities have the identical needs. No two need the identical replanning, or even need the same proportionate number of rental units to owner occupied units. Therefore, if we are to lick the problem, we must begin at home, and then tell our needs to our State Legislature and our Congress.

For several sessions of the Legislature, the Minnesota League of Women Voters worked as "Housers". This time we made the grade. We did not get a perfect law, but we did get one under which some housing can be built, with a community approach, and one under which we can plan for future slum clearance and for low-rent public housing in communities that need and want it. Operations and experience under this law should indicate the kinds of amendments or revisions that will be required when the Legislature meets again.

The Minnesota law was drawn with a two-fold purpose: (1) To enable our cities to qualify for any Federal aid to housing that might be available in the future and (2) To encourage private capital to go in to housing and redevelopment in blighted areas in our cities by giving various kinds of financial and other aids. As a consequence, the Minnesota Act is usually described as divided into two main parts--the low-rent public housing part and the redevelopment and slum clearance section.

Both of these purposes can best be served by each city's and each town's having a housing and redevelopment authority. The housing authority's job of administering both parts of the law is a big one. They will need help.

First, we will discuss low-rent public housing and its problems. Minnesota was the 43rd state to pass this kind of legislation. In 1937, the United States Congress passed a law making available funds to the various states with this type of permissive legislation to aid in building dwellings for persons of low income. Since 1942, there has been no low rent public housing built in any city in the country, first because of the war and second, because under the 1937 Federal Housing law, there are limits to what can be spent per room in this type of building. In the last session of Congress the McCarthy Bill was passed allowing cities that are able to do so to contribute to a local housing authority the difference between the Federal statutory cost limitation and the actual cost of building.

Our problems in Minnesota on low-rent public housing are these:

(1) Those people who are opposed to low-rent public housing for persons of low income amended the housing bill to exclude from the cities the right to give money to the housing authority; (2) These same people also amended the law to require a simple majority referendum on each 1,000 units we might wish to build; (3) Because there are not now any Federal funds available for such building, we must look to the future when Congress may again appropriate funds, and we must make plans for using such funds to best advantage.

Last year Congress considered the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill ("Our Housing Problem", National League Memorandum, reviews it). In a recent speech Senator Taft again said he would be interested in a minimum housing program designed only for the low-income groups. At the present, Congress has a Joint Committee investigating "housing". It is hoped this investigation may come up with something that will help get Federal funds appropriated.

Because we must, in this state, have a referendum in each community before we can do any low-rent public housing, it is important for us to begin creating the "Housing Atmosphere", looking to the future. The objections to low-rent public housing are very loud and strongly defended by opponents to it. Always the objections are the same: (1) Private enterprise can do the housing job if left alone and without any kind of government guidance, (2) We are making a big step toward socialization when the Federal government subsidizes housing in any way, (3) Large-scale housing projects in the past have never served the income group they were intended to serve, and (4) Low-rent public housing is tax-exempt. These objections can best be answered in this way: (1) Private enterprise has not yet demonstrated it can build decent, safe and sanitary housing at a profit to be rented to the lowest 20% income group of our population. This is a truth that careful thinking real estate men don't work hard to refute. (2) As good League members, we all know about subsidies. They have in the past been given to both big and little industry in various forms without terribly strenuous objection, (3) Under the Minnesota Housing Act, the following provisions for occupancy in any low-rent public housing project are very clearly described:

- a. There must be a 20% gap between the highest rent charged in any low-rent public housing unit and the lowest rent private enterprise can build and rent at a profit.
- b. Low-rent housing must be built to serve the lowest 20% of income group by number as determined by the housing authority.
- c. Four-year limit of occupancy except in emergency when it may be six years.
- d. Veterans preference and preference for people living on the site before it was cleared of its slum and redeveloped.
- e. Tenant must be investigated every year to prove his income is not above lowest 20% by number.
- f. Tenant must be citizen of the United States.

(4) All of these provisions for tenancy are put on top of the requirement that the low-rent housing project must be able to pay off its bonds and pay to the city at least 5% of its annual intake of shelter rental in lieu of taxes.

This is the law in Minnesota and this is how it will be, all hue and cry to the contrary. These are the things we need to know.

The second part of our discussion is concerned with our part of the law under which we can now, at the present time, be doing some sound permanent building in Minnesota. We were the 18th state to have this kind of legislation.

As Mr. Stuart Rothman, the State Director of Housing, has said, our cities can use any kind of housing we can get; what we get depends on what we want and how much we want it. Both the Federal Housing Act of 1937 and the Minnesota Housing Act of 1947 recognize that housing requires local initiation, determination and promotion.

We must also recognize that the building and housing problem must be met by private capital and private enterprise. As we recognized earlier, private enterprise has not demonstrated it can do the entire job, but it can and must do even more than the "lion's share". Our job is to urge private capital into the market and to do the job in a civic-minded kind of way.

As has been stated twice previously, no two towns or cities have the identical problems. Therefore, it follows no two communities can approach their redevelopment in precisely the same fashion. For those reasons, it is not feasible to discuss redevelopment in a specific way. Our law provides tools for each municipality to use in any combination it so deserves. The tools were given us because redevelopment of our cities without municipal aid to private capital is almost impossibly expensive. It puts the builder who would like to construct in an unfair competitive position with the builder who goes outside the city to buy his land, and to develop raw land unrelated to public services and facilities. Until we redevelop our cities and towns, our population will continue to deploy itself farther and farther out, our slum problem and all its unpleasant results will continue to grow, and the cities' tax problems will continue to increase.

The keystone of our redevelopment plan in Minnesota is the use of municipal property, services and facilities as the equity for F.H.A. insured loans to finance housing. Because no municipality can give money to a housing authority, the use of these facilities is imperative. As, for instance, we could imagine a builder in one of our major cities contemplating a large-scale rental project—say 250 units. By getting partial tax exemption from his city, by having the site and its improvement a part of what the city can give as an aid, the rental needed to make the project an economically sound one can be appreciably lowered. This does not sound as tremendous as it really is. The need for rental units in the major cities is acute. It is certain in St. Paul where 5000 additional units of any kind of housing are needed, that an appreciable part of these units need be rental, and for moderate income groups. If by the use of partial tax exemption and site provision and improvement our municipalities can help to provide rental housing, our Minnesota law was well worth the effort it took to get it.

WHAT CAN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DO?

We can:

- (1) Ask for and get each municipality to appoint a housing authority. Go to your Mayor and ask him. Then tell him to write to the Division of Housing and Redevelopment at the State Capitol which will send him all the information he needs. Ask the Mayor of

the municipality to appoint to the housing authority representative, broad-minded people with perspective and business judgment.

- (2) Upon creation of the housing and redevelopment authority, the League of Women Voters can help to develop the kind of housing and community atmosphere that will encourage the housing authority to:

- a. Proceed to prepare application to apply to the Housing and Home Financing Agency for Federal aid for low-rent housing and pave the way for a successful local referendum on the problem.
- b. Proceed at once to encourage private capital to undertake redevelopment projects of moderate rental housing with municipal aid.
- c. Proceed to give immediate consideration to long-range slum clearance programs.
- d. Begin to think now of planning for a handsome and healthy community as a whole.

All of these things should always be considered on a sound permanent basis. It has been proved too many times that expedient measures such as any kind of temporary housing only eventually add more slums and do nothing but stave off the crisis for another short period in the history of any community. Too often the temporary or expedient housing of today turns into the slum of tomorrow.

It is a big job, but it can all be done if we want to do it!

The State Division of Housing and Redevelopment has prepared careful and detailed outlines of the parts the municipalities, the housing authorities, and the redevelopment companies can play in this housing crisis. These outlines are available to all communities at their request. Ask your Mayor to send for them.

Perhaps the best attitude for us all to have is to know that the program the League of Women Voters has so long supported will take a long time. Slum Clearance in our cities and relocation - or low-rent public housing - will take more than a few years. But we should not lose interest - rather should we continue to believe that decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all income groups is in the best interest of us all and continue to press for legislation at all levels of our government that will eventually produce the needed housing.

Return O F 2 D 2 C
1949 Report

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota
June 9, 1949

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AT
THE 1949 SESSION OF THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCTION

By and large, the League of Women Voters was fairly successful at the 1949 session of the Legislature with the passage of 4 League supported items and the defeat of 2. The enactment of a soldier's bonus mandated by the people in a referendum made this a more difficult session than would have been the case had the legislators not had to concern themselves with this proposition. The tremendous demand for the passage of a mental health program as well as the other facets of the Governor's human resources program only added to the problem of the burning question, "Where are we going to get the money?"

At the present time, the states are in a better position financially and administratively than in a long time. This has been brought about by two principle factors. During the depression era there was a loud hue and cry against the states because of their inability to handle effectively the many problems which confronted this nation. There was, in fact, a serious suggestion set forth that the states be abolished and that the U. S. be divided into geographic regions based wherever feasible on economic similarity. The embarkment by the federal government on a large-scale social welfare program was the initial step in helping to strengthen the states. Many of these programs were based on the grant-in-aid concept. In order to insure effective administration of these grants, the federal government laid down certain standards with respect to personnel and administrative performance as conditions of receipt and utilization of this money. The result was that the states were forced into self-improvement activities because all of them were naturally desirous of receiving these funds.

The entrance of the U. S. into the war in 1941 was the second unforeseen factor that has contributed to the increasing soundness of the states as administrative units under our federal system. It is perhaps strange to contemplate that whereas enforced activity was the initial step, enforced inactivity was the second. The direction of the all-out war effort made it impossible for the states to carry forth with more than a minimum program. The lack of personnel and material was largely responsible for this inactivity.

The post-war situation, therefore, found the states with debts, but debts that had been sizeably decreased during the war period. The inflationary trends that followed the war were conducive to the maintenance of fairly high taxes to offset purchasing power. The situation which confronted the 1949 Minnesota Legislature, however, was one of uncertainty with respect to any forecast of future economic activity.

Would it be safe or wise to proceed with a program which, while it may be worthwhile, would cost the state a considerable amount of money? This was the problem which was made even more difficult because of the political necessity of enacting a soldier's bonus. This, in general, then was the framework within which the Minnesota Legislature had to weigh the pros and cons of future laws. For the most part, the legislation supported by the League did not demand a large share of state revenues. The sole exception to this was revised state aids to education which are financed out of income tax revenues dedicated to this purpose.

Indirectly, however, the state's financial picture did have a bearing on most legislation in that this all-consuming question had a definite effect on the time, minds and tempers of the law-makers. If our government is a government of laws, it might be well to remember that laws are man-made and subject, therefore, to the wisdom, failings, and prejudices of the men we elect to represent us on all levels of government.

CIVIL SERVICE

The present situation in Minnesota and its political subdivisions with respect to the veterans' preference provisions under civil service statutes is not conducive, in the opinion of the members of the League of Women Voters, for the carrying out of the purpose of the merit principle in selecting the best available man for the job. Briefly, the existing situation is this.

The state veterans' preference law provides that an able-bodied veteran receives a 5 point preference and a disabled veteran receives a 10 point preference. However, a veteran does not need to obtain a passing grade in order to receive this preference. If the addition of the 5 or 10 points results in a passing grade, that is all that is necessary for the veteran to be placed on the eligible list. The disabled veteran then receives an absolute preference, and his name is placed on the eligible register ahead of all others. The non-disabled veteran is placed on the list ahead of all others having the same grade as his augmented score.

Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis have absolute preference but veterans must first attain a passing grade of 70% - then both disabled and non-disabled veterans go to the top of the list.

Results emanating from such a system have caused, in some instances, the hiring of incompetent or less qualified personnel, and, in others, in circumvention of the law. Because of this situation and realizing that veterans should receive certain benefits because of their service in our behalf, the League supported a modification of the veterans' preference laws along the lines suggested to the Executive Council of the Civil Service Assembly of the U. S. and Canada by the Committee on Veteran Employment Policies:

3.

1. Veterans should be required to pass an examination before receiving preference consideration.
2. Preference should not be applied to promotional examinations.
3. Veterans should be entitled to preference which takes the form of extra credit points added to the earned examination rating.
4. Absolute preference should not be used. A veteran should take his place on the eligible list according to his augmented score.
5. Non-disabled veterans should receive 5 points on the basis of 100%. Disabled veterans should receive not more than 10 points.
6. A time limit should be set for termination of veterans' preference.

H. F. 742 introduced by Representative Flom, Anderson, H. R., and Hegstrom incorporated in its original form three of these provisions.

1. Veterans are required to pass an examination before receiving preference consideration.
2. Absolute preference is not used. A veteran takes his place on the eligible list according to his augmented score.
3. Preference is taken out of promotional examinations.

A sub-committee of the House Civil Administration Committee was appointed to handle all civil service bills. In hearings of this sub-committee, this bill was supported by representatives of the Civil Service Commission, the Civil Service Council, and the League of Women Voters. It was opposed by representatives of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans. Opposition by these veterans' organizations which are powerful politically resulted in amendments by the sub-committee so that the requirement of first passing an examination was eliminated. The League continued its support of H. F. 742 in the belief that the remaining features were better than nothing.

The League, meanwhile, had issued a Call for Action asking members to write in supporting H. F. 742. Action by the full committee resulted in a 7-7 tie vote. A letter was then written by Mrs. T. O. Everson commending those members of the House Civil Administration Committee who had voted in favor of H. F. 742 and sent to all the committee members. Mrs. Everson also wrote a letter to the Minneapolis Star explaining the bill and listing the committee vote. The paper cooperated by printing a digest of an article by Representative Floyd Flom on veterans preference and also wrote several editorials on the subject.

The League worked in cooperation with employees of the state and its political subdivisions who were opposed to the present law. Eventually, H. F. 742 was recommended to pass by the Committee; however, because of the difficulty of securing Senators who had the time to work in support of this legislation, the measure was not brought up in the House by the authors.

H. F. 1253 was a bill which would have applied the state civil service law to the political subdivisions of the state. Thus, there would have been a uniform civil service law throughout the state which is desirable. The League took no stand on this bill because of the difficulty involved in foreseeing what would happen to H. F. 742. The application of the state law in its present form would have been no great improvement. This bill died in committee.

H. F. 1814 was enacted into law and provides for the establishment of a commission to study veterans preference and to make recommendations to the next session of the Legislature concerning revisions and amendments of the existing law. This commission consists of 8 members - 2 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, 2 Senators appointed by the Committee on Committees of the Senate, and 4 members from the 4 major veterans organizations in the state, namely: the American Legion, V. F. W., D. A. V. and A. V. C. It is hoped that some mutual understanding and be effected and result in the enactment by the next session of the Legislature of a valid veterans' preference law which will incorporate the merit principle and contribute to the soundness of Minnesota Civil Service legislation.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

The last session of the Legislature provided for a commission to study the Constitution of the state of Minnesota and to make recommendations concerning the revision and/or amendment of this document. The Legislature also submitted two amendments to the people to change the amending process of the Constitution at the last general election in 1948. These two amendments were defeated.

Study by the League membership of the Constitution and the reports of the Constitutional Commission had convinced them of the need for reform. Thus it was that the League supported a bill introduced in this session of the Legislature to call a Constitutional Convention. This measure was introduced in both houses by representatives and senators who had served on the Constitutional Commission. The bill was recommended to pass by both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. Persons supporting this legislation appeared representing the Republican Workshop, the Good Government League, and the League of Women Voters. The only opposition expressed at the committee hearings came from the attorney for the railroads who had a vested interest in that the gross earnings tax of the railroads is set by the Constitution.

It was decided that a member Call to Action be sent out in view of the fact that this was the only item on the current agenda and study by local League members had been thorough and concentrated during the past months.

Unfortunately, a special order was secured for H. F. 810 at a time before the results ensuing from the Call to Action were in. Hence, the tremendous amount of work involved in getting out this member Call to Action were of little avail in the League's effort to secure passage of this legislation.

Objection to the calling of a Constitutional Convention was expressed by some representatives on political grounds. It was felt that in view of current voting trends, a Convention would be in the hands of radicals who could not be trusted. The fact that delegates to such a Convention would be elected in the same manner as the Representatives themselves, the majority being Conservatives, seemed to have escaped their notice. The fact that history proves that a Constitutional Convention has always been a conservative device did not seem to be persuasive in view of their apparent distrust of the people at this moment in our political history.

The debate which took place on the floor of the House of Representatives naturally did not incorporate this argument; however, one of the Representatives who had expressed his opposition on the aforementioned political grounds rose to his feet and mentioned the magic word, "Reapportionment". Representatives from the rural areas of the state leaped to their feet and took up the cudgel against H. F. 810.

A two-thirds vote was necessary to pass this bill. The vote was eight short of the necessary figure - the final vote being 80-40 with 11 not voting. A motion for reconsideration on the following day was lost 53-50. Since the bill had been defeated in the House, it was not brought up in the Senate.

Constitutional Revision is a long and slow process - the actual machinery is slow and education for the need for revision is not secured over night. Many states have revised their Constitutions only after a decade or more of work. It can be anticipated that the next session of the Legislature will see this legislation enacted. Leaders of both political parties have expressed the need for a new Constitution, so have other citizens' organizations. That the people all over the state become aware of this need is the task of the League in the next two years.

HOUSING

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has been working for enabling legislation for low rent public housing in this state since 1939. The Minnesota Housing and Redevelopment Act passed by the

Legislature in 1947 was astep in the right direction. However , it was the opinion of the League that this 1947 act needed certain amendments to make it possible for Minnesota communities to more readily take advantage of the opportunities and benefits that might be opened up by possible legislation.

The particular amendment which the League was most interested in was that which would remove the referendum requirement wherever the project is completely self-sustaining with federal financial assistance. and without any direct loan or grant from municipal tax sources. The League also supported amendments which would increase the return on investment from 6% to $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ and change the tax abatement period from 10 to 25 years to induce private enterprise to build rental housing in redevelopment areas.

This legislation, particularly that which would do away with the referendum requirement was strongly opposed by certain Representatives and Senators who were in accord with the real estate interests. It should be pointed out that the Minnesota housing law does not preempt the field of private building construction to produce the greatest number of houses and permits public action only where private industry is unwilling or presently unable to provide proper housing and for the redevelopment of blighted areas. However, the restrictions are such that only when private industry fails to fill the need that public action is permitted.

The Minnesota League sent out two Calls for Action urging support of these amendments. H. F. 576 finally came up for debate on the floor after some parliamentary manuevres by the opponents which sent the bill back to the House Civil Administration Committee. One of the Representatives then introduced an amendment which could have required a referendum after the first 300 family units had been built. Later, this figure was amended to read 1,000. After a lively debate, the amendment was defeated 72-37 and H. F. 576 was then passed unanimously. The realization that the votes in the Senate were securely lined up against any referendum requirement prevented the introduction of a similar amendment in the Senate and the bill was unanimously passed by that body.

The 1949 amendments to the 1947 Minnesota Housing and Redevelopment Act remove the referendum requirement in connection with any project financed entirely with federal funds. The new law also makes clear that initiation, planning, survey and other administrative costs may be paid for from the local levy authorized for redevelopment projects of the housing authority.

Thus it is that after working for 10 years, the League of Women Voters can feel considerable pride in its contribution to the creation of a sound housing law in Minnesota.

COUNTY HEALTH UNITS

This legislation would permit counties with less than 50,000 population to join together or for a county and city to unite for the purpose of establishing a full-time health department. In the 1947 legislative session, this measure was passed unanimously by the Senate but was killed in the House Appropriations Committee.

This year, largely as a result of a study of the subject made by the Legislative Research Committee; the opposition disappeared, and there was little difficulty in securing the passage of this bill. Some 13 organizations were behind the measure, and it was passed unanimously by both the House and Senate.

Chief services that will be performed by county health departments will be the prevention of communicable diseases through immunization campaigns, protecting of mothers and babies through medical and nursing supervision during the period of pregnancy and the child's early life, improved school health programs, safeguarding of food, water, and milk, improved sanitation of the environment, and the broadcasting of health information to all citizens. The law provides that a health department may be established by resolution adopted by a majority of each of the boards concerned. If more than one county is involved, the question must be approved by the voters. The county boards concerned must submit the question on their own initiative and must do so on petition of qualified voters equal to 10% of the total vote at the last general election.

When such a health department is established, all powers vested in local health boards are transferred to the county board except that a constituent city of the first or second class continues its independent status until the council by ordinance takes action to bring the city under the county's jurisdiction subject to referendum of the people. In counties containing a city of the first class in which a majority of the county commissioners' districts are within the first class city, unanimous vote of the county board is required to establish a county health department. The governing body of a city of the first or second class may submit, and on petition of 10% of the number who voted at the last regular election must submit to the voters the question of coming under the jurisdiction of the county board of health. The result of the vote is binding on the council.

The county board of health will consist of 5 members appointed by the board of county commissioners. When two or more counties combine, each county appoints two members to the board except that the county with the largest population appoints three. In each board, one member from each county must be selected from the largest participating municipality located within the county. One of the members must be a Doctor of Medicine and one a Doctor of Dental Surgery, both licensed to practice in Minnesota. Remaining members must be laymen. Members are appointed for three-year overlapping terms.

Cost of maintaining the health department is borne by the several participating counties on the basis of population, and may be defrayed by a special levy of not more than one mill. Any non-participating city is not included in the calculation, and the county levy is not spread against property in such city. The budget for the county health unit is prepared by the health officer and board of health and becomes effective when it is approved by a majority of each county board at a joint meeting.

The board of county commissioners of any county within the jurisdiction of a county health department, under the act is empowered to adopt and enforce reasonable regulations for the preservation of public health applicable throughout the whole or any portion of the county. A unanimous vote is required in a county containing a first class city in which the majority of the county districts lie. Regulations must be consistent with statute and state board of health regulations or provisions of charter or ordinances of any city pertaining to the same subject matter. Municipalities are not prohibited by the act from adopting health ordinances or regulations setting higher standards.

Withdrawal by any participating county from the health unit may come by written notice by the withdrawing unit to the board of health and the board of county commissioners of each county in the set-up.

The chief advantages of establishing full-time county health departments are first, that health services will be immediately available to people in rural areas; second, that local people will have complete control of their own health program. The provisions of this act have been written up in detail because the legislation is permissive and its utilization depends upon the initiative of the counties and in particular the demands of the citizenry for this service. Investigation and study in relation to this law would provide many Leagues with an excellent local project, and it is with this in mind that the foregoing summary was detailed.

SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION

Experience with the 1947 School District Reorganization Law convinced those working with the act that amendments should be enacted to clarify procedures and expand the amount of time provided for each step in the procedure. The Minnesota League had supported the 1947 legislation in the belief that reorganization of the some 7, 400 school districts in the state was essential to the securing of adequate and economical education. The League felt that the proposed amendments were consistent with the end and aim of effective and workable consolidation and went on record in support of them.

Somewhat unexpected was the loud and vocal opposition to the proposed changes by an organization from southeastern Minnesota known as the "Friends of the Rural Schools". At an open hearing, some 350 representatives of the "Friends" turned out in force to vote their opposition. Among the criticisms the Friends directed at the

reorganization program are the following:

1. Replacing a number of small school districts with one big one is "undemocratic" because it abolishes all the local boards and puts all authority into the hands of one six-man board.
2. Reducing the number of school districts in the state from the present 7,400 to less than 500 would create "an ideal set-up for a Communist seeking power".
3. The small rural school -- "the cradle of democracy" -- should be preserved as long as possible rather than speeded to its death.
4. The reorganization program is unnecessary because the state now has the legal machinery for effecting consolidation by petition.
5. Reorganization will mean higher taxes for the farmer, who doesn't mind paying his full proportionate share of the cost of educating a child, but who doesn't want to be stuck for the cost of "football stadiums, tennis courts, etc." which will benefit the urban population almost exclusively.
6. The proposed large districts will require a highly developed school bus system and a gigantic road building system.
7. Large consolidated districts would probably operate their own school buses instead of relying on independent bus drivers as is now the common practice. This would, under state law, deprive parochial schools of the bus service they have come to depend upon.
8. If the small school districts disappear, then townships may be next inline for elimination and after them the small rural churches.

From this expressed opposition, however, there came forth concrete and valid criticisms of the methodology in school district reorganization. Thus, some of the amendments passed by the 1949 Legislature resulted from opposition as well as support.

These amendments provide for school district reorganization by continuing its provisions to permit its use by counties which have not adopted reorganization plans.

Terms of office of the school survey committees of 9 members which may be created in any county, are extended to July 1, 1953. Where school district reorganization may embrace areas in more than one county, the amended law provides for the setting-up of a sub-committee to work cooperatively on the problem of reorganization. County survey committees are given until Dec. 1, 1950 to prepare their tentative reports with

recommendations. No change may be made by the committee for any proposed area until after completion of the hearings affecting the area. The final report may be amended not later than 90 days before notice of the election.

Where people of any district feel aggrieved by the proposed division or reassignment to another area, they may appeal to the state commission which then provides for a board of appeal to hear the case. The survey committee must make any changes necessary to incorporate the findings of the appeal board in the proposal to be submitted to the voters. The election on any reorganization plan proposed by a committee must be called prior to April 1, 1953, after hearings and if any school district maintaining a graded, elementary, or high school is located within any proposed district, the proposition does not carry unless a majority of the votes cast in the urban school district and in the territory outside the district, each are in favor of establishing the district. Provisions are made for the transition to the new status in case a proposition for reorganization or consolidation carries.

In a proposed reformed school district, the school board shall be made up of two urban residents, 2 rural residents, and 2 selected at large.

It is hoped that these amendments will more effectively provide the means whereby the aim of school district reorganization may be achieved.

STATE AID TO EDUCATION

From the very beginning of the session there were rumors that income tax revenues dedicated for the support of education would have to be diverted for other purposes in view of the large expenditures that would be necessary to carry out anticipated legislation. In view of this, the League early in the session sent out a Call for Action opposing any such proposed diversion and supporting an increase in the amount of aid from \$50.00 to \$70.00 per pupil and the inclusion of public junior colleges in this aid. Figures revealing that the amount of \$50.00 was inadequate in view of the increased cost of education were responsible for the support of the League for an increased amount of basic aid. This concern for adequate educational standards in Minnesota has not made the League lose sight of the value of economical education as well. Hence the Call to Action in expressing opposition to the diversion of income tax revenues, also states, "Until the entire problem of dedicated funds is explored and solved and some other security is established for the provision of public education, the Minnesota League opposes any diversion of state income tax derived funds to any other use." It is clear, then, that the League has not taken a stand in favor of the preservation of these dedicated monies, but only against the jeopardization of the present method of financing education in Minnesota until such a time when a secure alternative method is proposed.

The center of conflict with respect to state aid to education revolved around whether any revision should emphasize basic or equalization aid. A proposal from some Minneapolis legislators would have provided that the state return future surpluses in the income tax fund to the school districts in direct proportion to their contributions. This would have greatly benefitted the larger communities, but it was politically impracticable because of the domination of the Legislature by rural area representation. There were several charges directed at the fact that in many cases school districts had not made minimum local tax effort and relied entirely on state aid to operate their schools. This charge, however, was denied by the state Department of Education.

A conference committee in the last hours of the session ironed out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the state aid bill. The final bill represented a down-the-line compromise of the two bills. The Senate passed a \$95,500,000 bill with increases in basic, equalization and transportation aids. The House bill of \$97,000,000 raised only the basic and equalization assistance grants. The compromise measure increased all three, but in lesser amounts than the House version with a total figure of \$95,800,000 - an increase of more than \$28,000,000 over the 1947 allowances.

For the next two years, aid for transportation by a consolidated district or by a district which does not maintain a secondary school is increased from \$40.00 to \$47.50; basic aid from \$50.00 to \$65.00 per pupil unit, and equalization aid from \$60.00 to \$72.00 per pupil unit. The last will be paid out to districts having less than \$2,300.00 (instead of \$2,000.00) assessed valuation per pupil in average daily attendance.

Last minute conferences in an attempt to balance the budget resulted in concurrence by the House and Senate Education Committee Chairmen to divert \$6,000,000 from income tax receipts into the general revenue fund for the next biennium. This issue was one of the most controversial of the whole session and was resorted to in a desperate attempt to find some money. There is a two-year limitation on this diversion, and it only remains to see what the future will bring in regard to state finances in order to ascertain if this will become an accepted practice.

In any event, the increased appropriation for schools can, it is hoped, be partially responsible for alleviating and improving the plight of the schools in Minnesota.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

A resolution memorializing the U. S. Congress to propose an equal rights amendment for women was introduced in this session of the Legislature. This proposal was unforeseen; however, a Call for Action was sent out asking for letters of opposition be sent to Representatives and Senators and League members testified in opposition at committee hearings. The League was informed that the measure would die in

committee. However, because pressure was brought to bear on committee members by prominent women of the same political party, the bill was recommended out of committee and put on the non-controversial calendar in both houses and was passed with but one dissenting vote in each case.

However, it is the opinion of many who are in a position to know that these resolutions memorializing Congress have little effect. They are usually read into the Record and no more comes of them. The belief has also been expressed that this legislation will not receive serious consideration by Congress, and the League philosophy of doing away with inequalities between the sexes by state legislation will probably prevail.

CONCLUSION

Prepared in collaboration with Mrs. Hiram Livingston,
State Legislative Chairman

The need for greater education on the part of League members with respect to state legislation is apparant. The lack of woman power, aggravated by the illness of Mrs. Livingston, state legislative chairman who carried on from her bedside and was of great help in telephoning and in the imparting of advice and information, would seem to indicate the necessity for greater emphasis on the state program

Preparation of material for the 1949-50 current agenda should be done with a deadline set to enable local Leagues to have ample opportunity to study and discuss the issues involved. Perhaps it would be wise to have local League chairmen serve as resource persons for the state items as they do for national program items. For example, the chairman in charge of Equalization of Opportunities, could assume the responsibility for Civil Rights in Minnesota. The person in charge of the national economic item could be the chairman for the state economic item. Since this particular subject is large in scope, it might be necessary to have a vice-chairman, and certainly, active committee work would be essential. Since Constitutional Revision is a somewhat unique field, a chairman with no other responsibilities might be appointed although if there is a Structure of Government Chairman, there is no reason why she could not be placed in charge of this topic.

It is believed that once the material has been prepared in time for adequate study and discussion and local chairmen assigned the responsibility for seeing to it that this information is disseminated throughout the membership, a definite step will have been made in the direction of establishing a greater interest on the part of the membership in state legislation. The creation of interest is basic to the formulation of action. Then when a committee structure is established at the time of the next legislative session, perhaps there will be more volunteers for work of this nature and volunteers who are well versed in the subject matter they choose to follow. The major

responsibility for this will, of course, fall on St. Paul, Minneapolis, and twin city suburban members.

An active committee set-up will make it possible for the Organization Secretary to act, in fact, as a liason representative keeping committee chairmen informed of progress being made on bills under their jurisdiction. Another suggestion would be to have a member of the State Legislative Committee selected to be responsible for encouraging out of town Leagues and groups from the Twin Cities to visit the Legislature, make the necessary arrangements, and show them around. The Organization Secretary should cooperate in this, but during the 1949 session, the necessity of taking care of League members often meant that the Organization Secretary was unable to attend important committee hearings.

The conclusions to be drawn from the experiences of the League at the 1949 session of the Minnesota Legislature are that more League members should take an active part as lobbyists in order to avoid the necessity for the Organization Secretary to serve in that capacity, to relieve the State Legislative Chairman and committee chairmen at such times when they are prevented from attending sessions, to be able to show the legislators, by example, the knowledge and acumen of League members in regard to League supported legislation, and most important of all, to strengthen the League by this increased member participation.

It is believed that the foregoing suggestion will, at least, in part contribute to the accomplishment of this end and make it possible for the League to be even more effective as a pressure group in the public interest.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA

84 South Tenth Street, Room 417

Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

PROGRAM - 1948-1949
(As Adopted by State Convention May 14, 1948)

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to work unremittingly to support and strengthen the form of government of the United States. The purpose of the League is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

The League may take action on governmental issues. Action may include (1) providing information, (2) building public opinion, (3) supporting legislation.

League members are encouraged to work as individuals in the political party of their choice BUT THE ORGANIZATION AS A WHOLE SHALL NOT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR CANDIDATE.

The Program is divided into two parts: (1) The Current Agenda, and (2) The Platform. The Current Agenda consists of those governmental issues which the League convention chooses for concerted action during the coming year. The Platform consists of governmental issues and specific legislation to which the League has given sustained attention through the years. It is the responsibility of the State Board to provide the membership with basic information on items on the Current Agenda and to determine the specific time action shall be taken on items on both the Current Agenda and the Platform.

C U R R E N T A G E N D A

The League will work for a new
State Constitution or for Con-
stitutional Revision in the
interest of greater efficiency
and economy in government.

THE PLATFORM

The Platform consists of governmental issues and specific legislation to which the League has given sustained attention through the years. The League may resume support of any such issues or specific legislation whenever the State Board shall decide that active work is needed for (a) the preservation, improvement or enforcement of legislation previously enacted into law, or (b) the passage of any such legislation not previously enacted into law.

CHILD WELFARE:

Regulation of employment of children in street trades
Acceptance by legislature of Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act
Increased maximum mother's allowance
Reimbursement of counties for 1/3 of their expenditures under Mother's Allowance Law
Raised marriageable age of girls from 15 to 16, except with approval of juvenile court judge
Appropriation of \$43,000 a year for infancy-maternity work, nearly compensating for withdrawal of federal aid
Prohibited theatrical employment of children under 10 years of age (The "Stage Child" Bill)
Ratified Child Labor Amendment
Included girls as well as boys up to age 21 under minimum wage law
Aid to Dependent Children
(Legislation covering all of these items passed)

STATUS OF WOMEN:

Limited Work week of women in industry to 54 hours (Passed)
Made women eligible for jury service (Passed)
Removed discrimination against employment of women in public services because of marital status, through:
(1) Opposition to amendment to Teacher Tenure Law proposing abolition of all married teachers (Killed)
(2) Opposition to 2 bills and 2 resolutions making possible discharge of married women from public employment (Killed)

SOCIAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING GENERAL WELFARE:

Improved marriage laws - 5-day waiting period between application for a marriage license and its issuance (Passed)
Adequate lay representation on Welfare Boards (Passed)

SOCIAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING GENERAL WELFARE (Continued):

Permissive Legislation to enable Minnesota to participate in the Federal Public Housing Program (Passed) ✓
Extension of Public Health Services, including:
Larger Units of Public Health Services (Passed by Sen. but not by House)
The Public Health Nursing Bill (Passed)
Merit provision in Minnesota Unemployment Compensation Act relating to administration, personnel (Passed)

IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Minimum school year increased from 6 to 8 months (Passed)
Enforced compulsory school attendance (Passed)
Secured physical education in all schools (Passed)
Revised State Aids to Schools (Passed) ✓
Secured Teacher Tenure Law for cities of first class (Passed)
Reorganization of State Teachers' Retirement Fund (Passed)
Reorganization of School Units
Secured survey for reorganization of School Districts in each County (Passed) ✓

INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT:

Appointed Interim Com. on Reorganization of State Departments (Passed)
Established a Legislative Research Committee (Passed) ✓
Provided equitable assessment of property through creation of office of Supervisor of Assessments or County Assessor for each County (Passed)
A State Civil Service System (Passed) ✓
Ratification of "Lame Duck" amendment (Ratification by Minnesota of 20th amendment to Constitution of the United States) (Passed)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

M E M O R A N D U M

84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota
(Atlantic 0941)

October 28, 1948

TO: ALL PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN
FROM: YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE SCHOOL, AUDITORIUM, STATE OFFICE BUILDING, ST. PAUL, NOV. 12

In just two weeks the bi-annual Legislative School sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota at the State Capitol in St. Paul will open for a one-day session. Representatives from many of the local Leagues in Minnesota and your State Board will be on hand for this short course on how the State Legislature works and why.

When January rolls around and we begin to lobby for what legislation we believe is right in the public interest, these chalk-talks will likely pay off. Remember the date - Friday, November 12th - plan your publicity releases so that they reach your city desk or local editor by Monday, November 8th. You might lead off with the names of the local leaguers who will attend the school. If not, play up the principal speakers or topics, then follow through with the rest of the information.

Here's the program:

10:00 A. M. Suggestions for legislative lobbying and correspondence - Miss Barbara Stuhler, State Organization Secretary

"Know Your Legislature" - M. W. Halloran, political writer for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune

"To Pass or Not to Pass", a skit on how a bill makes its way through the legislature - Mrs. Abbott Washburn, Minneapolis, assisted by other League members

A summary of prospective legislation for the 1949 session - winding up with a guided trip through the marble halls of the State Capitol for those who are interested.

See you then.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. ~~Raymond~~ E. Kehl
Mrs. G. Lee Runyon

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
November, 1948

STATE LEGISLATIVE SET-UP

MISS BARBARA STUHLER

State League Office

Mrs. Hiram Livingston
State Legislative Chairman
1142 Xenox Ave. S., Mpls. (Ke 6069)

Local Local League
League Legislative
Presidents Chairmen

SUB-CHAIRMEN

<u>State Constitution</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Pub. Health</u>	<u>Civil Service</u>
Mrs. Lincoln Thomas 164 Bedford Ave. S.E. Minneapolis 14 (Gl. 1760)	Mrs. G. V. Chapin Kasson Minnesota	Mrs. R. E. Kehl 56 Inner Drive St. Paul 15, Minn. (De Soto 6053)	Mrs. Elmer Rusten Wayzata, Minn. (Wayzata 462)	Mrs. T. O. Everson

Leg. Research Committee

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
State Legislative Set-up
November, 1948

MISS BARBARA STUHLER,
Organization Secretary,
League of Women Voters
of Minnesota

Watches for introduction of all bills on items on
our State Program of Work and Platform;

Notifies State Office and provides

1. Information on the different bills,
2. Names of Legislative Committees to which
Bills have been referred,
3. Name of Chairman of Committee,
4. Names of other members of Committee and
where they are from,
5. Time and place of all committee hearings;

Decides the right time for State Office to issue
CALL FOR ACTION;

Is our "expert" source of information on all items
on our Current Agenda and Platform;

Works with Mrs. Hiram Livingston to cover all
sessions of the Legislature.

MRS. HIRAM LIVINGSTON,
State Legislative Chairman,
1148 Xerxes Ave. S.,
Minneapolis (Ke 6069)

Works with Miss Stuhler to cover all sessions of
the Legislature, Public Hearings, etc.;

Substitutes for Miss Stuhler when she is out on
Field trips, or otherwise prevented from being
at the Capitol;

Secures sub-chairmen to assist her in different
fields of State League work;

Works with sub-chairmen to secure observers (lobby-
ists) for committee hearings, etc.;

Helps all chairmen and observers to know their way
around in the State Legislature.

STATE OFFICE

Writes Chairman of Legislative Committee to which
bills are referred informing him of League interest,
asking for his support, etc.;

Notifies all local Leagues (through President or
Legislative Chairman) when legislators from their
districts are members of the committee to which a
bill has been referred and asks them to

1. Write to their legislators for support of the
bill, and
2. Help secure letters, telegrams, etc. from League
members and others in response to CALL FOR
ACTION;

Reports to local Leagues (through President or Leg-
islative Chairman) progress of all bills on items
on State Current Agenda or Platform.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
State Legislative Set-up
November, 1948

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

In cooperation with Mrs. Livingston arranges for observers (lobbyists) at all Committee Hearings on her particular item on State Program of Work;

Reports to Miss Stuhler (At. 0941) or to Mrs. Livingston (Ke. 6069), or both, all new developments on bills on her item on State Program (amendments, special hearings, etc.);

Promotes wide-spread response to CALL FOR ACTION when so requested by State Office.

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Help with lobbying when necessary;

Issue CALLS FOR ACTION on State level;

Determine which bills, amendments, etc. the League of Women Voters of Minnesota will support when more than one bill is introduced on any item on the State Program of Work.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minn. (At. 0941)
November 8, 1948

LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS

In order that the messages we send to our elected representatives on all levels of government may merit the attention we want them to receive, it is necessary to keep in mind the following points:

1. Be sure that your letters can be easily read. If you do not have access to a typewriter, try to write as legibly as possible.
2. Use plain paper for your letters. It is best not to send post cards since many legislators feel that if the constituent gave only the superficial time reflected in a post card, it cannot be a very important matter.
3. Always write an original letter. Anything resembling a form letter will probably be disregarded.
4. State your views briefly and be sure that your letter reflects the thought that you have given to the issue or issues about which you are writing.
5. Indicate your appreciation:
 - a. for taking time to read your letter
 - b. for sending requested material
 - c. for voting in accordance with a League stand.

Correct Salutations

Sir:

My dear Sir:

These three apply to all officials

Dear Sir:

My dear Senator:

Dear Senator:

My dear Senator____: Representative ____: Governor ____: Mayor ____:

Dear Senator____: Dear Mr. ____: Governor ____: Mayor ____:

These salutations are listed in the order of decreasing formality.

Correct Addresses

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
The United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

The Honorable Walter H. Judd
The House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

The Honorable Donald O. Wright
Senate Chambers
St. Paul, Minnesota

The Honorable George A. French
House Chambers
St. Paul, Minnesota

The Honorable Luther W. Youngdahl
Governor of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

The Honorable Eric Hoyer
Mayor of the City of Minneapolis
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Correct Closes

Respectfully,

Very truly yours,

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Minneapolis
November 8, 1948

LOBBYING

Listed below are a few suggestions which will enable you to be effective in advocating legislation which is on the League program.

1. Knowledge of subject matter.
 - a. Know the reasons for the League stand on particular issues.
 - b. Be familiar with the other viewpoints on controversial subjects.
 - c. Present your information in an accurate and concise manner.
2. Knowledge of legislators.
 - a. Know their backgrounds and interests.
 - b. Keep up to date with their voting records.
3. Etiquette.
 - a. Promptness in keeping appointments.
 - b. Learn legislative protocol and act accordingly. Obtain a copy of the official Directory from your legislator.
 - c. Comply promptly with requests from legislators for material and further information.
4. Diplomacy.
 - a. Try to remember the names of the legislators.
 - b. Avoid personalities.
 - c. Do not repeat to one legislator what you have heard from another.
5. Salesmanship.
 - a. If you can make the legislator think that the idea came from him rather than you, you may be much more successful.
 - b. Do not try to high-pressure or argue with a legislator. He reserves the right to vote as he wishes on a bill.
 - c. Speak with conviction and sincerity.
 - d. The League of Women Voters is judged by what you do and how you act - common sense is probably your best guide.

William L. Dietz is Senator from
the 17th District of LeSueur, not
Frank M. Wrabek.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South 10th Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minn. (At. 0941)
November 8, 1948

MEMBERS
OF
MINNESOTA SENATE
1949 SESSION

<u>Leg. Dist.</u>	<u>Counties Composed of</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Postoffice</u>
1	Fillmore-Houston	John A. Johnson	Litchfield
2	Winona	Leonard W. Dernek	Winona
3	Wabasha	James A. Carley	Plainview
4	Olmsted	Walter Burdick	Rochester
5	Dodge-Mower	Werner E. Wuertz	Austin
6	Freeborn	Helmer Myre	Albert Lea
7	Faribault	D. M. Carey	Wells
8	Blue Earth	Val Imm	Mankato
9	Martin-Watonwan	Frank E. Dougherty	Fairmont
10	Cottonwood-Jackson	B. E. Grottum	Jackson
11	Nobles-Rock	Milford Davis	Reading
12	Lincoln-Pipestone- Murray	Hans C. Pedersen	Ruthton
13	Lyon-Yellow Medicine	A. L. Almen	Balaton
14	Brown-Redwood	John M. Zwach	Milroy
15	Nicollet-Sibley	Oscar A. Swenson	Rte 2, Nicollet
16	Steele-Waseca	Claude G. Baughman	Waseca
17	LeSueur	Frank M. Wrabek	LeCenter
18	Rice	R. B. Goodhue	Dennison
19	Goodhue	Grover C. George	Goodhue
20	Dakota	Sam W. Dennison	South St. Paul
21	Carver-Scott	Henry Wagener	Waconia
22	McLeod	Ancher Nelsen	Hutchinson
23	Renville	Leo J. Lauerman	Olivia
24	Chippewa-Lac qui Parle	Edward Hagen	Milan
25	Kandiyohi-Swift	Harry L. Wahlstrand	Willmar
26	Meeker	J. A. Simonson	Litchfield
27	Wright	Thomas P. Welch	Buffalo
28	Hennepin	Raymond J. Julkowski	Minneapolis
29	Hennepin	Emmett L. Duemke	Minneapolis
30	Hennepin	Donald O. Wright	Minneapolis
31	Hennepin	Ralph L. Mayhood	Minneapolis
32	Hennepin	Marvin H. Anderson	Minneapolis
33	Hennepin	Harold Harrison	Minneapolis
34	Hennepin	Daniel S. Feidt	Minneapolis
35	Hennepin	Gerald T. Mullin	Minneapolis
36	Hennepin	Archie H. Miller	Hopkins, Route 2
37	Ramsey	Everett L. Peterson	St. Paul
38	Ramsey	B. G. Novak	St. Paul
39	Ramsey	Joseph H. Masek	St. Paul
40	Ramsey	Milton C. Lightner	St. Paul
41	Ramsey	George L. Siegel	St. Paul
42	Ramsey	Charles N. Orr	St. Paul
43	Washington	Karl G. Neumeier	Stillwater
44	Anoka-Isanti	Wendell L. Ledin	Bethel
45	Benton-Sherburne- Stearns	Henry H. Sullivan	St. Cloud

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Minnesota Senate Members - 2
November, 1948

<u>Leg. Dist.</u>	<u>Counties Composed of</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Postoffice</u>
46	Stearns	Leo Welle	Albany
47	Douglas-Pope	C. L. Cole	Alexandria
48	Big Stone - Grant - Steven-Traverse	A. R. Johanson	Wheaton
49	Clay-Wilkin	Magnus Wefald	Hawley
50	Otter Tail	Colvin G. Butler	Fergus Falls
51	Todd-Wadena	Ernest P. Anderson	Wadena
52	Cass-Itasca	George O'Brien	Grand Rapids
53	Crow Wing - Morrison	Gordon Rosenmeier	Little Falls
54	Aitkin-Carlton	Gordon Bushnell	Tamarack
55	Kanabec Mille Lacs - Sherburne	C. C. Mitchell	Princeton
56	Chisago-Pine	C. Elmer Johnson	Almelund
57	Cook-Lake-St. Louis	C. A. Dahle	Duluth
58	St. Louis	Herbert Rogers	Duluth
59	St. Louis	Homer M. Carr	Proctor
60	St. Louis	Elmer Peterson	Hibbing
61	St. Louis	Thomas D. Vukelich	Gilbert
62	Beltrami-Koochiching- Lake of the Woods	H. A. Bridgeman	Bemidji
63	Becker-Hubbard	A. O. Sletvold	Detroit Lakes
64	Norman-Mahnomen	Norman J. Larson	Ada
65	Clearwater-Pennington- Red Lake	Wm. E. Dahlquist	Thief River Falls
66	Polk	Julius Spokely	Crookston
67	Kittson-Roseau-Marshall	Donald Sinclair	Stephen

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
 84 South 10th Street, Room 417
 Minneapolis 2, Minn. (At. 0941)
 November 8, 1948

MEMBERS
 of
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE 1949 SESSION

<u>Leg. Dist.</u>	<u>Counties Composed of</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Postoffice</u>
1	Fillmore-Houston-at Large Fillmore Houston	Harry Greer Temam Thompson Carl S. Burtness	Lanesboro Lanesboro Caledonia
2	Winona (first division) Winona (second division)	Al R. Lejk J. R. Keller	Winona Rollingstone
3	Wabasha	Thomas C. Richardson	Elgin
4	Olmstead	Leo D. Madden	Eyota
5	Dodge Mower	Oliver J. Holtan Jacob Herzog	Mantorville Austin
6	Freeborn	Irvin M. Talle	Albert Lea
7	Faribault	L. B. Erdahl	Frost
8	Blue Earth	Robert J. Sheran Walter J. Croswell	Mankato Lake Crystal
9	Martin Watonwan	M. N. Johnson M. K. Hegstrom	Sherburne St. James
10	Cottonwood Jackson	Thomas Bondhus H. A. Frederickson	Storden Windom R.F.D.
11	Nobles Rock	S. Halverson J. F. Searles	Worthington Beaver Creek
12	Lincoln Murray Pipestone	Wilhelm Holm Trigg H. Knutson Henry Appeldorn	Tyler Slayton Pipestone
13	Lyon Yellow Medicine	Will N. Nelson Oscar Peterson	Tracy Clarkfield
14	Brown-Redwood-at Large Brown Redwood	William V. Burroughs Arthur A. Waibel Aubrey W. Dirlam	Sleepy Eye New Ulm Redwood Falls
15	Nicollet Sibley	Harold R. Anderson August B. Mueller	North Mankato Arlington
16	Steele Waseca	John A. Hartle Omar Dahle	Owatonna Waseca
17	Le Sueur	Wesley H. Erkel	LeCenter

Members of House of Representatives
Minnesota Legislature 1949 Session (Cont)

<u>Leg. Dist.</u>	<u>Counties Composed of</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Postoffice</u>
18	Rice	Ralph H. Illsley	Dundas
19	Goodhue 1st Division Goodhue 2nd Division	Roy L. Voxland Clarence G. Langley	Kenyon Red Wing
20	Dakota	Arthur Gillen	South St. Paul
21	Carver Scott	Howard Ottinger Michael R. Moriarty	Chaska Jordan
22	McLeod	Emil C. Ernst	Lester Prairie
23	Renville	Odean Ernestvedt	Sacred Heart
24	Chippewa Lac qui Parle	Everett S. Mills Howard W. Rundquist	Montevideo Dawson
25	Kandiyohi Swift	Reuben W. Felt Alfred I. Johnson	Willmar Benson
26	Meeker	Stanley W. Holmquist	Grove City
27	Wright	E. R. Ilstrup Robert F. Lee	Buffalo Annandale
28	Hennepin	Edward J. Tomczyk Ted L. Biernat	Minneapolis Minneapolis
29	Hennepin	George E. Murk Carl O. Wegner	Minneapolis Minneapolis
30	Hennepin	Alf L. Bergerud Thomas N. Christie	Minneapolis Minneapolis
31	Hennepin	Carl G. Hagland Leonard A. Johnson	Minneapolis Minneapolis
32	Hennepin	Harold R. Lundeen Edward J. Volstead	Minneapolis Minneapolis
33	Hennepin	George A. French Charles W. Root	Minneapolis Minneapolis
34	Hennepin	P. Kenneth Peterson Vernon S. Welch	Minneapolis Minneapolis
35	Hennepin	H. P. Goodin Leo D. Mosier	Minneapolis Minneapolis
36	Rural Hennepin South Rural Hennepin North	George R. Matchan Lawrence F. Haeg	2832 Kenwood Av. St. Louis Park Robbinsdale

Members of House of Representatives
Minnesota Legislature 1949 Session

<u>Leg. Dist.</u>	<u>Counties Composed of</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Postoffice</u>
37	Ramsey North Ramsey South	Sheldon Beanblossom Arthur Gibbons	St. Paul St. Paul
38	Ramsey North Ramsey South	Joseph Prifrel, Jr. Anthony Podgorski	St. Paul St. Paul
39	Ramsey Ward 5 Ramsey Ward 6	Edwin Meihofers Patrick D. Creamer	St. Paul St. Paul
40	Ramsey Ward 4 Ramsey Ward 7	Alfred J. Otto Louis W. Hill	St. Paul St. Paul
41	Ramsey	William E. Carlson Frederick P. Memmer	St. Paul St. Paul
42	Ramsey North Ramsey South	Claude H. Allen William P. Tucker	St. Paul St. Paul
43	Washington	John F. Howard James W. O'Brien	St. Paul Park Stillwater
44	Anoka-Isanti	John H. Nordin	Columbia Heights
45	Benton-Sherburne Stearns	John T. Kosloske Dewey Reed	Sauk Rapids St. Cloud
46	Stearns '1st division Stearns '2nd division	Fred T. Lux John J. Kinzer	Sauk Centre Cold Spring
47	Douglas Pope	Otto E. Clark Floyd O. Flom	Osakis Glenwood
48	Stevens Grant Traverse Big Stone	A. F. Riedner Carl M. Iverson Carl J. Rinke R. H. Ehrenberg	Morris Ashby Wheaton Graceville
49	Clay Wilkin	Ray Gesell Ely R. Schenck	Moorhead Wolverton
50	Otter Tail	Roy B. Aune Roy E. Dunne E. J. Windmiller J. A. Anderson	Parkers Prairie Pelican Rapids Fergus Falls New York Mills
51	Wadena Todd	R. R. Rytli Lafayette C. Dixon	Wadena Long Prairie
52	Cass Itasca	Don D. Lundrigan Vladimir Shipka	Walker Grand Rapids
53	Crow Wing-Morrison-at Large Crow Wing Morrison	Fred W. Schwanke Frank B. Johnson Albert Dominick	Deerwood Brainerd Pierz

Members of House of Representatives
Minnesota Legislature 1949 Session

<u>Leg. Dist.</u>	<u>Counties Composed of</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Postoffice</u>
54	Aitkin Carlton	F. C. Kaplan Henry Mattson	McGregor Cloquet
55	Mille Lacs-Kanabec- Sherburne	Theodore C. Swanson Thomas L. Ryan	Princeton Milaca
56	Chisago Pine	A. F. Oberg Joe Karas	Lindstrom Pine City
57	Cook-Lake St. Louis	August Omtvedt A. B. Anderson	Two Harbors Duluth
58	St. Louis	Thomas F. O'Malley Arne C. Wanvick	Duluth Duluth
59	St. Louis	Dwight A. Swanstrom Francis LaBrosse	Duluth Duluth
60	St. Louis	Carl M. D'Aquila Loren S. Rutter	Hibbing Kinney
61	St. Louis	Fred A. Cina Richard A. Silvola	Aurora Virginia
62	Koochiching Beltrami-Lake of the Woods	E. J. Chilgren Leonard R. Dickinson	Littlefork Bemidji
63	Hubbard Becker	Grant H. Norman Harry Basford	Hubbard Wolf Lake
64	Norman-Mahnomen	John R. Blomquist	Waubun
65	Pennington-Red Lake- Clearwater	Walter E. Day C. S. McReynolds	Bagley Clearbrook
66	Polk	Thomas A. Letnes Rauben H. Tweten	Nielsville Fosston
67	Kittson Marshall Roseau	E. B. Herseth Emil Morberg Curtiss Olson	R.F.D. Drayton, N.D. Oslo Roseau

Legislative Research Council

The Legislative Research Committee (LRC) is a joint committee of the legislature, meeting quarterly at the State Capitol and giving advance consideration to problems expected to confront the next legislature. Its Research Department is organized to provide an unbiased, factual source of information with regard to problems which may be acted upon by the legislature. This Committee was established by the 1947 Legislature.

Committee members who will serve until the opening day of the 1949 Legislature are:

<u>Senate</u>		<u>House</u>	
A.L. Almen	Everett L. Peterson	Claude H. Allen	George A. French
Claude G. Baughman	Herbert Rogers	A. L. Boze	Lawrence F. Haeg
Frank E. Dougherty	A. C. Sletvold	E. J. Chilgren	John A. Hartle
Daniel S. Feidt	Thomas P. Welch	Joseph J. Daun	Walter Rogoshesko
Archie H. Miller		Floyd O. Flom	

Research Staff: The research director is Louis C. Dorweiler, Jr., previously Asst. Director of the Minnesota Institute of Governmental Research, and a graduate of the U. of Minn. School of Business. At present he has two research analysts, Mr. Eugene J. Johnson and Mr. E.W. Andrews, both graduates of the Public Administration Training Center of the U. of Minn., and a secretary, Miss Mildred Rice.

Highlights on the Organizational Set-Up and Permanent Rules of the Committee:

1. The Committee meets the 1st Monday of the months of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. at 10 A.M. in Room 113 State Capitol Bldg. Meetings are open to the public.
2. An Executive Committee (at present made up of Messrs. Haeg, Chairman; Welch, Vice-Chairman; Sletvold; Miller, Daun; and Allen) consider suggestions not in form of proposals made to Committee and supervise budget and financial matters. The Director of Research acts as Secretary.
3. There are in addition ten standing sub-committees, made up of 3 members of the L.R.C. plus one House and one Senate member (usually Chmn. of like committees in their respective bodies).
4. Proposals for study may be in the form of resolutions by the legislature (which have first priority), or of a request by individual legislators. Any private citizen or group wishing to make a request must do so through their respective legislators. The majority of the entire Committee must vote to refer to proper sub-committee for study, and the sub-committee must make a progress report at the next meeting.
5. Reports of each regular or special meeting must be printed by the Director of Research immediately after each meeting and mailed to each member of the legislature.
6. The sub-committee reports on proposals for study submitted to them must be approved by a majority of the full Committee before being released to the Legislators, the Governor, and the public.
7. Purchasing and employment - the Research Director acts as purchasing agent, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. He likewise is authorized to employ his research and clerical staff, subject to the same approval.

Progress to date:

Proposals so far submitted to the L.R.C., approved for study by the Committee, and referred to proper sub-committees are very briefly the following:

1. A proposal relating to a study of the entire public transportation problem, with relation to taxes, subsidies, effect of the industry upon employment, and regulatory laws.
2. A proposal relating to the control and elimination of Bang's disease in cattle.
3. A proposal relating to consolidating the Drivers' License Department and other departments having to do with motor vehicles, and methods of determining and collecting taxes on vehicles.
4. A proposal relating to building control and the feasibility of establishing an integrated state building agency with a view to modernizing local building codes and encouraging the use of new processes and materials.
5. A proposal to study the class room and building needs at the U. of Minn. and all other institutions of higher learning supported by state or public funds.
6. A proposal relating to activities incident to the rebuilding of the State Hospital at Rochester and the program of rebuilding other state institutions.
7. A proposal relating to the general tax structure of the state, comparison with other states, and with reference to effect of taxes on agriculture, industry, etc.
8. A proposal to study the Minneapolis School Situation (not approved for study).
9. A proposal to study community property for Minnesota as it relates to taxation.
10. A proposal relating to the propriety of imposing a tax on natural gas coming into the state.
11. A proposal to study present methods of imposing a tax on coal coming into state.
12. A proposal to study Civil Service laws as related to veterans' preference.
13. A proposal to study the progress made in school district reorganization as provided by the 1947 legislature.
14. A proposal to study various aspects of the conservation of our natural resources.

Already the study on Bang's disease has been completed, and the sub-committee supervising this work has published an excellent and most detailed report (available in Hols. League Office). Progress has been reported on the other six of the first seven proposals, which were all requested by the resolution of the legislature. The report on No. 6, relating to public institutions is already quite complete, others varying considerably in amount of work done.

The Committee is acquiring reference material for its library, which will also be available for use by legislators.

Mr. Dorweiler and Chmn. Haug have visited three other states having Legislative Research Committees and have published a report of their findings. Likewise, three members of the Committee and Mr. Dorweiler attended the Midwest Regional Conference of the Council of States in Michigan last July and reported on the discussions there, which centered about such subjects as tax and fiscal policies, elementary and secondary education, water resource developments, etc. This interchange of ideas with legislators of other states having the same problems as Minnesota should be of great value.

In conclusion, it is very gratifying to find legislation which the League supported for so many years being expedited with the efficiency and spirit of cooperation evidenced by the members of the Legislative Research Committee and the Research Director. Apparently all members are cooperating vigorously to make the new L.R.C. a success and many of the minority members of the Legislature, who opposed its establishment because of the manner of choice of committee members, while withholding judgment somewhat, are also cooperating and evidencing a friendly interest in its progress. We believe the Minnesota Legislative Research Committee is off to a good, and even more important, sound start.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South 10th Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minn. (At. 0941)

November 2, 1948

EXTENSION OF
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN MINNESOTA

One important item on our State League platform has not been passed by the legislature. This is concerned with the extension of Public Health services by permitting the establishment of County or Multiple County Public Health Departments. It has been on our support program since 1944 and is as important to the field of Health as the Reorganization of School Districts is to Education.

Our present system of local health units is based on the pattern laid in territorial days when little was known of the science of preventive medicine and public health. As a result, there are 2714 jurisdictions in Minnesota which are permitted under the law to set up local health units, or about one for every one thousand people. It is estimated, however, that a population of fifty thousand people is necessary to have a broad enough tax base to support an adequate full-time public health department.

In 1945 Minnesota spent for this purpose 42¢ of local taxes per capita plus additional amounts from state and federal funds. Also private organizations raised money for preventive medicine. Still, nearly two million people in our state have no adequate public health services. The per capita cost to maintain county or district units headed by full-time public health officers would be about \$1.50. This is a small amount, in comparison to the great economic and personal loss to the community from preventable illness and death, as well as the high cost to the state for the care of cases such as tuberculosis which might have been prevented.

Minnesota is one of the last states to modernize its Public Health system. Forty-one states have already passed laws, either permissive or mandatory, to provide full-time public health services for all the people.

Such a proposal will again be introduced at the 1949 legislative session. It is not too early for local Leagues to review the public health needs in their communities, as well as in the state, and make them known to their legislators.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
417 Essex Bldg., 84 S. 10th St.
Minneapolis 2, Minn.

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EDITORIAL FROM ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS, MAY 12, 1947

RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH

"One of the most widely and persistently criticised omissions of the Minnesota Legislature is proving to be its failure to enact the local public health service bill.

"That failure was referred to with disparagement and dismay repeatedly during discussions at the recent rural church institute here. The reaction has been critical among state-wide health and farm groups. No real defense of the Legislature's failure in this respect ever has been forthcoming.

"In fact, appearances are that the failure is well nigh indefensible. The legislation was only a permissive act. It would have allowed one or more outlying counties to establish for themselves health services which would be more nearly comparable to the health protection that now is given as a matter of course to the people of the cities. It would have permitted a start toward replacing with effective protection the obsolete methods that constitute part of the background of the higher rates of death and disease and physical disabilities among country people than among city people. In view of the facts, it is not surprising that the failure is seized upon by(critical groups)..... in an attempt to make political capital against the legislative majority.

"And yet, the rank and file of that legislative majority had no share whatever in the guilt for killing that good bill. The Senate passed the bill unanimously. The chances are it would have gone through the House by a huge majority--if the House had been given a chance to vote it up or down.

"But the House got no such chance. Instead, the bill was killed in the House Appropriations committee, largely due to the outspoken opposition of three rural members. So it is those three members who have brought down upon the heads of the entire Legislature all the criticism and condemnation. The bill was the victim of an undemocratic process that balanced the determination of three off against most of the rest of the Legislature and let the three win.

"The lesson of all this is that in the next Legislature this bill or its equivalent must not fail. The farm, labor, women's, health, and other groups should have learned from this experience that the price of getting needed legislation enacted is eternal vigilance. And by the time two more years roll around, the idea can be firmly rooted that measures widely demanded for the health of the people are too important to be obstructed by small minorities in committee, and that next time this bill is to go through. That progress, rather than political capital, should be the real fruit of experience with this bill."

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South 10th Street, Room 417
Minneapolis, Minnesota
October, 1948

Veteran's Preference in Minnesota

Why Do We Have a Merit System?

Government, like private business, needs competent personnel to do a good job. The League has long fought for the merit system on all levels of government because a large portion of government expense goes to pay personal service costs which in turn come from public tax funds. A well functioning merit system cuts down spoils and means greater tax savings through greater efficiency in public service.

Veterans' Preference is Opposed to Merit System

The principle of the merit system requires the selection and promotion of public employees solely on the basis of fitness. Veteran's Preference, because it requires that preference be given to a special class, is contrary to the merit principle.

Community Owes Limited Preference to Veterans

While the fact is generally accepted that the community owes assistance to the veteran in re-establishing himself in civilian life, the League of Women Voters believes that Veterans' Preference in Civil Service should be applied so as to cause the least harm to the merit system and so as not to discourage capable non-veterans from seeking government service.

Since the number of veterans in private employ far exceeds those in government employ a well functioning merit system benefits the majority of veterans as it does all taxpayers.

How Does Veterans' Preference Operate?

Veterans' Preference in Minnesota has its legal foundation in two separate divisions of the law, as follows:

1) The Civil Service Act, Chapter 43 of Minnesota Statutes 1945, section 43.30, as amended by Chapter 395, Session Laws of Minnesota for 1947 prescribes the way in which Veterans' Preference shall be applied in the Classified Service of the State Department of Civil Service

Note: In the St. Louis County Civil Service Department, Veterans' Preference is applied in much the same way as in the Classified Service of the State Civil Service Department.

As prescribed by the Civil Service Act, some of the features running counter to the merit principle are as follows:

a) Veterans are entitled to extra points in their examination scores whether or not they earn a passing grade (70%).

b) The non-disabled veteran is given an advantage of five extra points. This same advantage is extended to the widows of non-disabled veterans.

c) The disabled veteran, the widow of a disabled veteran and the wife of an incapacitated disabled veteran are given an advantage of 10 extra

points. Thus a disabled veteran who fails an examination with a score of 60% is brought up to a passing grade of 70%. Then he receives an ABSOLUTE PREFERENCE i.e. his name is placed on the eligible list ahead of all others.

d) Veterans' Preference is applied to PROMOTIONAL as well as to entrance examinations.

Note: It is generally considered especially poor personnel practice to apply preference to promotional examinations; it makes for poor morale on the part of the non-veterans because their chances for promotion are very slight.

2) General Veterans' Preference Law: Sections 197.45-.48 of Minnesota Statutes, 1945, determines how Veterans' Preference shall be applied in: the Unclassified Service of the State Government; the County Welfare Merit Systems; and the Civil Service Departments of Ramsey County, Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis.

As prescribed by the General Veterans' Preference Law veterans, their widows and the wives of disabled veterans must receive a passing score of 70% in order to be considered for preference. If, however they do make a passing grade they then receive ABSOLUTE PREFERENCE i.e. their name is placed at the head of the eligible list. This applies to both entrance and promotional examination.

Note: The disabled veteran does not receive any preference over the non-disabled.

What Constitutes a Fair Veterans' Preference?

A report submitted August 4, 1944 to the Executive Council of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada by its Committee on Veteran Employment Policies contained a list of 18 recommendations from which the following six are taken:

- 1) Veterans should be required to pass an examination before receiving preference consideration.
- 2) Preference should not be applied to promotional examinations.
- 3) Veterans should be entitled to preference which takes the form of extra credit points added to the earned examination rating.
- 4) Absolute preference should not be used. A veteran should take his place on the eligible list according to his augmented score.
- 5) Non-disabled veterans should receive five points on the basis of 100. Disabled veterans should receive not more than ten points.
- 6) Preference for veterans should be limited to a five year period after the war or five years after discharge or release from war service, whichever date is later.

For a more expanded treatment of Veterans' Preference see: "Veterans' Preference in Minnesota", publication No. 4, Minnesota Legislative Research Committee.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minn. (At. 0941)
November 5, 1948

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

I. THE NEED FOR REORGANIZATION

- A. The provisions of our State Constitution (Article VIII., Sec. 1) for Education state: "it shall be the duty of the legislature to establish a general and uniform system of public schools".
- B. The present system in Minnesota is neither uniform nor equal

Minnesota ranks 4th in the nation in number of school districts. 20% of its 7,684 districts have an enrollment of less than 10 pupils, 70% less than 19 pupils. Such a large number of districts leads to unneeded duplication of facilities and makes it difficult to provide an adequate educational program in an efficient and economical manner.

The cost (\$67,619,452 for the present biennium) of maintaining 7,684 school districts is not rewarding in terms of educational values received. The 1949 state legislature will be faced with an educational budget of \$78,484,036 for the next biennium, an increase of nearly \$11,000,000.

Out of 5,000 open ungraded elementary schools in Minnesota, 43% have an enrollment of less than 14 pupils. Out of 435 high schools in Minnesota, 33 have less than 50 pupils, 114 have less than 110 pupils, and 86 have over 100 but less than 150 pupils. Only 73 school districts in Minnesota have a population of 2500 or more. Because of the decline in school enrollments and other factors, the per-pupil costs in many schools have greatly increased while at the same time equality of educational opportunity has been decreasing. It is entirely possible that Minnesota schools could be better administered with less than 100 school districts. Decreasing the number of school districts in many instances will result in a saving to the taxpayer, and more education for the dollar spent.

II. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

- A. A law (Chapter 421) enacted at the 1947 session of the State Legislature permits the reorganization of school districts where conditions are found to warrant it, if the voters in the affected areas approve of such reorganization.

- B. Under the provisions of Chapter 421

A State Advisory Commission of 9 members has been appointed by the State Board of Education to act as a clearing house and focal point for local studies. Dr. A. E. Jacobson, Thief River Falls, is Chairman of this Commission.

63 of Minnesota's 87 counties voted last year to establish School Survey Committees of 9 members. 20 counties failed to take advantage of the law. The statute was not applicable to 4 counties.

- C. 62 of the 63 County School Survey Committees, after studying school districts of the county and their reorganization, visiting schools, and conferring with school authorities and residents of districts of the county, prepared tentative reports of their recommendations, copies of which were filed prior to September 1, 1948, with the County Superintendent of Schools, school board members, and the State Commissioner of Education. 1 Committee was declared illegal because of inadequate publicity given prior to its formation. Residents of the county or affected district were given the opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed change at public hearings.
- D. Survey Committee final reports were due on or before November 1, 1948. Copies of these reports will soon be made available to the public, and a summary of the contents of the reports will be published by the State Advisory Commission on School Reorganization.
- E. The Survey Committees found that opposition to school district reorganization (representing for the most part rural interests) presented the following arguments:
 - 1. Desire of rural areas to maintain control over education
 - 2. Desire to have the school near home
 - 3. Desire to avoid dangers of transportation
 - 4. Desire for representation on school board
 - 5. Desire to retain school for community center
 - 6. Feeling that local control is last stronghold of Democracy
 - 7. Feeling that "what was good enough for me is good enough for my children".

III. WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE UNDER PROVISIONS OF EXISTING LAW

Superintendent of county in which a major portion of the proposed district is situated shall arrange for election on the recommendation for reorganization as recommended by the County Survey Committee within 9 months after filing of the final report.

IV. PROBABILITY OF FUTURE LEGISLATION ON REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Because certain counties which originally rejected the creation of a Survey Committee have since indicated interest in conducting a study, the State Department of Education has announced that it will request the 1949 Legislature for amendments to Chapter 421 which would:

- (a) Give those counties another opportunity to create a Survey Committee
- (b) Provide for a longer interval between the several steps in the procedure than is required under the present law.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minn. (At. 0941)
November 5, 1948

STATE AID TO EDUCATION

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supported two bills which were enacted into law by the 1947 Legislature: The Revision of State Aids, Chapter 633, Laws 1947, and a bill to provide a uniform system of assessments. Enacted into law, Chapter 531, Laws 1947, this bill requires the appointment of a Supervisor of Assessments in all counties which do not have a County Assessor. Only 35 counties have had a County Assessor, and now under this law the remaining 52 have appointed a Supervisor. As assessments are the basis for payment of equalization aid to school districts, this law makes possible a fairer distribution of such aids.

The Revised State Aid Law reduces the number of aids from 42 to 21, increases materially by \$11,000,000 the amount of money appropriated, and provides for an equalization aid, up to \$60 per resident pupil unit in A. D. A. (average daily attendance), for districts where low assessed valuation prevents maintenance of minimum standards. It further provides for a 9 month school term in all schools, free textbooks for all pupils, allocation of a portion of fund to teachers' salaries, transportation, vocational, and emergency aid.

Another improvement over the former law is the establishment of a system for distribution of most of the funds on a current basis. Thus, the basic aid (\$50 per resident pupil in A. D. A.) and equalization aid (from \$3 to \$60 per resident pupil A. D. A.) is distributed in this manner: 50% in October, 45% in March, and the remaining 5% in August. 2,368 districts have an assessed valuation of less than \$2,000 and received equalization aid. Other aids were paid in full in October, and emergency aid is paid as granted.

From the few provisions listed above, it can be seen that the law is indeed a forward step for education. One problem which will have to be met during the 1949 legislative session is that this same law will cost the State approximately an additional \$3,000,000 during the coming year, because of the expected increase in school population of from 35,000 to 45,000 pupils for whom aid must be paid. In addition, a few refinements remain to be made in the law. It aids all school districts which meet its requirements, and thus perpetuates small schools and schools with poor programs.

Introduction by Mary: Presenting Miss Stuhler etc.

BARB: First of all, some background on the legislature: We have the Senate with 67 members, elected for four years, one from each legislative district in the state. And we have the House with 131 members, elected for 2-year term. The number allowed from each legislative district in the House is from one to four representatives based on the most recent population apportionment of 1913. The legislature opens on

MARY LOU: The first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each odd (pounding her gavel) numbered year. Special sessions can be called at any time by the governor. Regular sessions last 90 legislative days and can't adjourn for more than 3 days, Sundays and holidays excepted. There is no limitation on the length of special sessions, except that members are paid \$10 a day with a maximum of \$300 for the session.

BARB: Here, let me introduce the Speaker of the House for our session today....Mrs. Marshall Palmer. I think you'd be the best one, Mrs. Palmer, to tell us how you got your job.

MARY LOU: Well, as you know, I was elected without party designation. But.. hrmmph, hrmmph, I was party endorsed, of course.

BARB: What do you mean endorsed?

MARY LOU: My party people worked for me, backed me, but I didn't actually wear a label, and I wasn't labelled on the the ballot. There were a lot who were backed by the same party or group, whichever you want to call it. Anyway, we all won, so at our party caucus a week or more after the election, we worked on some of the independents and each other... You remember, . . . you know how it was (turning to Hope)

HOPE: You bet I do, there was a lot of talking, arguing, selling, moving around

MARY LOU: And everyone settling the jobs and appointments

HOPE: Yes, and much promoting of you. Palmer's the one, they all said. No election upsets for you, eh (laughs)

MARY LOU: And oh, and remember when that independent

HOPE: Yes, yes, the one who walked out. We got that all fixed up Someone said, "Now wait a minute, old girl, we need somebody from your district for the Rules committee.

MARY LOU: Well, it all worked out. Our group mustered 66 votes out of 131 which we needed to become the majority group in the House. And I was named Speaker. It's a plum of a job all right. I determine who shall speak on the floor. More interesting than that, I name the chairmen and members of the standing committees. You understand I had all the choice committee appointments figured out already.

BARBARA: The same arrangements go in the Senate except that there, instead of a Speaker, since the Lt. Gov. is the presiding officer, an Organization Committee is nominated at the party caucuses. The vote when the Senate opens results in one group getting a majority and this Organization Committee makes the committee assignments. Actually, the committees line up something like this influential members of the majority group head the important committees. Independents may have some good assignments, perhaps even a chairmanship. Members seek places that will enable them to advance legislation in which they are interested. One Committee stands out above all others in importance... The Rules Committee. It directs legislative procedures. It even may become a special committee on business to be considered toward the end of a Session... so you see it actually makes up the calendar of bills to go before the House if adopted by a majority vote. This often acts as a control to exclude unimportant bills and sometimes to exclude important bills.

MARY:

All right. That's your background. Now we're going to pretend the legislature is in session. In fact, we've been in session a couple of weeks. Bills are piling up on the Speaker's desk.

BARBARA:

The bills have been drafted in committee with legal aid from the attorney general's staff. The bills have been prompted by direction or request from the state administration the committees, themselves, or by lay or professional groups. The bills can't go on the Speaker's desk without signatures. The signatures are those of the authors or sponsors. The Senate rules say three authors at the most, the House says five. Generally, authors of a bill are wisely enough, members of the majority group. That means better going for the bill.

MARY:

Today we're going to deal with just one bill... the County Unit Health bill. A lot of you may remember this bill from the 1947 legislative session. It passed the Senate, but didn't go through the House. We're going to pass it in the House, today, anyway, with the hope that that is what will happen when the 1949 legislature meets. The County Unit Health bill is on the Speaker's platform along with a lot of other bills.

MARY LOU:

(raps for attention, reads:)

House File 1..Leg. Res. Council, Memmer, Rogosheska Leg.

Research Committee

House File 293, Housing, French, Hughes, Madden, Ilstrip,

Housing Committee

House File 277, State Aid for Education, Herseth, Education Committee

House File 4, Public Health Nursing, Health Committee

House File 150, County Unit Health Bill, Health Committee

BARBARA: Actually, the presiding officer is supposed to read the bills in full when he refers them to a committee, but this is never done. He summarizes the bill, briefly, sends it off to committee. This is called the first reading of a bill. Before a bill becomes law, it will have three readings.

MARY LOU: House File 150, County-Unit Health Bill

Reads Summary (Enclosed to Mary Lou)

BARBARA: At the first reading of a bill, objections can be made, but they seldom are, since ample opportunity remains, in committee and on the floor, to head off unwanted legislation. The bill is now in the Health Committee. Here's what can happen. The committee can recommend that the bill passes, can amend the bill, can indefinitely postpone it which means killing it for the session, can return it to its sponsors which is another way of putting it to death, can pigeon-hole it which means ignoring it, can report it unfavorably or pass it out of the committee without any recommendation. The most favorable action a committee can take is to introduce a bill back in the House as a committee bill. Incidentally, a committee makes no pretense of studying all the bills before it.. some are unimportant. If they are unusually complicated a subcommittee will report on them, and the main committee will usually abide by the subcommittee's recommendations,..... The Committee is now in session!

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE: First...umm, er, yes, oh, here it is. The County Unit Health bill, ladies. House File 150. We've already had an explanation of this bill. Are there any members of the committee who would like to express an opinion today?

RURALITE:

Wal, now, I don't know. I'm just thinking out loud, but seems to me we've been getting along all right. Down our way, the state health department helps us when we need it bad. Does that around the state, too. Has six branches. We've got enough inspectors as it is.

COMMITTEE
WOMAN

(quite irate):

In my opinion and I've talked to a lot of authorities, this is a badly needed bill. Do you realize (staring at former speaker) that nearly 2 million people in Minnesota have no adequate public health service? All the leading authorities say that the answer to rural health problems is a local health department for every 50,000 persons. That means we should have approximately 24 health departments in this state.

RURALITE:

Sounds kinda expensive to me. We farmers around my territory are the longest living people you ever saw. Don't seem to me we have such a big problem... not enough to raise our taxes... maybe three times as much? That's just the trouble here. Nobody has any idea what it's going to cost the people to have this kind of fancy service.

COMMITTEE
WOMAN:

Fancy service! What about epidemics... can your people spot them coming? Ever had families with tuberculosis in your locality? Some of them too far gone before anybody knew it. People have to be educated to know symptoms. The public health service will do it thoroughly.

RURALITE:

Wal, we've been managing all right so far... We've got help from the state when we really need it.

IRATE ONE:

Let's look at some facts we ought to face up to. The greatest public health lag is found in rural areas, as shown by Selective Service records. For the nation as a whole, 25% of 18 and 19 year olds were unfit, But... 41% of all farm youths in this age group were rejected because they were unfit.

RURALITE:

Yes, but I don't know. I don't see that we need any more inspectors than we've got, now. They're duplicating each other's work, already. It certainly doesn't give us any more Doctors, either. Doctors! This bill is aimed at helping the rural people prevent disease and accident.. it's not a cure proposition, but a preventive one. They need county health boards that will give them the same kind of service the cities get from their health boards. If we're going to raise health standards in this state, the rural people have to have on-the-spot programs to show them how to avoid accidents, how to save more lives of mothers and babies, how to protect themselves against common diseases like diptheria..

FARMER:

If I may say so, I think my colleague here has a few points. Now don't misunderstand me. This is a fine bill... it's a step in the right direction, but it may strike the folks back home as pretty expensive. First thing we know they'll be asking us for an appropriation. We gotta consider that possibility in the future.

RURALITE:

That's right. Folks down my way are a pretty rugged lot. Arn't going to like the looks of things if they don't know how much it's going to cost them. I've been thinking about this. Seems to me this bill ought to give a financial boost to the communities that want to go in for health units. Or put a ceiling on what ought to be spent for this kind of thing. Just isn't sensible not to know what you're aiming for ...

IRATE ONE:

Well, the facts I've gathered show that rural people spend around 50 cents per capita for public health assistance now. If they use this bill, it would probably cost them around \$1.50. But they'd be getting something.

FARMER:

Probably seems strange for a farmer like me to be talking a little against something to benefit my own people. I just like to think out all sides. Got to remember, too, this is just permissive legislation. People don't have to set up the county units if they don't want to. But I don't know. . . I think we ought to give them the privilege of doing it . . . Maybe keep a lot of kids from getting sick all the time.

OTHER
COMMITTEE
WOMAN:

Ladies, ladies, may I add to that statement. This bill is a step in the right direction. Minnesota is the only state in the upper midwest without a law permitting full time local health departments. 41 states in the union have now modernized their provisions for health protection of rural citizens.

CHAIRMAN:

Perhaps this is the time to hear from others on the subject of this bill. Anyone in this room who wishes to speak either for or against this bill, please do so now.

Remarks from the floor

RURALITE:

In view of probable future difficulties with this bill... possible appropriations and a raise in taxes, I wish to move to return this bill to its authors for further working over.

Babble of voices...rumbles of anger etc., etc.

CHAIRMAN:

Is there a second?

No answer

CHAIRMAN:

Any further remarks?

STATE ONE:

Well, I move the Committee recommend this bill, House File 150, to the House for passage.

CHAIRMAN:

Second?

SOMEONE:

Second.

CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded to send House File 150 back to the House, recommended for passage. May I hear the ayes?

(5 ayes are heard)

CHAIRMAN: The noes.

(one is heard)

CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried. If there is no further business today - our time is up - will someone move for adjournment?

(Motion for adjournment)

Committee files out.

BARBARA: In having persons speak from the floor at this committee hearing, we have combined in one meeting what generally takes place in several meetings of a Committee. Now the bill is back in the House, committee recommended, which as I said before, is very favorable. It is ready for its second reading which is a routine and hurried reading of a list of bills that are out of committee. The bill is now printed and each legislator is given a copy. It has been placed on General Orders which is the order of business under which bills are taken up, based on their appearance out of committee. But what if the bill is way down on the list, and interested persons are anxious to get it a hearing on the floor?

SPEAKER: A Special Order for the bill may be secured. Any member may, 48 hours in advance, designate the House file number and title of a certain bill and specify the day and time upon which the motion for Special Order is to be made.

(Speaker now asks audience which we pretend is the House for a motion to place House File 150 on Special Orders for March 12th, 2:30. Speaker calls for ayes. All those in favor - aye. Must have two-thirds vote. Barbara tells audience to say "yes".

BARBARA: Now, you've assured consideration of the bill, and all interested persons can be there at the proper time...the time the bill will be discussed. All right, 48 hours have elapsed.

SPEAKER: Raps gavel. We have a Special Order scheduled for this time. House File 150, County Health Unit bill...

BARBARA: Now, when a bill comes before the House for consideration, the House, by a vote, turns itself into what is called a Committee of the Whole. This is done to allow for unlimited debate and discussion, and it's done so that the rules of the House don't have to apply. When the House becomes the Committee of the Whole, the Speaker or the President of the Senate, ^{as the case may be,} always calls for someone else to preside in his place.

MARY LOU: I would now like to call on the lady from Storm Center County to take over the chair.

(Hope steps up to preside)

BARBARA: This is the time the sponsors of the bill speak out in favor of the bill. Others may speak against it. If there do not seem to be enough people favoring the bill, or friends of the measure are not present, the sponsors call for "progress" which means putting off discussion for another day, to give the sponsors time to promote the bill favorably. Today, however, it looks as though an overwhelming majority from the floor are in favor of the County Health Unit bill.

HOPE RAPS

AND SAYS: The Chair recognizes the lady from Enid County.

LADY FROM ENID COUNTY: You are all now acquainted with the provisions of House File 150, County Unit Health bill. I now move we recommend House File 150 to the House for passage.

CHORUS OF AYES

BARBARA:

Thus the Committee of the Whole closes its discussion, and resumes its character as the House where it hears that this bill has been recommended for passage. Now here, the House can suspend the rules by a two-thirds vote in order to vote on the bill at once. Or it can go on the Calendar for Third reading and final vote. The final vote is always taken by the recording of the individual ayes and nays.

(Laughs and says:)

For brevity's sake, we'll say that our County Health Unit bill has now been voted on by the House and was passed. Does anyone know what happens next?

(Someone in the audience may answer that it goes to the other house. Barbara will pick up from the answers what remains to be explained.... the substitution of bills, a Conference Committee, Engrossing, and the Governor's signature. All briefly.)

MARY:

We want to thank everyone for listening so graciously to our presentation, this afternoon. We hope it was a step in the right direction to clarify the proceedings in the legislature which we have found to be rather complicated, but thoroughly necessary to the protection of everyone's interests and needs in our state. Thank you.

SPEAKER OF HOUSE: House File 150. County-Unit Health Bill.
(Continues)

(Reading)

Any county or two or more adjacent counties are hereby authorized and empowered, by resolution of the county board or boards to establish and maintain a health department. The term "health department" is defined as a health department organized and supported by one or more counties and employing qualified medical, nursing, and other personnel under the direction of a full-time qualified public health officer.

(Insert on page 7 under "Remarks from the floor.")

Madam Chairman: I am Mrs. _____ speaking for the Minnesota League of Women Voters in behalf of the H. F. 150.

(Committee members sigh, lean back in chairs - they know they're in for it.)
The League has been interested in health legislation for many years, and believes that modernization of the statutes governing local health units is long overdue. The pattern for the public health services that we have today was laid in territorial days when little or nothing was known of the science of preventive medicine and public health. Under the present statutes every township, village, county and city is permitted to set up a local health unit. There are 2714 such jurisdictions in Minnesota. As you can see, our public health system is practically at the same stage of development as our educational system was in the days of the one room school house. In the 1870's because of the difficulties of transportation, such small units were necessary. However, today with the speed of transportation, there is no reason for continuing these small units that are totally unable to support public health services that meet even minimum standards.

As has been stated, it is estimated that a population of approximately 50,000 people are necessary to support adequate public health services. About 24 local health departments are needed to adequately serve the health needs of Minnesotans living outside our three large cities.

This would cost more than we are paying for the inadequate services we now have. However, this would actually be a saving when we consider the great loss to the state today not only of wages and the like, but also in terms of human suffering and life itself due to preventable illness. One tuberculosis case alone costs the state about \$2500 a year for hospitalization. Many of these cases could be prevented with more adequate public health education, early diagnosis, and follow-up of contacts. Over 1650 persons could get adequate public health services for the \$2500 that it costs the state to hospitalize one T.B. case.

I should like to call your attention to the increase in undulant fever in Minnesota. In 1937 there were 87 cases. In 1947 - 378 cases. This can be prevented by laws or ordinances permitting only the sale of pasteurized milk. However, an ordinance is only as good as the enforcement behind it. And without a full-time health department there is no one to enforce it.

As an example of the inadequacy of our present public health units may I cite my own area in rural Hennepin. We definitely have a public health problem at Lake Minnetonka. Homes are being built in areas where septic tanks are not feasible because of the composition of the soil. Raw sewage in some instances is going directly into the lake. In 1941 there was an outbreak of typhoid fever from this source. Minnetonka is definitely one Public Health area. However, under our present system there are at least seven subdivisions that have jurisdiction over this area. Consequently it is almost impossible to get any concerted effort in working out this problem. If there were one health department with a sanitary engineer, much could be done to alleviate this health hazard.

These are but a few of the health problems facing Minnesota today. So for better health in Minnesota may we urge that this committee recommend passage of H. F. 150.

League of Women Voters
Legislative School Skit

(Insert on page 10 for final explanatory remarks)

Once the bill has been sent to the other house, it may be substituted if an identical bill is under consideration - this bill must be identical right down to the crossing of the T's and the dotting of the I's.

However, if the same bill passes both houses in different form, the differences must be resolved by a conference committee. The membership of this committee is appointed by the Speaker of the House and by the Committee on Committees in the Senate and consists of not less than 3 or more than 5 members from each house. If the conference report is accepted by both houses, the bill is passed; if either house rejects the report of the conference committee and fails to ask for a new conference committee, the bill dies.

After the bill has passed and has been signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, the next step is called engrossing - this process is the making of the final copies of the bills for the Governor's signature. This is an important process because if any mistakes are made, the bill can be rendered invalid or prevent the Governor from signing it.

The final copy of a bill goes to the Governor for his signature. He can do several things to the bill: first of all, of course, he can sign it and the bill duly becomes a law of the state of Minnesota. He can veto it and return it to the House in which it originated with his objections - the bill can subsequently become law if it is then passed by both the Senate and the House by a 2/3 vote. If the Governor does not sign a bill within 3 days or fails to return it to the house in which it originated, it becomes a law unless the legislature, by adjournment, prevents its return - this last procedure is known in legislative parlance as a pocket veto.

As the end of the session approaches, the congestion of bills increases, particularly in the House. Since no bill may be passed on the ninetieth day of the session, the day of adjournment, the custom is "to cover the clock" and prolong the eighty-ninth day, if there are bills still under consideration whose passage is urgent.

Women Voters to Prepare for Legislative Session

With the shouting and the tumult of Nov. 2 still ringing in their ears, members of the League of Women Voters are now readying themselves for the coming Minnesota legislative session.

They will attend a one-day legislative school Friday at the state office building, St. Paul.

Barbara Stuhler, new field secretary for the state league, will present suggestions for legislative lobbying and for correspondence with legislators.

Miss Stuhler came to Minneapolis from Evanston, Ill. She will speak at 10 a.m.

Also during the morning session, M. W. Halloran, political reporter for The Minneapolis Star, will speak on "Know Your State Legislature."

In the afternoon, Mrs. Abbott Washburn will present "To Pass or Not to Pass," a playlet on how a bill makes its way through the legislature.

The program will be concluded with a summary of prospective legislation for 1949 and a tour of the capitol.

Mrs. Hiram Livingston and Mrs. Raymond Kohl are chairmen of the school, which is open to the public.



LEGISLATIVE MOCKUP—League of Women voters rehearse a playlet on how to get a bill through the legislature. Mrs. John M. Palmer, standing, pleads for a public health services bill before the house health committee. Left to right, as legislative committee members (some bored, some interested) are Mrs. F. C. Malcolmsom, Mrs. Lincoln Thomas, Mrs. Stanley J. Werner and Hope Washburn, St. Paul.

SKIT SCHEDULED

Women Voters to Show How Bill Goes Through Legislature

By SALLY LUTHER

It has probably never been done before and it will probably never be done again but at the state office building in St. Paul on Friday at 1:30 p.m. a bill will be introduced, passed and signed by the governor all within a brief half hour.

The bill will call for full time public health services for all the people of Minnesota.

Its speedy disposal will occur during a skit by the Minnesota League of Women Voters showing how to get a bill through the state legislature.

With the 1949 legislative session looming, this is something that a lot of people would like to know, especially the League of Women Voters, which is setting its legislative sights for reorganization of state school districts, improvement of state aid to education, progress in the projected revision of the state constitution and extension of public health services in Minnesota.

The skit Friday will be geared to achievement of these goals.

"League members are going to be observing legislative committee meetings, buttonholing legislators and watching the progress of League-supported measures all during the 1949 session," Mrs. Abbott Washburn, author and director of the skit, said Monday.

"When eight major steps and a couple of dozen lesser steps are involved with every piece of legislation that is passed, citi-

zens should know what those steps are."

The major steps in bill-passing, according to the playlet, sums up to something like this:

● Preparation or drafting of the bill. This is usually done by lawyers attached to lay committees or representing the executive branch of the government or serving the house or senate.

● Introduction and first reading. The bill is introduced by a house member and gets its first reading from the speaker of the house who subsequently assigns it to a committee.

● Committee consideration. The committee studies the bill, perhaps assigns it to a subcommittee, holds public hearings on it.

● If the committee decides the bill is worthwhile, it returns it to the house with favorable commendation. (If committee members don't like the bill, they can dispose of it by pigeonholing it, returning it without favorable comment, or any other of about half a dozen methods).

● Back in the house, legislators hear the bill read a second time by the speaker. They debate it as the committee of the whole and if they approve it they "advance it to calendar." This is parliamentary procedure. (How

which means they will read it a third time and vote on it.

● Assuming a favorable vote, the next step involves getting the house bill and the senate bill to match up, which is usually done in combined house-senate committees.

● "Engrossing" is the next step. It is the final, final preparation of the bill.

● Next, the signature of the governor who can also, of course, veto it.

● The league skit emphasizes the fact there are dozens of ifs and buts in this summary explanation of how a bill gets to be a law. "But it gives our members a working basis for the 1949 session," Mrs. Washburn said.

The playlet will make up the afternoon session of an all-day legislative school open to all women who are interested. Mrs. Malcolm Hargrave, Rochester, Minn., will preside.

M. W. Halloran, political reporter for The Minneapolis Star and Sunday Tribune, and Barbara Stuhler, new field secretary for the state League, will speak during the morning session, which begins at 10 a.m. at the state office building, St. Paul.

League Women Learn Lobbying Techniques

The Minnesota League of Women Voters has written a poem about the state legislators who will meet in the capitol next January.

This is the way it goes:

"League women to the right of them; League women to the left of them; League women behind them: No wonder they went forward!"

The poem is delivered, tongue-in-cheek, by the vivacious new field secretary of the Minnesota League, Barbara Stuhler.

More straightfaced, she tells League women that the poem will probably come true if they adopt the proper lobbying techniques.

She outlined her ideas on what these are at a League-sponsored legislative school Friday in the state office building, St. Paul.

Some 200 women, many from outlying League units, attended the all-day session, which included a talk by M. W. Halloran, political writer for The Minneapolis Star and the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, and an analysis of the process of bill-passing.

Basic tenet of good lobbying, Miss Stuhler said, is to think before you talk. "Know why you support a measure and know why others oppose it. Know what interests are at stake. Only in this way can you speak to your legislator with authority and conviction."

Other musts for a smart woman out for better government are, according to Miss Stuhler:

- Keep it brief. "The 19th amendment gave us liberty, not license. Legislators are busy men; say what you have to say briefly."

- Try to understand what makes your legislator tick. "His vote is not a matter of black and white. He is influenced by many things besides his conscience, among them, his constituents, his chances of re-election, or, alas and alack, his chances of getting his picture in the paper."

- Develop your persuasiveness and "women's intuition."

- Polish up your letter writing techniques. Legislators don't put much stock in postcards or form letters, according to Miss Stuhler. They do read, and heed, intelligent, well-thought-out letters.

Something a legislator seldom gets is a letter of approbation and Miss Stuhler encouraged

League women to correct this omission.

She urged her listeners to write their legislators right now, presenting the 1949 state legislative program of the League.



NEW LEAGUE SECRETARY BARBARA STUHLER
Studies 'Ninety Days of Lawmaking'

Inflo. Trib. 12/10/48



MRS. J. R. McNAMARA, LEONARD A. JOHNSON, MRS. DAVID SHEARKE
Representative-elect Johnson was only newcomer at league's traditional "legislators luncheon"

Women Put Lawmakers 'on Spot'

By SALLY LUTHER

Protesting that "we don't want to put you on the spot," but nonetheless putting them squarely on it, the League of Women Voters took Hennepin county state legislators to lunch Thursday.

As soon as the tables were cleared, the women engaged their lawmakers in an intense two-hour session about league-supported legislation slated to come up at the capitol during the next three months.

Mrs. J. R. McNamara, Minneapolis League president, presided.

Representative Thomas N. Christie, member of the state constitutional revision commission, brought the league up to date on revision progress.

Because of the failure of amendments two and three on Nov. 2, revision will probably be held up two more years, Christie said. It is his hope that the 1949 legislature will pass a bill calling for a referendum in 1950 on whether or not a constitutional convention shall be called.

Expressing the league's view, Mrs. Lincoln Thomas urged the legislators to implement the report of the constitutional revision commission which is expected to be presented to the legislature. "This can be done by appointing a legislative committee to study the commission's recommendations," she said.

Speaking of another measure which has league support—the legislative research council—Mrs. Thomas said that the league has heard, "via the grapevine," of plans to curtail the council's activities.

"Although establishment of the council was accomplished last session, and although it

has been operating effectively since then, we in the league don't think we can relegate it to the list of "things achieved", she said.

Promising a distinctly watchdog attitude toward this "league baby," Mrs. Thomas asked for evaluations of the council from lunching legislators who had voted against it last session.

George Murk, H. P. Goodin and Carl G. Haglund jumped to their feet to agree that though they had voted against it, it was "just the way it was set up" that had troubled them. They all said they would withhold

judgment on the council's work until March, "when we know just what it has accomplished."

Disagreement came out in the open when the women brought up the matter of housing enabling legislation. Mrs. David Shearer outlined the league's position, listing several changes

which the league thinks should be made in the 1947 enabling act, all designed to make it easier to take advantage of federal grants-in-aid.

But legislator Vernon S. Welch, who voted against the 1947 act, declared that he had experienced "no change" in his attitude.

State aid to education got a thorough examination from Senator Gerald T. Mullin, who told the league that he is doubtful about how far the state can go in giving aid to schools.

"Originally we gave state aid to schools in distressed communities. But recently we have gone far beyond that. In some cases the state is actually relieving localities from their prime responsibility of maintaining their own schools. Now we're called on to vote more money for schools in outlying districts while our own local schools suffer."

Mrs. T. O. Everson reported that if the league supports the schools district reorganization bill but has taken no stand as yet on the proposed state aid to education bill.

Civil service, another "baby" of the league, was discussed by Senator Daniel S. Feldt, who gave special attention to the matter of veterans preference. The league recommended several modifications of present preference policy, all aimed at making the "best man for the job" eligible for promotions.

C O P Y - Letter sent to members of the Minnesota Legislature

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

December 23, 1948

Dear Sir:

As Legislative Chairman of the Minnesota League of Women Voters, I wish to take this opportunity to acquaint both newly elected and incumbent members of our State Legislature with our current League program and interests.

As you may know, our organization's chief concern is good government and our chief objective--active citizen participation in government. Although the interests and activities of our members, as individuals, may be many and varied, as an organization--because of its voluntary nature and limited woman power--the League tackles only a few projects at a time. These items are chosen by the members at Convention each year as those upon which they wish to concentrate their study and/or action during that year. Having chosen these, we work to inform ourselves more completely about them, to awaken public interest in them, and possibly, to support legislation concerning them.

At the last Legislative Session, the Minnesota League of Women Voters supported, as you may recall, legislation providing:

- A Legislative Research Council
- Permissive Legislation to enable Minnesota to participate in the Federal Public Housing Program
- Extension of Public Health Services
- A revised plan for distribution of State Aids to schools

We shall continue to take an interest in these phases of legislation, to study any proposed changes and to work for or against these changes according to what we consider their possible effect on the public good. In addition, because of our long support of Civil Service, we shall watch for any changes proposed in this field, especially in regard to veterans' preference, since we have read with great interest the report of the Legislative Research Council on this subject. As you will note, looking at the above list, the one item on it which failed of passage at the last Legislative Session was that concerned with the Extension of the Public Health Services. We are very anxious that some type of legislation be enacted at this session to improve our public health system in Minnesota.

The one item on our program for the current year is that of Constitutional Revision. All our members have studied the reports of the Constitutional Commission, which the Legislature set up at its last session and we feel that this body has done a very commendable job. While taking no stand on any of the recommendations at the present time, the League feels there is urgent need for constitutional revision in many fields and sincerely hopes that some action will be taken by the 1949 Legislature to facilitate some of these needed changes.

December 23, 1948

We have 45 local Leagues throughout the State. If there is one in your community, the members may contact you from time to time during the session to discuss with you some of the legislation in which we are interested. We also hope to have several representatives attending committee hearings and the regular sessions of the Senate and House.

We are enclosing two of our state publications which are received by all our members, which, though rather outdated now, will give you some idea of our interests in the legislative field and of how we try to follow through between legislative sessions.

We realize that the coming Legislative Session is going to be a very strenuous and difficult one, but we do hope that our representatives will be able to talk with you from time to time, if they feel the need, regarding some of these legislative problems.

With very best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and for a most successful coming Legislative Session.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Florence H. Livingston

Mrs. H. H. Livingston

Enclosed - 2 issues of Articulate Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

84 SOUTH TENTH STREET, ROOM 417

MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

Atlantic 0941

FILE COPY

January 31, 1949

Dear Sir:

The mysteries of Minnesota lawmaking are, of course, no mystery to you, but among your wide circle of friends there must be many who use you exclusively as their source of information concerning legislative procedures.

The Minnesota League of Women Voters thought you would like this pamphlet containing all the basic facts about the Legislature. Copies of "Ninety Days of Lawmaking" are available for your constituents and other interested persons at 25¢ each. These may be obtained by writing or coming to this office at 84 South Tenth Street, Minneapolis.

We know that this publication will help your friends to understand the problems you face in being an effective member of the Minnesota Legislature.

Sincerely,

E. Rebecca H. Livingston

Mrs. H. H. Livingston
Legislative Chairman

In

Enclosure



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

- *A realistic picture of how the Minnesota legislature is organized and how it functions as a lawmaking body*

NINETY DAYS OF LAWMAKING IN MINNESOTA

-

The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis



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Affiliated with the
National League
of Women Voters

ACTION

February 25, 1949

Dear President:

The State League has sent the following statement to the Chairmen of the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Committee on General Legislation. It will review for you the League stand on equal rights. Please communicate with your legislators and senator on our opposition to this resolution. The Minnesota League certainly does not want a request to come from its Legislature to Congress for an amendment which it considers fundamentally bad.

"The League of Women Voters of Minnesota opposes the resolution to have the State Legislature ask Congress for an equal rights amendment. We do not believe that a single inclusive amendment can cope with so complicated a problem and such diversity of laws. We prefer to work at discrimination by single issues. Legal discriminations are found chiefly in laws concerning marriage and property and these are for the most part state laws and should be removed state by state.

"The League of Women Voters is interested in a constructive approach to the entire problem of opportunity for women and for this reason helped formulate and actively supported the Bill on the Status of Women, which was introduced into the last Congress. It is the purpose of this bill to:

"1. Declare it to be a policy of the United States not to make discriminations in law and its administration based on sex, except when justified 'by differences in physical structure, biological or social function.'

"2. Require, so far as existing legislation permits, federal agencies to conform their practice to this policy.

"3. Establish a Commission on the Status of Women, composed of nine members appointed by the President. This Commission would study and review the economic, civil, political and social status of women and the extent of discrimination based on sex. It would recommend legislation necessary to bring the laws and government practices of the United States into conformity with the declared policy.

"4. Urge the states to declare a similar policy, to review their law and practices and bring them into conformity with the policy.

"The League is one of forty women's organizations which supports this fact-finding method of improving opportunities for women."

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President.

Mpls Tribune 2/27/49

Women's Unit Fights Equality Amendment

Opposition to a resolution in the state legislature asking congress for a constitutional amendment to provide equal rights for women came Saturday from the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

A single amendment cannot solve the complicated legal problems, different in many states, concerning women's rights, Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves, Rochester, state league president, said.

Mrs. Hargraves sent a statement of the league's position on equal rights to the chairman of the house judiciary committee and the senate general legislation committee.

PREFER TO TACKLE ISSUES

The statement read:

"The League of Women Voters of Minnesota opposes the resolution to have the state legislature ask congress for an equal rights amendment. We do not believe that a single inclusive amendment can cope with so complicated a problem and such diversity of laws. We prefer to work at discrimination by single issues.

"Legal discriminations are found chiefly in laws concerning marriage and property and they are for the most part state laws and should be removed state by state.

"The League of Women Voters is interested in a constructive approach to the entire problem of opportunity for women and for this reason helped formulate and actively supported the bill on the status of women, which was introduced into the last congress. It is the purpose of this bill to:

"1. Declare it to be a policy of the United States not to make discriminations in law and its administration based on sex, except when justified by differences in physical structure, biological or social function."

ASK SPECIAL BOARD

"2. Require, so far as existing legislation permits, federal agencies to conform their practice to this policy.

"3. Establish a commission on the status of women, composed of nine members appointed by the president. This commission would study and review the economic, civil, political and social status of women and the extent of discrimination based on sex. It would recommend legislation necessary to bring the laws and government practices of the United States into conformity with declared policy.

"4. Urge the states to declare a similar policy, to review their law and practices and bring them into conformity with the policy.

"The league is one of 40 women's organizations which supports this fact-finding method of improving opportunities for women."

H. F. No. 905, A concurrent resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, endorsing equal rights for women.

4/18/49
Friday

Was read the third time and placed upon its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill,

And the roll being called, there were yeas 81, and nays 1, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Anderson, H.R. Erkel	Johnson, A.L.	Oberg	Schenck
Anderson, V. F. Felt	Karas	O'Brien	Schwank
Bergerud	Frederickson	Knutson	Olson
Biernat	French	Koaloske	O'Malley
Blomquist	Gesell	Lefk	Omtvedt
Bondhus	Gibbons	Letnes	Otto
Burroughs	Gillen	Lundeen	Peterson, O.
Burtness	Goodin	Lux	Peterson, P.K.
Christie	Halverson	Madden	Podgorski
Cina	Hegstrom	Matchan	Reed
Crowwell	Herzog	Mattson	Richardson
D'Aquila	Hill	Milla	Riedner
Dickinson	Holm	Morberg	Rinke
Dirlam	Holmquist	Mosier	Root
Dixon	Holtan	Murk	Rundquist
Dominick	Ilale	Nelson	Rutter
Enestvedt	Ilstrup	Norman	Ryti

Mr. Tucker voted in the negative.

So the bill was passed and its title agreed to.

H. F. No. 905 was read the second time.

H. F. No. 905: A concurrent resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, endorsing equal rights for women.

Was read the third time and placed on its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill,

And the roll being called, there were yeas 48, and nays 1, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Almen	Davis	Larson	Nelsen	Spokely
Baughman	Dennison	Lauerman	Neumeier	Sullivan
Burdick	Dernek	Ledin	O'Brien	Vukelich
Bushnell	Dougherty	Lightner	Pedersen	Wahlstrand
Butler	Feidt	Lofvegren	Peterson, E.	Wefald
Carey	Grottum	Masek	Peterson, E. L.	Welch
Carley	Hagen	Mayhood	Rogers	Welle
Carr	Imm	Mitchell	Siegel	Wuertz
Dahle	Johnson, J. A.	Mullin	Simonsen	
Dahlquist	Julkowski	Myre	Sletvold	

Mr. Novak voted in the negative.

So the bill passed and its title was agreed to.

FILE COPY

March 7, 1949

Representative Claude M. Allen
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
House Chambers
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota wishes, at this time, to go on record in support of H. F. 203 which provides for the creation of a library survey committee and the appropriation of funds therefor.

The realization that almost a million people in the state do not have access to library service and another million have access to a very limited and inadequate service causes the League to support such measures as will remedy this situation.

The League of Women Voters believes that a survey of this type would be the most effective way to ascertain present library facilities. It is to be expected that this survey would result in the making of certain recommendations which, if acted upon, would make library service available to the people throughout the state of Minnesota.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. H. H. Livingston
Legislative Chairman

1a

THE ARTICULATE VOTER

Vol. 27 November-December, 1948 No. 3

"The power to tax is the one great power upon which the whole national fabric is based. It is as necessary to the existence of a nation as is the air he breathes to the natural man. It is not only the power to destroy but also the power to keep alive."

—U. S. Supreme Court, 1899



Affiliated with the

League of Women Voters of the United States

The Legislative Wheels Start Turning

At the State Board meeting on January 20, a review was made of what action to date had been taken by the State Legislature on League Program items and of what action appeared probable, in light of information available. Since the League does not officially support or take action against legislation until it is introduced in bill form, the purpose of this review was to get the consensus of the Board on what the League stand would probably be if and when the various anticipated developments occurred.

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In the list below, the starred items indicate probable League support, those preceded by question marks indicate a feeling of need for further information and study before action can be recommended by the Board, and those preceded by exclamation points indicate disapproval.

Constitutional Revision:

** We have been told that duplicate bills calling for a vote of the people on the holding of a Constitutional Convention will be presented in the House and Senate.

?? A bill providing for the reapportionment of Legislative Districts has been introduced. At first glance, it appears rather ineffectual.

Legislative Research Council:

!! There have been some newspaper reports that a bill may be introduced to kill the Legislative Research Council. Although this may not occur, we should be on the lookout for this or for weakening measures through lack of appropriations.

Civil Service

!! Already a bill has been introduced giving absolute preference to veterans in the State Civil Service System. This would mean that any veteran getting a grade of 70 (even by using his 5 or 10 points of preference) would be given a job over a non-veteran getting 100. Since this would seriously undermine our merit system, the Board voted to oppose any legislation giving absolute preference to veterans.

** It is expected that bills will be introduced which will modify, but not eliminate, the present veterans' preference law, including such provisions as requiring a passing grade of 70 before preference points can be added, setting a time limit for this preference, and making it apply to entrance examinations only, not promotional examinations.

Education:

** It is expected that various amendments will be offered to the Reorganization Bill passed by the 1947 Legislature. These will consist largely of extending the time limits for the various required steps, in giving counties a second opportunity to vote on whether or not they should have a survey, and in ironing out some of the technical difficulties discovered through practical experience under the bill since its passage.

?? The Department of Education has indicated that

it will ask for legislation increasing the Basic Aid from \$50 to \$70 per pupil in A.D.A., together with some other changes. The Board felt the need for further study on this.

Housing:

?? Experience with the Housing Law enacted in 1947 has indicated the desirability of several modifications, and no doubt amendments covering some of these will be offered. One for which the Board felt it could indicate likely support at this time was the elimination of the requirement for a referendum on low cost housing, since this is in line with its policy during the last session. Further information will be supplied on these amendments as it becomes available.

Public Health:

** One bill, providing for county and multi-county public health units, patterned after the one defeated in the House at the last session, will be introduced. This is *not mandatory* legislation. The chief difference over the old is that although it still requires that Health Units be under the supervision of a full-time, experienced public health physician, the detailed requirements regarding his staff are omitted, thus making the system more flexible.

** (?) Another bill considered likely to be introduced would provide that each county *must* have a public health board and a health officer (a physician, but not necessarily full-time) and that all existing public health work being carried out by other units of local government be transferred to this board. This is *mandatory* legislation. Only cities having full-time public health set-ups would be exempt from the unification plan.

* * *

The Board felt that both of these bills would provide an improvement. It deferred decision as to whether the League should concentrate its support on one or the other or should support both.

Any expression of opinion by individual League members or by groups on legislation pertaining to our State Program as it develops in the Legislature will be welcomed by the Board in order that it can properly express League opinion as the session progresses.

[8]

[9]

MAR 07 1949

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Much legislation of interest to the League has been introduced and is now in the committee stage in the Legislature. In view of this fact, this summary has been prepared as a guide to the present status of items on the current agenda and the platform of the League program. The next issue of "The Articulate Voter" will contain later and more detailed information, so watch for it!

CIVIL SERVICE: Two bills have been introduced concerned with veterans preference. One is a bill introduced at the request of the American Legion providing for absolute veterans preference. The second bill modifies the present law to the extent that, 1. a veteran must attain a passing grade before he can be put on the eligible list and, 2. he will be put on the list according to his augmented score. This means that a veteran must first score a passing grade of 70 and after the addition of his credit points (5 - veteran; 10 - disabled veteran) he will then be placed on the list ahead of those persons having the same score as his increased grade. A sub-committee of the Civil Administration Committee is now holding hearings on these bills, and the League has gone on record in opposition to the American Legion bill and in favor of the modified bill although it is not as comprehensive as was hoped. It is possible that other bills covering the political sub-divisions of the state where, in effect, absolute preference now exists will be forthcoming.

<u>H.F. 56</u> S.F. 208	Absolute Veterans Preference (American Legion bill)	Clark, Vostad, Illsey, Carr
H.F. 742	Modified Veterans Preference	Flom, Anderson, H.R., Hegstrom

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION: Bills to call a Constitutional Convention have been introduced and sent to the Judiciary Committee in the Senate and the General Legislation Committee in the House. The bill requires a vote of the people at the general election in 1950 on the proposition whether or not there shall be a Constitutional Convention. An affirmative vote by a majority of all those voting at the election is needed for passage. The revised Constitution would eventually be submitted to the people for approval or rejection. This measure will receive the active endorsement of the League.

<u>S.F. 659</u> H.F. 810	Convention to Revise Constitution	Mullin, Rosenmeier, Christie, Rundquist, Sheran, Holmquist, Herseth, Lundeen
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HOUSING: Amendments to the Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act of 1947 have been introduced as bills in both the House and Senate and have been referred to the Welfare Committees where hearings have begun. These several amendments are directed to meet changing conditions of federal legislation and to clarify the act where provisions seem inadequate as the result of two years' experience. The requirement of a referendum every time 1,000 units of low rent public housing are to be built was a major compromise inserted into the 1947 act to assure its passage. The 1949 changes do not remove this requirement except where the project is completely self-sustaining with federal financial assistance. If federal assistance is made conditional upon a local grant or loan on any matching basis, the referendum is maintained. The League approves of the proposed amendments; however, it will take no stand on the provision transferring

the management of temporary housing projects to the local housing authority in the region in which such projects are located since this is a matter for local decision.

S.F. 424
H.F. 576

Amendments to the 1947 Law

Mullin, Novak, Wright
D'Aquila, Wegner, Gillen
Langley, Ilstrup

PUBLIC HEALTH: Hearings have begun in the Public Health Committees of the House and Senate on permissive legislation setting up county or multiple county health departments. This measure is similar to that supported by the League in 1947 but which was killed in the House Appropriations Committee. The only significant change is that, except for the doctor and nurse, the personnel of the health department is not defined. There is talk to the effect that another bill will be introduced providing that a health department shall be set up in a county or counties. Conferences are being held to formulate this legislation and it will probably be introduced soon. The League will not take a stand on this approach until the content of the bill is analysed; however, the League is supporting the permissive legislation.

S.F. 352
H.F. 628

Multiple County Health Departments

Vahlstrand, Wright, Grotum
Ilstrup, Peterson, P.H.,
Madden, Holmquist

SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION: Bills amending the 1947 School Survey Law have been introduced in the Legislature by the House and Senate Education Committee Chairmen. This legislation is designed to strengthen the existing law by allowing for a greater period of time between the various steps in the procedure and by clarifying and standardizing voting procedures. Opposition to these bills have come forth from the "Friends of the Rural Schools" who are being permitted to prepare their own amendments for consideration by the Education Committees this week. It is possible that certain changes in the bills as they now stand will be made, but the bills will probably be favorably reported out of committee. The principle of school district reorganization is endorsed by the League.

H.F. 371
S.F. 675

Amend 1947 Survey Law

Herseth
Almen

STATE AID TO SCHOOLS: An increase in the amount of basic aid to schools from \$50 to \$70 has been proposed in bills now up for consideration before both the House and Senate Education Committees. The League has gone on record in support of this measure (See Call for Action, Feb. 10, 1949). It is realized, of course, that economical as well as adequate education cannot really come about until equalization of assessment and reorganization of school districts are effected. However, the League believes that to delay until such a time would be detrimental to the best interests of education in Minnesota in view of the increase of costs in the operation of schools. This legislation might encounter difficulties because of the expression by majority leaders that they will not support any increases in appropriations above those passed in 1947 and proposals to use state income tax revenues dedicated to education for other purposes. The bills will, however, probably receive a favorable report from the committee.

HF. 700

State Aid for Schools

Herseth for the Committee
on Education

Democracy In Action

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ WOMEN VOTERS LOBBY FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

By Sally Forth

WELL INFORMED citizens make good voters and good voters make better government.

This is the credo of more than 475 St. Paul women, 3,300 in Minnesota and 83,000 from other parts of the country.

These women are members of a vast army functioning under the name of the League of Women Voters.

In Minnesota "lobbying" on Capitol Hill for what they believe is right has become the statewide activity of this group.

Members believe they have a responsibility beyond getting out the vote and this responsibility finds leaguers attending hearings, meeting legislators, and presenting the issues for which the league stands to members of the House and Senate.

Nationally known as a "workshop for democracy," the league operates on all levels of government. With the

1949 legislative session at its height, Minnesota league members have become familiar faces in the marble halls of the statehouse.

Legislation on housing, rent control, revision of the state constitution, redistricting of schools, state aid to education, larger public health units, the Legislative Research Council, and improving civil service are the current items on the league's state agenda—issues for which the league stands and works to make a reality.

Because of their positive position on these measures, the League of Women Voters finds that lobbying in the public interest is a time-consuming job that demands patience and understanding.

The first-hand information gained by league members as they follow bills from committee hearings to the floor of House and Senate is evidence that democracy in action is fascinating.

With Minnesota celebrating its Centennial year, the St. Paul league as its contribution to the anniversary has published an "overcoat pocket" edition entitled "You Are The Government." Designed by a St. Paul artist, authored by St. Paul league members, and checked by local and state authorities, this handbook, just off the press, will prove helpful toward a better understanding of the workings of democracy.

It is the hope of the St. Paul league that the handbook will recreate interest throughout the state in better government—and that lobbying for better government will become a state-wide activity for all citizens.



Reasons at their finger-tips, Mrs. Richard Heid, Mrs. Arnold Aslakson and Mrs. Dorothy G. Reed (left to right), all of Mound, Minn., explain why they believe the state constitution needs revision. Rep. George R. (Doc) Matchan, left, and Sen. Archie H. Miller of Hennepin county are the audience.



Time out for coffee before attending an education hearing on increased state aid finds (left to right) Mrs. Harold Field, Mrs. Donald Bagley and Mrs. Paul R. Speer, all of St. Paul, getting service at the legislative lunch-counter from Ben Neff of Minneapolis.

RIGHT →

Called in for consultation, Sen. Gerald T. Mullin of Hennepin county confers with three Minneapolis league members, from left, Mrs. Robert M. Rice, Mrs. R. K. Stenrud and Mrs. Abbott Washburn.

Minnesota women are prohibited from voting except in school elections, says the state's 91-year-old constitution. Pointing to the clause in print, Mrs. Josephine W. Smith, state law librarian, has interested witnesses in Mrs. Fallon Kelly of South St. Paul (on ladder) and Mrs. John Kulzitski, also of South St. Paul.

RIGHT →

Royal approval is given the league centennial handbook "You Are The Government" by Centennial Queen Mary Durey of Springfield as Mrs. Willard W. Bixby of St. Paul, handbook committee chairman, and Mrs. Stephen A. Osborn, also of St. Paul, editor, display their pamphlet.



THE ARTICULATE VOTER

Vol. 27 January-February, 1949 No. 4

"The quality of a legislature, the integrity and capacity of its members, the efficiency of the methods by which it passes laws and supervises the conduct of the executive, must continue to be of significance to a nation's welfare."

—James Bryce



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the United States

Your Eyes, Ears, and Voice at the Legislature CIVIL SERVICE

Fortunately, Mrs. Hiram Livingston, our Legislative Chairman, who is temporarily confined to her bed, has a telephone at her bedside. This proved to be very convenient in her attempt to rally support for House File 742, calling for modification of Veterans' Preference in our State Civil Service set-up. Although the sub-committee of the Civil Administration Committee which had worked over this bill had emaculated it by rejecting all of its original provisions except that which would remove the application of veterans' preference from promotional examinations, the League still supported it because of this one provision. (Originally the bill also would have required a passing grade before application of the preference and would have made the preference for disabled veterans 10 points rather than an absolute preference as now). Barbara Stuhler, our Organization Secretary, and Mrs. T. O. Everson, who have kept hawk-like watch on civil service legislation, attending early morning and late evening committee hearings, were present when the revised bill was voted on by the entire committee. Result: 7 to 7, several members not being present and some present not voting. This was reported in a letter to the Minneapolis Star, which many of you may have read, and to Mrs. Livingston. By using her bedside telephone, she contacted league members in the legislative district of the committee members. By the time this VOTER reaches you, there may have been another vote on H. F. 742. It will be interesting to note whether her call for action will produce any change in the vote. One thing we do know from comments we have heard, is that many of these committee members have become increasingly aware that there are League members living in their districts and that these women, as well as their husbands and friends, are much interested in Civil Service.

HOUSING

Mrs. Abbott Washburn and Mrs. R. M. Rice have the following to report on Housing legislation:

House File 576, a bill to amend the Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act of 1947, has been

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wending its way, tortoise-like, through a series of Welfare sub-committee hearings the past couple of weeks. The bill's major amendment in the eyes of its proponents is the removal of the referendum requirement on low-rent public housing where a project would be completely self-sustaining with federal financial assistance.

A sub-committee of the House Welfare committee has recommended unanimously removing the referendum requirement and otherwise clarifying the existing Minnesota law. The Senate Welfare committee has referred its duplicate bill, Senate File 424, to a sub-committee for study, and the League representatives will be giving Senate committee members the League stand and determining their reactions during the next two weeks.

As you may recall in 1947, the Housing bill came up first in the Senate Welfare committee, headed by Senator Donald O. Wright of Hennepin County, where the major "fight" to compromise the bill and insert the referendum requirement was made. There is no reason to doubt that similar strenuous efforts will be made again this year to retain that clause, when hearings are held in the Senate committee. House Welfare committee members have already heard the voices of opposition to the 1949 amendment, most prominently, the Minneapolis Taxpayer's Association, the St. Paul Home Builders Association, and other private real estate interests.

As we all know, there have been no Federal Funds available for Housing since the early 1940's with the result that Minnesota, since its permissive Act of 1947, has been unable to do anything on the low-rent housing front. Now that things look bright for a Federal Housing appropriation in your 81st Congress (Federal Housing was called for in both Republican and Democratic platforms), the League feels as do many others concerned with the housing shortage and its attendant miseries, that Minnesota should not be compromised so as to cause any delay in the use of these Federal Funds when they become available. Hence, the League stand that the referendum requirement should be removed where a low-rent housing project is federally financed. Where local funds are required, the amendment retains the referendum requirement.

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CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

This is the one piece of legislation on which all members will receive or have already received an individual Call for Action. Your Editor has been watching this legislation and has spoken for the League before the Judiciary Committees of both the House and Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee has recommended the bill out for passage. The House Judiciary Committee has had one hearing, but held the bill over for final vote until a representative of the railroads who had requested permission to speak against the bill and was ill could be heard (the rate of gross earnings tax on railroads is a part of the Constitution). We feel quite certain that the action of this committee, too, will be favorable. However, the relatively easy sledding for these bills in committee does not presage equal ease of passage on the Senate and House Floors. There, a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote will be needed, and from what we have gathered, there will be considerable pressure brought to bear by special interest groups and by members who favor the *status quo* to defeat this legislation. For members who have not written to their legislators before, this is an ideal time to gain that experience; the bill is relatively non-controversial so far as the general public is concerned, as it simply puts the calling of a Constitutional Convention up to a vote of the people. It would be most interesting to see what effect a concerted effort by all our members could have on the outcome of this legislation. Let's each one do her part!

PUBLIC HEALTH

Mrs. Elmer Rusten of Wayzata reports very favorably on the bills permitting the setting up of county or multiple county health units. S.F. 532 has already passed the Senate. H.F. 628 is being considered in the Public Health Committee of the House. Representative Ottinger, Chairman of this Committee, has indicated that with a few amendments he will support this bill. It appears, therefore, very hopeful that by the end of this legislative session we will have some legislation on this item, which, if not perfect, will be a big step in the right direction.

EDUCATION

Mrs. T. P. Regan, who has been following Education legislation, reports that after long weeks of dis-

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cussion, the amendments to the 1947 Reorganization Act have been sent to the Senate floor with the approval of the Education Committee. The amendments will extend the law until 1953, giving counties more time to survey their districts and also allowing them to reconsider, if the plan had been rejected. A state commission is also provided for appeal, should citizens object to the recommendations of the survey committee. A sub-committee on education in the House is also working on similar amendments to the Reorganization Act.

No action has been taken as yet on increased State Aids for Schools. There seems to be a strong feeling of the need for some means of equalizing assessments and of a requirement for a minimum local tax effort for school support before this increase in school aids is voted. Committees are studying and discussing several different proposals at this date. It is likely that bills providing for some increased aids will be passed before the Legislature adjourns.

ADJOURNS WITHIN HOUR OF DEADLINE

**Passes 724 Laws;
Youngdahl Signs
Last Bill at 11:59**

**SENATE Votes Cigarette Tax
Hike—Page 15**

By WALLACE MITCHELL
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer
Minnesota's 56th legislature
— longest in history — ended
shortly before midnight Mon-
day.

Adjournment came less than
an hour before the constitutional
deadline for the signing of bills
by Gov. Luther W. Youngdahl as
the fifth overtime day drew to a
close.

The governor signed the last bill
at 11:59 p.m.

The prolonged session left a
record of a balanced budget, a
cash bonus for war veterans and
funds for a precedent-setting
program for the state's mentally
ill.

A total of 724 new laws out of
1,839 introduced in the house and
1,665 in the senate was enacted.

To balance record expenditures
against income, legislators levied
an additional one-cent cigarette tax
to raise \$3,000,000 yearly; diverted
a like annual amount from the in-
come tax school fund to the gen-
eral revenue fund, and trimmed
state operating budgets.

PROPERTY LEVY HIRED

In addition, the state's property
levy, now 6.77 mills, was set at
8.69 for 1950 and 8.52 for 1951 in
the last bill to be passed by the
house and sent to the governor via
the senate.

These programs were in addition
to earlier taxes voted to finance
the bonus, increase gasoline taxes,
etc.

The senate adjourned sine
die at 11:01 p.m. and the house
14 minutes later, to complete
the longest "overtime" sessions
in legislative history.

The session closed in a final out-
break of resentment in the house
of representatives against the
record-breaking expenditures and
the means selected by the con-
servative leadership for meeting
them.

RESENTMENT SHOWN

Liberals and "twilight zone" con-
servatives registered their objec-
tions in the 67-57 vote approving
the mill levy. Debate on the \$17-
000,000 appropriation for new
buildings took up more than an
hour of the time that remained
for senate concurrence and the
signature of Youngdahl before
midnight.

Rep. Otto Clark, Osakis liberal,
attacked the measure as a "politi-

cal pork barrel" and asked that it
be turned back for further confer-
ence committee study.

He opposed the compromise
made to the stubborn senate in-
sistence that the measure con-
tain designation of Brainerd as
the site for a proposed hospital
for the feeble-minded.

Even Rep. Claude Allen, appro-
priations committee chairman,
and Majority Leader Roy E. Dunn
declared in floor speeches that the
bill was "distasteful" to them but
that it should be passed.

Rep. Lawrence F. Haeg, Rob-
binsdale, admitted that house con-
cessions to the senate on the site
were against his personal desires
that no designation be made.

CHILDREN OUTSPOKEN

"But it would jeopardize the en-
tire building program to hold out
any further for compromise,"
Haeg said.

Minority Leader E. J. Chilgren
said merely "this bill stinks."

It passed, however.

A heavy 54-23 vote gave it final
passage after the house first voted
66-41 against Clark's motion to re-
ject the report, and then voted ac-
ceptance of the conference com-
mittee report, 69-35, on tallies
chiefly significant for their reflec-
tion of house sentiment. The sen-
ate had passed it 51 to 0.

The house-senate deadlock
earlier in the day had threat-
ened a disagreement that posed
the possibility of a special ses-
sion.

No bill could be signed into law
after midnight, and the building
bill included construction projects
needed at the University of Min-
nesota, the state teachers colleges
and the mental hospitals.

Specifically, house members of
the conference committee, striv-
ing to reach a compromise on the
over-all bill, objected to a \$25,000
appropriation for purchase of a
site at Brainerd for the proposed
hospital for the feeble-minded.

Senate conferees were
adamant. They yielded late
Sunday, but when the confer-
ence committee met again yester-
day to review their complet-
ed version of the bill, the \$25,000
item was found to have been
inserted.

Sen. William Dahlquist, Thief
River Falls, said it had been in-
serted with the approval of Rep.
Fred Schwanke of Deerwood,
which also is in Crow Wing
county. House conferees de-
nounced the action.

Differences threatened to force
abandonment of the entire build-
ing program. The governor would
have been required to call legis-

lators back into session if the
building bill was not signed by
midnight.

GO TO GOVERNOR

At 5 p.m., the committee of
house and senate leaders took the
problem to Gov. Luther W. Young-
dahl. Within 30 minutes, they
left his office.

The bill was compromised to
eliminate the grant to purchase
the site but with a provision desig-
nating Brainerd as the site when
funds are available for the insti-
tutions.

The session dragged past its
Wednesday deadline for bill-pass-
ing because of a wide difference
between separate house and sen-
ate appropriations for the same
purposes.

Those differences dissolved only
when top-level house and senate
members and Youngdahl forged a
plan to bring the budget into
balance.

That plan consisted of trimming
the administration budget figures
by \$7,000,000, passing the addi-
tional one-cent per pack cigaret
tax to bring in \$3,000,000 yearly
and voting transfer of \$3,000,000
of income tax receipts each year
to the general revenue fund.

Both houses acted swiftly
yesterday on the major two-
year appropriations totaling
\$125,994,248, of which \$182,645-
539 must come from the general
revenue fund.

The six appropriations from the
general revenue fund are:

Education, \$34,072,742; institu-
tions, \$35,421,721; social welfare,
\$34,315,741; state departments,
\$26,016,887; semi-state activities,
\$1,816,696; deficiencies, \$1,201,750.

THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR

LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER IN THE UPPER MIDWEST

CIRCULATION MORE THAN 20,000

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TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1949

The Legislature's Record

IT'S difficult to pass judgment on the recent legislative session. Good legislation was mixed with the bad, and which is which often depends upon a personal point of view. Also, what appears good now may have an entirely different meaning as time passes.

It isn't fair, of course, to evaluate a legislature only on the laws it passes. Sometimes failure to pass bills is more important. Take the anti-subversion proposal of Rep. Fred Memmer. Whether it would have passed the senate after getting house approval, no one ever will know. But it didn't come to a senate vote and Minnesota happily is spared a spy hunt among public employes.

The legislature failed conspicuously, as it has many times before, to take any action on constitutional revision or reapportionment. A constitutional revision commission had made many excellent recommendations for bettering state government. Yet almost all of the suggestions were ignored by the session.

In appropriations the legislature hit a new record. Most of the objects of this expensive attention are entirely worthy—education, welfare, mental health, roads, etc. The catch is that the taxpayers have to foot the huge bill.

Some of the increases, as in the institutions program, are so sharp that there is a question about putting the new spending into effect without waste. Usually such expansion is most effectively accomplished when undertaken gradually.

Also, the scale of expenditures will be more difficult to support two years from now when the surplus in the general revenue fund has been used up and the income tax surplus is shrunk.

The legislature finally settled for a \$90 million bonus, which isn't as much as the enthusiastic supporters wanted, but also is a lot more than most legislators felt the state could afford.

The veterans lobby, which helped frame the bonus act, also helped kill the proposal to reinstitute civil service by curbing veterans preference. The lobbyists promised that they would bring in a reform measure of their own two years from now—a promise which puts some of the veterans organizations on the spot at their coming state conventions.

The legislature allotted more money for state aid to schools, although the exact division of those funds is open to debate. Minneapolis was given leeway to tax itself to better care for its own schools. The school district reorganization act was extended four more years. As a whole, the school program is certainly to be commended.

So is the youth conservation program which was given approval.

A "little Hoover" commission was authorized to study state government to eliminate waste. That's a fine gesture, but the money for the inquiry will be wasted if its recommendations are as lightly taken as other studies have been in the past.

One of the things which should be studied by everybody in the next two years is a sound reorganization of the tax structure in the state. The patchwork done this session was, under the circumstances, a creditable job. But the whole system needs thorough research so that taxation may serve the best interests of the state without interfering with Minnesota development.

So, another legislative session passes into history. It met the challenge of Gov. Youngdahl's forward-looking, humanitarian program, it was beset by a horde of lobbyists and yet managed to keep a pretty fair perspective, and it solved a host of problems—big and little.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

FIFTY-SIXTH
SESSION }

H. F.

No. 742

Introduced and Read First Time Feb. 14, 1949, By Messrs. Flom, Anderson, H.
R., and Hegstrom.

Referred to Committee on Civil Administration.

Reported Back To Pass, as Amended.

Read Second Time Apr. 5, 1949.

Matter in italics is new; matter in capitals when in () is old law to be omitted.

A BILL

For an Act Relating to the State Civil Service; Amending Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 43.30, as
Amended by Laws 1947, Chapter 395, Section 1.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

SECTION 1. Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 43.30, as amended by Laws 1947, Chapter 395,
2 Section 1, is amended to read:

3 43.30 *Subdivision 1.* In all *original entrance* examinations under this chapter (A VETERANS')
4 preferences, *as in this section provided*, shall be given to *veterans, who are defined to be the following*
5 *former members of the land or naval forces of the United States, male or female, including enlisted*
6 *personnel and officers of every grade, to-wit: (SOLDIERS) members of the army, (SAILORS) navy*
7 *(including members of the coast guard while in active service as a part of the navy), (NURSES,) or*
8 *marine(S) corps, including specifically, but not exclusively, members of the army or navy nurse corps,*
9 *(W) women's army (A)auxiliary (ARMY, NAVY, AND MARINE (C)corps, women's army corps,*
10 *or the women's navy, marine corps or coast guard reserves (AND OFFICERS OF THE MILITARY*
11 *AND NAVAL FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES), who have been honorably discharged or releas-*
12 *ed to inactive duty from any of the (ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS AND WOMEN'S AUXILIARY*
13 *ARMY CORPS) land or naval forces of the United States heretofore enumerated, who (HAD) served*
14 *on active duty in the Civil War, Spanish American War, Philippine Insurrection, China Relief Ex-*
15 *pedition, Word War I, between the United States of America and its allies and Germany and its allies,*
16 *up to and including November 11, 1918, (AND) or World War II, between the United States of America*
17 *and its (A)allies(.), and Germany, Japan, Italy and their (A)allies, up to and including December 31,*
18 *1945; (WHO) if those veterans are citizens of the United States, and have been residents of the state*

STATE OF MINNESOTA

FIFTY-SIXTH
SESSION }

H. F.

No. 742

Introduced and Read First Time Feb. 14, 1949, By Messrs. Flom, Anderson, H.
R., and Hegstrom.

Referred to Committee on Civil Administration.

Reported Back To Pass, as Amended.

Read Second Time Apr. 5, 1949.

Matter in italics is new; matter in capitals when in () is old law to be omitted.

A BILL

For an Act Relating to the State Civil Service; Amending Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 43.30, as Amended by Laws 1947, Chapter 395, Section 1.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

SECTION 1. Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 43.30, as amended by Laws 1947, Chapter 395,

2 Section 1, is amended to read:

3 43.30 *Subdivision 1.* In all *original entrance* examinations under this chapter (A VETERANS')
4 preferences, as in this section provided, shall be given to veterans, who are defined to be the following
5 former members of the land or naval forces of the United States, male or female, including enlisted
6 personnel and officers of every grade, to-wit: (SOLDIERS) members of the army, (SAILORS) navy
7 (including members of the coast guard while in active service as a part of the navy), (NURSES,) or
8 marine(S) corps, including specifically, but not exclusively, members of the army or navy nurse corps,
9 (W) women's army (A)auxiliary (ARMY, NAVY, AND MARINE (C)corps, women's army corps,
10 or the women's navy, marine corps or coast guard reserves (AND OFFICERS OF THE MILITARY
11 AND NAVAL FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES), who have been honorably discharged or releas-
12 ed to inactive duty from any of the (ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS AND WOMEN'S AUXILIARY
13 ARMY CORPS) land or naval forces of the United States heretofore enumerated, who (HAD) served
14 on active duty in the Civil War, Spanish American War, Philippine Insurrection, China Relief Ex-
15 pedition, World War I, between the United States of America and its allies and Germany and its allies,
16 up to and including November 11, 1918, (AND) or World War II, between the United States of America
17 and its (A)allies(,) and Germany, Japan, Italy and their (A)allies, up to and including December 31,
18 1945; (WHO) if those veterans are citizens of the United States, and have been residents of the state

19 of Minnesota five years immediately preceding their application or who enlisted or were inducted from
 20 the (S) state of Minnesota (.). and *Like preferences shall be given to persons who served in active serv-*
 21 *ice in the (ACTIVE MILITARY) land or naval (SERVICE) forces of any government allied with the*
 22 *United States in World War I up to and including November 11, 1918, or World War II up to and includ-*
 23 *ing December 31, 1945, and have been honorably discharged therefrom, and who are citizens of the*
 24 *United States and were such citizens at the time of entrance into such active service, and have been*
 25 *residents of the state of Minnesota five years immediately preceding their application (OR WHO*
 26 *ENLISTED FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA) . (AND THE) No veteran(S) thus preferred*
 27 *shall (NOT) be disqualified from (HOLDING) attaining any position in the classified service on ac-*
 28 *count of his age or by reason of any physical disability , (PROVIDED) if such age or physical dis-*
 29 *ability does not render him incompetent to perform the duties of the position sought.*

30 Subd. 2. Recognizing that training and experience in the services of the government and loyalty
 31 and sacrifice for the government are qualifications of merit which cannot be readily discovered by
 32 examination, there shall be added to the examination rating of a disabled veteran a credit of ten points,
 33 and if such augmented rating gives to such disabled veteran a passing grade and such disabled veteran
 34 is able to perform the duties of the position sought with reasonable efficiency, his name shall be placed
 35 (AT THE HEAD OF THE ELIGIBLE) on the list of eligibles for such position with the names of other
 36 eligible persons, in accordance with his augmented rating.

37 Subd. 3. There shall be added to the examination rating of (ALL) any other veteran(S) a credit
 38 of five points, and if such augmented rating gives to such veteran a passing grade and if such veteran
 39 is able to perform the duties of the position with reasonable efficiency, his name shall be placed on
 40 the list of eligibles with the names of other eligible persons , in accordance with his augmented rat-
 41 ing.

42 Subd. 4. (THE NAME OF A VETERAN WITH SUCH AUGMENTED RATING SHALL BE
 43 ENTERED AHEAD OF A NON VETERAN WHEN THEIR RATINGS ARE THE SAME.) *The*
 44 *name of a disabled veteran with an augmented rating as provided in this section shall be entered ahead*
 45 *of a non-disabled veteran when their final ratings are the same. The name of a non-disabled veteran*
 46 *with an augmented rating as provided in this section shall be entered ahead of a non-veteran when*
 47 *their final ratings are the same.*

48 Subd. 5. (SUCH) The preference provided for in subdivision 3 is hereby extended to the wid-
 49 ow(S) of any deceased veteran(S) , and to the spouse of (A) any disabled veteran (.) who because
 50 of (SUCH) his disability is unable to qualify , and to the widow of any member of the land or naval
 51 forces of the United States who died during his period of active service and who, had he not so died,
 52 would have (except for the requirement of discharge or release to inactive duty and the five year resi-
 53 dence requirement) come within the definition of a veteran as contained in subdivision 1, if that
 54 widow is qualified as to residence and citizenship under section 43.13, subdivision 2.

55 Subd. 6. The fact that an applicant has claimed a veteran's preference shall not be made known
 56 to the examiners and the preference credit shall be added to the examination rating by the director,

57 and the records shall show the examination rating and the preference credit.

58 Subd. 7. A disabled veteran is one who is rated (OR CERTIFIED) as disabled by the United
 59 States Veterans' Administration, or retired by the (RETIREMENT BOARDS OF THE SEVERAL
 60 BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES) Department of National Defense because of disability,
 61 (AND) which (DISABILITY) is (EXISTING AT THE TIME PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED) war
 62 service connected.

63 Subd. 8. In the event of the rejection by the appointing officer of the person so preferred when
 64 certified (FOR PROMOTION OR) to fill a vacancy or a new position, the appointing officer shall forth-
 65 with file in writing with the director the reasons for such rejection and shall furnish to the rejected
 66 veteran a copy thereof.

67 Subd. 9. In computing seniority ratings required as a part of promotional examinations by Min-
 68 nesota Statutes 1945, Section 43.19, Subd. 1, veterans shall be given credit for the time spent in mili-
 69 tary service as though the time had been spent in the classified civil service of the state.

(Talk given by Mrs. T. O. Everson, December 9, 1948, at Legislative Luncheon for members of Hennepin County delegation, sponsored by League of Women Voters of Mpls.)

CIVIL SERVICE

Civil Service is one of the continuing items on our State League program in which Minneapolis is very much interested.

Minnesota, as you all know, has two Veterans' Preference Laws. The one which applies to state employees gives a 5 and 10 point preference, but a veteran does not have to get a passing grade in order to obtain this preference. Thus a disabled veteran who fails an examination with a score of 60% is brought up to a passing grade of 70% by claiming his 10 point preference. Then the disabled veteran receives an Absolute Preference and his name is placed on the eligible list ahead of all others. The non-disabled veteran with a score of 65% can claim his 5 point preference and thus his score is brought up to the passing grade of 70%; his name is then placed on the eligible list above non-veterans having the same grade.

Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis have Absolute Preference but veterans must first attain a passing grade of 70%; then disabled and non-disabled veterans both go to the top of the list. Thus in Minneapolis where the rule of one is used a veteran with a passing grade of 70% is certified over a non-veteran even though the non-veteran might have a perfect score of 100%. Both state laws give preference in Promotional as well as Entrance examinations.

Because of our interest in Civil Service the Minneapolis League has official visitors attending the meetings of the Minneapolis Civil Service Commission. Reports turned in by these visitors tend to show that non-veterans in the service of the city do not have much chance for advancement if there are veterans working in the same department. There have been several instances in the past couple of years where exceptionally well qualified non-veterans who were eligible for promotion were by-passed because veterans were competing. This has been especially noticeable in the police and fire departments.

Because department heads on both state and local levels feel that with veterans' preference the best men are not always certified, they try to circumvent the preference law; sometimes they just don't bother to fill a vacancy while there are veterans at the top of the eligible list whom they feel are not the best qualified men for the position. This practice works a hardship on the other employees in the department who have to take on the extra work, and if a position is left vacant too long it can lead to inefficiency in the department. Examples which can be cited are: the position of assistant in the city purchasing department has not been filled for several years; the position of first assistant city attorney for Minneapolis has been vacant for over a year because the city attorney feels that veterans' preference should not apply to this position. An opinion from the state Attorney General said it did. So the question is now being decided by the courts. In order to obtain the services of well qualified non-veterans, department heads often ask to have these men waived. Too many waivers can undermine any good merit system. Examples have been given on the local level because we are more familiar with the local situation. I'm sure that comparable ones could be cited on the state level.

Mrs. T. O. Everson's talk on Civil Service (2)

Because conditions like these have arisen, the League feels that there should be some modification of veterans' preference on both state and local levels. We believe that veterans' preference in civil service should be applied so as to cause the least harm to the merit system and so as not to discourage capable non-veterans from seeking government service. Since the number of veterans in private employment far exceeds those in government service, a well functioning merit system benefits the majority of veterans as it does all taxpayers. Our thinking on modification would follow along the line of the following recommendations submitted to the Executive Council of the Civil Service Assembly of the U.S. and Canada by the Committee on Veteran Employment Policies:

1. Veterans should be required to pass an examination before receiving preference consideration.
2. Preference should not be applied to promotional examinations.
3. Veterans should be entitled to preference which takes the form of extra credit points added to the earned examination rating.
4. Absolute preference should not be used. A veteran should take his place on the eligible list according to his augmented score.
5. Non-disabled veterans should receive 5 points on the basis of 100%. Disabled veterans should receive not more than 10 points.
6. A time limit should be set for termination of veterans' preference.

Minnesota League of Women Voters
914 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis 2, Minn.



Affiliated with the
National League
of Women Voters

New Address - 20 S. 10th St. Room 417

ACTION

March 9, 1949

Dear President:

The Minnesota League of Women Voters, in view of its continuing interest in a well-functioning civil service system, is actively supporting H.F. 742, the modified veterans preference bill.

Letters should be sent immediately to Rep. P. K. Peterson, chairman of the sub-committee on veterans preference of the House Civil Administration Committee, saying that you approve H.F. 742 and would like to see an amendment added which would make this bill apply also to the unclassified service of the State and to political sub-divisions such as county welfare merit systems and those of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth.

Provisions of H.F. 742 are: Removes veterans preference from promotional examination; requires a minimum passing grade (70 now) before preference points can be added; allows a 10-point preference for disabled veterans and a 5-point preference for non-disabled veterans.

Don't delay writing because the committee hearings have been held and their report will be made soon.

Other sub-committee members are F. O. Flom, Glenwood; M. K. Hagstrom, St. James; L. W. Hill, St. Paul; Leonard A. Johnson, Minneapolis.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

Full Civil Service Preference for Vets Proposed

Veterans' preference in state civil service on an "absolute" basis, putting war veterans at top of hiring lists in addition to their present point advantages, was proposed in the state house of representatives Tuesday.

The bill, authored by Representatives Otto Clark, Oakley; Edward J. Volstad, Minneapolis, and Ralph H. Halsey, Dundas, route 1, follows a controversial American Legion "indorsement" of last summer.

Status of the plan on legislative priority lists can be judged from the fact that many veterans themselves are not agreed they should ask this much preference.

State officials are expected to say at forthcoming committee hearings that the "absolute" feature of veterans preference would cause difficulties in the whole civil service system.

Non-veterans could be effectively frozen out of most state jobs as long as there are any veterans available and able to pass minimum examination standards with help of 5-point additions (10 points for veterans classified as "disabled").

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor: Your editorial, "Abusing Civil Service" (Feb. 3) was effective and timely. I happen to be one of the men mentioned in the top 10 grades of the 1942 examination for fire captain, so I feel entitled to give my opinion of the veterans preference law which exists in Minnesota cities of the first class.

At the time of the examination, I was a non-veteran, and four of my competitors, all of them below me on the eligible list but veterans of World War I, were promoted.

Following separation from the service some three years later I returned, established a veteran's status, and was promoted. The five non-veterans in the top 10 mentioned in the editorial who have not received promotion are men with whom I have worked at fire and at stations. Every one of them is well qualified for advancement.

As an addition to your editorial "Abusing Civil Service" it might be well to add one entitled "The Abuses of Civil Service." Relatively simple examinations, not only for entrance into the firefighting service but also for promotional examinations, have created extremely long eligible lists. This has given the veterans preference law the opportunity to work its greatest damage.

The answer of course, is stiffer examinations that will qualify not more than 15 per cent of the candidates taking the examination. A short list could run out in a period of two years and the non-veteran on these lists would then receive his appointment. New examinations every two years would give added incentive to the men preparing for advancement. It has been the policy of the civil service commission to extend eligible lists for periods as long as

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FRIDAY, FEB. 25, 1949

Veterans Preference

EVER SINCE World War II, we have heard a great deal about the dangers of military infiltration into high levels of the government in Washington. But there is one form of "military" infiltration into government about which we have heard relatively little. That is the protected and encouraged influx of war veterans into civil service—on all levels, federal, state and local.

As the U. S. civil service commission put it: "Legislation creating class distinction and preference is not consonant with the ideals of this nation, whose founders declared against the military being superior to the civil power and for the equality of opportunity for all men."

The veterans preference system has already set the stage for explosive resentments in the future. Veterans generally have been set above and against non-veterans seeking to make a career of public service. Disabled veterans—and in many cases the "disabled" should be put in quotes—have been set above and against non-disabled veterans.

As if the situation weren't already bad enough, rival veterans organizations out to woo new members have put on pressure to change state civil service laws to make all veterans preference absolutely absolute. They even want to eliminate the six-month probationary period during which any appointee to

rove his

'Vet Preference Hurts Public'

ten years, defeating entirely the purpose of civil service. If the preference law is continued, we have only put one more stumbling block in the way of our youth, who should be encouraged to enter the public service. They should not be hamstringing because they were too young to bear arms when their country was at war.

—Anthony M. Lockhart,
Captain, Minneapolis Fire Department.

To the Editor: There have been several editorials and articles in the Star recently with regard to discrimination against non-veterans in state and city civil service. Such discrimination is also affecting non-veterans in the federal service. Thousands of them have virtually no promotion or job retention rights whatsoever since the veterans preference law was passed in 1944.

This unfair law defeats the purpose of the civil service system, which is intended to provide protection and promotion opportunities for employees who are capable. In hiring, five or 10 points are added to a veteran's rating. The extra points do not make them any more proficient.

Some legislation should be enacted which—not in any way undermining conditions granted under the GI bill of rights—would avoid the working of extreme hardship to individual employees with long and highly meritorious service. It would also save for city, state and federal governments the service of these highly skilled employees.

Minneapolis. —M. T. Anderson.

See today's editorial, "Veterans Preference."

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Status of the plan on legislative priority lists can be judged from the fact that many veterans themselves are not agreed they should ask this much preference.

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The veterans preference system has already set the stage for explosive resentments in the future. Veterans generally have been set above and against non-veterans seeking to make a career of public service. Disabled veterans—and in many cases the "disabled" should be put in quotes—have been set above and against non-disabled veterans.

As if the situation weren't already bad enough, rival veterans organizations out to woo new members have put on pressure to change state civil service laws to make all veterans preference absolutely absolute. They even want to eliminate the six-month probationary period during which any appointee to a civil service job is supposed to prove his ability to do the work.

The public, of course, is discriminated against by this sort of thing by being forced to accept something less than the best possible public service. The injustice worked on non-veterans in public work is made plain by two letters in today's Everybody Ideas column. Nor should we forget the effect on young people who may want to devote their lives to public service and find themselves frozen out merely because they were accidentally too young to go to war.

We agree with those veterans organizations who think the veterans preference provision of the present laws should be revised. But while they would make preference broader and all-inclusive, we would narrow its application drastically. Veterans and their widows, or the wives of really disabled vets, can be adequately protected under a fair preference system. But the present system is not fair, and it is creating something very like the old spoils system which civil service was designed to displace.

CHARGE PURCHASES THE REMAINDER
OF THE MONTH BILLED IN APRIL

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

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March 18, 1949

We would like to commend those members of the House Civil Administration Committee who voted in favor of H.F. 742, the Mesars, Bondhus, Flom, Regstrom, Hill, Lundeen, Hatchan and Reed.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota feels very strongly that the preservation of the merit system without extraordinary preference to any single group is one of the basic tenets of good government.

Our strong adherence to this position does not mean that we do not recognize that the veterans should receive certain benefits as a result of their service in our behalf.

The members of our organization feel that the original form of H.F. 742 amending the veterans preference laws of the state civil service, together with H.F. 1253, would place Minnesota in the forefront of the other states with respect to its civil service laws.

We do support H.F. 742 as amended and strongly urge that this committee recommend it to pass. In view of these amendments, however, we find it somewhat difficult to support H.F. 1253 although we do believe that the avowed purpose to initiate a single standard for civil service throughout the state is commendable. Our difficulty lies in the fact that we see both advantages and disadvantages in the application of the state law as it now stands and as it might be amended by the present form of H.F. 742 to the political subdivisions.

We wish to express our appreciation for your thoughtful consideration of the League's point of view on this measure.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hiram H. Livingston
Legislative Chairman



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

mrs. E. W. ★ 5/2/49

League Backs Preference Change

To the Editor: The League of Women Voters of Minnesota believes that modified veterans preference should be enacted by this legislature to promote the development of a sound civil service. We feel very strongly that the preservation of the merit system without 'extraordinary' preference to any single group is a basic tenet of good government. This does not mean that we do not recognize that the veterans should receive certain benefits as a result of their service in our behalf.

The League has supported H.F. 742 as originally introduced, which provided:

1. A veteran must first obtain a passing grade of 70 before being placed on the eligible list.
2. After the addition of the 5 or 10 points (5—able-bodied, 10—disabled), the veteran will be placed on the list ahead of those persons having the same grade as his augmented score.
3. Preference will be taken out of promotional examinations.

This bill was amended by a sub-committee of the civil administration committee so that the only remaining feature was that preference is taken out of promotional examinations.

There was a tie vote of 7-7 by the whole committee on H.F. 742. The bill will probably come up for another vote this week. The recorded vote was as follows:

Ayes	Nays	Not Voting
Bondhus	Aune	Biernat
Flom	Dixon	Carlson
Hagstrom	French	Crowell
Matchan	Johnson, L. A.	Listrup
Reed	Prifrel	Lee
Lundeen	Rundquist	Memmer
Hill	Shipka	Norman
		Otto
		Peterson, P. K.

The League, although disappointed at these concessions, believes that the taking away of preference in promotional examinations where an established employee should be judged on his record and on his merits, is important enough to warrant our wholehearted support of H.F. 742.

—Mrs. T. O. Everson, Chairman,
Civil Service Legislation, League
of Women Voters.

Minneapolis.

AN OUTLINE OF HOW IT WORKS

Too Much Vets' Preference Can Ruin Civil Service

By REPRESENTATIVE FLOYD O. FLOM
Condensed from Minnesota Municipalities

THE ISSUE of veterans' preference in the civil service of the state and local governments is again before the legislature. The major veterans' organizations want increased advantages for veterans over non-veterans in public service.

Of the two Minnesota statutes which grant a preferment to veterans, one extends an advantage to veterans in the state classified (merit) civil service system; the other applies to local civil service systems.

The preference granted in the state service applies not only to veterans seeking appointment but also to those seeking promotion.

The amount of advantage given a veteran in the state service is increased if he is disabled. The disabled veteran is granted 10 points in addition to his earned score on a civil service examination, whereas a non-disabled veteran is granted five points.

In both cases the veteran need not secure a passing mark in the examination before receiving his preference but he may use his unearned five or 10 points to achieve a passing mark.

Once a passing mark is attained, the disabled veteran is given the additional advantage of having his name placed at the top of the eligible list, ahead of all other applicants, whether it is for original appointment or for promotion, even though some non-disabled veterans or non-veterans may have achieved much higher scores on the examination.

The non-disabled veteran is placed on the eligible list in accordance with the rank of his score after the five points are added, but if a non-veteran and a veteran have the same total score, the veteran is placed above the non-veteran, even though the non-veteran earned a mark on the examination which was five points higher than that earned by the veteran.

To qualify as a disabled veteran, one must be rated as disabled by the veterans administration or by a defense depart-

ment rating board. A disability rating of 0 per cent is sufficient to qualify a veteran for the disability preference in the state service.

Therefore, a veteran who has no present disability but who is "rated" as having a 0 per cent disability gets the same preference as the veteran who is disabled really and has a rating of 10 or more per cent.

Ratings of 0 per cent are not unusual. They occur most frequently in the case of veterans who had in the past a minor disability which has been rated at 10 per cent but has since disappeared as a result of treatment. VA continues the zero per cent to indicate the present condition of the veteran.

Local government service rules are similar except that they require a passing grade before the preference is granted.

The amount of preference given is greater in that there are no points given, but instead, the veterans, disabled and non-disabled, go to the top of the appointment or promotion list. The veteran need achieve only a passing mark in the examination which is usually 70.

But the major veteran organizations are asking for greater preference. One bill contains provisions continuing the present five and 10 point preference and the use of these points to attain a passing examination score, and continuing the "top of the list" preference for disabled veterans. It proposes to extend the "top of the list" preference to non-disabled veterans who would take a position immediately below the disabled veterans on the eligible or promotional list, and above the non-veterans.

The bill also provides that once a veteran is appointed or promoted, the appointment or promotion is to be permanent immediately, rather than subject to a six-month probationary period as is now the case for both veterans and non-veterans. The probationary period would continue to be in effect for any non-veterans so appointed or promoted.

I agree with the American Legion that the veterans' preference laws should be amended. But the preference should not be made greater. The amendments should be for the purpose of reducing the amount of veterans' preference at

both state and local levels. The selection of veterans, as between persons of equal or nearly equal ability, training, and experience, should be the aim and practical limit of veterans' preference. Selection of unqualified or mediocre governmental workers when high calibre persons are available is detrimental to the public and the civil service and the veteran himself, in the long run.

In amending the laws, our objective should be to grant an amount of preference that will extend a reasonable advantage in securing employment to those who have served their country in time of war, but not so great a preference that the quality of personnel recruited and promoted will fall below the high standards that we desire.

The Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada recommends, among other things, that veterans be required to obtain a passing mark in competitive tests before being entitled to preference consideration; that preference be confined to entrance examinations and not to promotions; that preference take the form of credit points added to the earned score and the veteran's standing on the eligible list should be determined on the basis of such augmented score; that a disabled veteran may be given added credit points but that no one should be placed at the top of the list unless his augmented score placed him there; that the credit points should not exceed five points for non-disabled veterans and 10 points for disabled veterans upon the basis of 100; that disability preference should be extended only to those veterans having at least a 10 per cent disability rating; and that preference for veterans should be limited to five years after the war or five years after discharge, whichever is later.

Every person, veteran and non-veteran, public official and private citizen, should consider seriously the possible effects on the public service if our present laws continue in force or if they are amended to grant more preference.

It is essential to good democratic government that those whom the people employ to administer laws and perform the functions of government be as well trained and as capable as possible. To attract and keep this type of personnel, we must offer all persons, veterans and non-veterans, with two essentials—a fair opportunity to get into the service and a fair opportunity to get ahead.



Flom

THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR

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CIRCULATION MORE THAN 200,000

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VOLUME LXXI

2

NUMBER 115

26 *

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1949

Veterans Preference

THREE young war veterans in the state house of representatives are making a valiant fight to restore civil service to something of its original meaning. These men are Floyd Flom of Glenwood, Harold Anderson of North Mankato, and M. K. Hegstrom of St. James. They are authors of two bills to improve civil service.

In Minnesota, veterans preference has destroyed much of the significance of a merit system. Under present state civil service regulations, veterans are given an extra 5 points—10 points if disabled—in entrance examinations. The extra points may be used to attain passing grades. In addition, disabled vets immediately go to the top of eligibility lists. Veterans are given the same advantages in promotional exams.

One of the new bills—house file 742—would continue to give veterans the 5 and 10 points in entrance examinations, but disabled veterans would not automatically move to the top of eligibility lists. Preference would be dropped for promotional examinations, but veterans would be given the usual seniority for the time they were in service.

HF 742 has been reported out by the civil administration committee and soon will be up for a vote in the house. Another bill along the same lines—HF 1253—still is held in committee. It would make civil service in local subdivisions conform to the proposed state system.

Civil service in Minneapolis and other cities operates under a law which provides that veterans who get passing grades in entrance or promotional examinations go on the eligibility lists ahead of all non-veterans, no matter how high a grade the non-veterans scored nor how long they have been on the job.

This law practically closes local civil service to non-veterans for years to come. Non-veterans in public service have little incentive to work diligently, for there is scant hope of promotion. Veterans preference has gone far to impair morale in the Minneapolis police and fire departments.

There is pretty general agreement that veterans are entitled to consideration in obtaining public positions. But having obtained such positions, they should rely upon ability and seniority for promotion.

Veterans themselves are realizing the harm which too much preference can do to civil service. The evidence is to be found in the authorship of these important bills. The legislators will be serving the best interests of the state—and therefore of the veterans—if they pass both measures.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Mr. Memmer requested unanimous consent to make a motion which request was granted.

SUSPENSION OF RULES.

Mr. Memmer moved that the rules be so far suspended that H. F. No. 1814 be given its second and third reading and placed on its final passage.

Which motion prevailed.

H. F. No. 1814 was read the second time.

Mr. Carlson moved to amend H. F. No. 1814, the typewritten bill as follows:

In Section 1, line 1, after the word "of" and before the word "members", strike the word "seven" and insert in lieu thereof the word "eight". In line 4, after the word "and" and before the word "members", strike the word "three" and insert in lieu thereof the word "four". In line 4, at the beginning of the line, strike the word "three" and insert in lieu thereof the word "four".

In Section 1, line 10, after the word "Minnesota", strike the period, insert a comma and add the following new language:

"and likewise one member to represent the American Veterans Committee, Department of Minnesota."

Which motion prevailed and the amendment was adopted.

H. F. No. 1814, A bill for an act creating an interim commission to make a study of the veterans' preference in public employment and civil service laws of this state; requiring the commission to make a report covering recommended amendments to and revisions of existing laws to the next regular session of the legislature and appropriating money therefor.

Was read the third time, as amended, and placed upon its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill, as amended,

And the roll being called, there were yeas 80, and nays 18, as follows:

D'Aquila	Hilsley	Moriarty	Root	ALL OTHERS
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Those who voted in the negative were:

Basford	Gesell	Kaplan	Murk	Tomczyk
Biernat	Goodin	Lux	Olson	Waibel
Clark	Halverson	Morberg	Omtvedt	
Enestvedt	Johnson, A.L.	Mosier	Ryan	

So the bill was passed, as amended, and its title agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Mr. Memmer requested unanimous consent to make a motion which request was granted.

SUSPENSION OF RULES.

Mr. Memmer moved that the rules be so far suspended that H. F. No. 1814 be given its second and third reading and placed on its final passage.

Which was adopted.

Chaitman.
Roy DUNN,

This Committee action taken April 20, 1949.

Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill do pass.
Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill session of the legislature and appropriating money therefor.
commission to make a study of the veterans' preference in public employment and Civil Service Laws of this state; requiring the commission to make a report covering recommended amendments to and revisions of existing laws to the next regular session of the legislature and appropriating money therefor.
H. F. No. 1814, A bill for an act creating an interim com-

ferred—

73rd Day]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1949

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Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Anderson, H.R.	Dickinson	Istrup	Mueller	Rundquist
Anderson, J.A.	Dixon	Iverson	Nelson	Rutter
Anderson, V.F.	Ehrenberg	Karas	Nordin	Ryti
Aune	Erkel	Kinzer	Norman	Schenck
Beanblossom	Felt	Koeloeke	Oberg	Shipka
Bergerud	Flom	LaBrosse	O'Brien	Swanson
Blomquist	Frederickson	Langley	O'Malley	Swanstrom
Bondhus	French	Lejk	Ottlinger	Talle
Burroughs	Gibbons	Lundeen	Otto	Thompson
Carlson	Gillen	Lundrigan	Peterson, O.	Tucker
Chilgren	Hegstrom	Madden	Peterson, P.K.	Tweten
Christie	Herzog	McReynolds	Reed	Voxland
Cina	Hill	Meihofer	Richardson	Wegner
Crowwell	Holm	Memmer	Riedner	Welch
Dahle	Holmquist	Mills	Rinke	Windmiller
D'Aquila	Hilsley	Moriarty	Root	Mr. Speaker

Those who voted in the negative were:

Basford	Gesell	Kaplan	Murk	Tomczyk
Biernat	Goodin	Lux	Olson	Waibel
Clark	Halverson	Morberg	Omtvedt	
Enestvedt	Johnson, A.I.	Mosler	Ryan	

So the bill was passed, as amended, and its title agreed to.

Mr. Siegel moved that the rules be suspended and that—

H. F. No. 1814: A bill for an act creating an Interim Commission to make a study of the veterans' preference in public employment and Civil Service laws of this state; requiring the commission to make a report covering recommended amendments to and revisions of existing laws to the next session of the Legislature and appropriating money therefor.

Be read the second and third times and placed upon its final passage.

Which motion prevailed.

H. F. No. 1814 was read the second time.

H. F. No. 1814: A bill for an act creating an Interim Commission to make a study of the veterans' preference in public employment and Civil Service laws of this state; requiring the commission to make a report covering recommended amendments to and revisions of existing laws to the next session of the Legislature and appropriating money therefor.

77th Day]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1949.

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Was read the third time and placed on its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill,

And the roll being called, there were yeas 63, and nays none, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Almen	Davis	Johnson, C.E.	Myre	Sullivan
Andersen, E.L.	Dennison	Johnson, J.A.	Nelsen	Swenson
Anderson, E.P.	Dernek	Julkowski	Neumeier	Vukelich
Anderson, M.H.	Dietz	Larson	Novak	Wagener
Baughman	Dougherty	Lauerman	O'Brien	Wahlstrand
Bridgeman	Duemke	Ledin	Peterson, E.	Wefald
Burdick	Feldt	Lightner	Peterson, E.L.	Welch
Butler	George	Lofvegren	Rogers	Welle
Carey	Goodhue	Masek	Rosenmeier	Wright
Carley	Grothum	Mayhood	Siegel	Wuertz
Carr	Hagen	Miller	Simonsen	Zwach
Dahle	Imm	Mitchell	Sinclair	
Dahlquist	Johanson	Mullin	Spokely	

So the bill passed and its title was agreed to.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

FIFTY-SIXTH }
SESSION }

H. F.

No. 810

Introduced and Read First Time Feb. 16, 1949, By Messrs. Christie, Rund-
quist, Holmquist, Sheran, Herseth and Lundeen.

Referred to Committee on General Legislation. Re-referred to Committee on
Judiciary, Mar. 14, 1949.

Reported Back To Pass.

Read Second Time Mar. 31, 1949.

Matter in italics is new; matter in capitals when in () is old law to be omitted.

A BILL

For an Act Proposing a Convention to Revise the Constitution of the State of Minnesota.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

SECTION 1. At the general election to be held in November, 1950, the proposition "Shall there be
a convention to revise the state constitution, such revised constitution to be submitted to the voters
for approval or rejection," shall be submitted to the electors for decision.

SEC. 2. Each elector may then vote by ballot for or against the proposition. The election shall be
conducted and the returns thereof made, canvassed, and certified in the manner provided by law for
general elections.

The form of the ballot to be used at such election shall be:

5

6

Shall there be a constitutional (Yes) _____
convention? (No) _____

8

The voter shall designate his choice by a cross mark opposite the word "Yes" or "No" in the space
provided therefor. If such canvass shows that a majority of the voters voting at said election voted in
favor of the proposition, the legislature at its session next succeeding the election shall provide for
calling and conducting such convention.

1950 Vote Sought on Revising Constitution

Bill Provides for Balloting on State Convention

By M. W. HALLORAN
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

The drive for revising Minnesota's state constitution will be given new impetus by introduction of a measure in the legislature within a few days.

This will be in the form of a proposal for submitting to the people at the 1950 election the question whether a state constitutional convention shall be called. Senators Gordon Rosenmeier, Little Falls, and Gerald T. Mullin, Minneapolis, two leading champions of revision, will introduce it.

The subject will be discussed Tuesday at a meeting of the 22 members of the present constitutional revision commission.

It is generally agreed that calling a convention is the only practical way of tackling the problem.

The 1947 legislature created this commission of eight state senators, eight representatives, one supreme court justice and five citizens.

Dr. Lloyd M. Short of University of Minnesota was chosen chairman of the commission, which worked for months preparing a proposed revision.

This was submitted to the legislature last week.

It has become apparent, however, that the legislature will not have time in the 90-day session to take up the proposals. Moreover, no practical method of submitting them for approval by the people next year has been worked out.

The commission rewrote entire sections of the constitution and made important and admittedly highly controversial changes in others. The lengthy completed document is, in fact, a proposed new constitution — and it would have to be submitted, under present law, in the form of dozens of amendments.

Some other states which have revised their constitutions have been up against the same problem.

It has been found practical in states with revision commissions, like the one set up here two years ago, to call a constitutional convention and submit the commission's revision as groundwork.

The convention proposal must carry by a two-thirds majority of both houses — and then be approved by a majority vote of the people to become effective.

Then delegates are elected by the people, one for each member of the state house of representatives.

Appl. Feb. 9/13/49

LEGISLATORS PUSH NEW CONSTITUTION

Prepare State Bill to Call Convention, Referendum on Issue

By M. W. HALLORAN

Plans to set in motion a widespread popular movement for making over Minnesota's state constitution or charter were revealed Saturday.

First step will be the introduction Tuesday in the state senate and Wednesday in the house of representatives of bills submitting to the people the question: "Do you favor calling a state constitutional convention?"

But an important provision of the bill will contain this trump requirement: that if there is a convention, the constitution it drafts must be submitted to a vote of the people.

TICKLISH QUESTION

This has been a ticklish question for the advocates of constitutional revision.

For, strange as it may seem, the present constitution—in effect these 91 years—does not require that any new constitution shall be submitted to a vote of the people.

As it stands now, the 1858 constitution merely requires that the question as to whether there shall be a constitutional convention must go to the people.

Then, as the present document provides, the convention would go ahead and draft a new constitution—and that would become the fundamental law of the state without any more ifs or ands.

Such staunch advocates of constitutional revision as Senators Gerald T. Mullin, Minneapolis, and Gordon Rosenmeier, Little Falls, and Representatives Thomas Christie, Minneapolis, and Howard W. Rundquist, Dawson, have been puzzled about the lack of popular response to the movement up to now.

They have concluded that perhaps the lack of a mandate to submit the new constitution back to the people has been the fatal flaw in such procedure.

ONCE REJECTED

Only once has the legislature ever submitted the convention proposal to the people—and that once the people turned it down. Perhaps, these legislators feel, because the people had not been guaranteed a whack at the convention's findings.

Well, that guarantee will be nailed and clinched in the measures to be placed before the legislature this week.

The decision to call for a convention was reached after leaders in the revision move viewed the impracticability of carrying through the draft of a new constitution worked out by the revision commission last summer.

The current legislative session has such a tremendous amount of work ahead of it on Gov. Luther Youngdahl's program, the soldiers' bonus and other pressing measures that it will not have the time to consider the job done by the revision commission.

PASS IT ON,

And so, legislators who were on that commission hope to pass the job on to a convention.

The bill putting it up to the people to say whether they want such a convention will be offered Tuesday with seven senators as sponsors: Mullin; Rosenmeier; William E. Dahlquist, Thief River Falls; A. R. Johanson, Wheaton; Milton C. Lightner, St. Paul; Elmer Peterson, Hibbing, and Harry Wahlstrand, Willmar.

Inasmuch as senate rules limit the number of authors of a bill to three, unanimous consent will be asked to waive the rule to permit these seven senators who were on the revision commission to sponsor the bill.

If that is denied, the seven will agree among themselves on three authors.

In the house, a similar move will be made to include six members who were on the revision commission (and still in the legislature) as sponsors of the bill.

As introduced, the measure will carry the names of these six: Representatives Christie; Rundquist, E. B. Henseth, Kittson county; Stanley W. Holmquist, Grove City; Harold R. Lundeen,

Minneapolis, and Robert J. Sherran, Mankato.

Arrangements have been made to have Prof. Lloyd Short, University of Minnesota political science department, address the house Tuesday on the whole subject of constitutional revision.

Short was chairman of the revision commission and he will report to the house on the main features of the work done by the commission. This, it is understood, will be entirely without reference to the proposed constitutional convention.

Backers of the convention move, whose argument is that the state's charter is so full of

contradictory and outmoded provisions that it should have a thorough overhauling, are conscious they may have quite a fight on their hands.

There are members of the legislature who are against tampering with the constitution. It has served us well over the years, they say, though admitting its drawbacks and inconsistencies. These, they insist, can be remedied by amendments.

FEAR REAPPORTIONMENT

What they fear, of course, is that some changes may be made by the convention which they do not want—such, for instance, as some way of forcing reapportionment of legislative districts on a population basis. That is now required after each census even by the 91-year-old present constitution. But there's no way of enforcing it.

However, backers of the revision

move feel they have a key argument when they ask the opposition if it's afraid to give the people the first and the final say on adoption of a new constitution: first, when they ask the people if they want a convention, and then submit the new draft to popular vote.

How the requirement for a vote by the people on the final draft was omitted from the present constitution is a puzzle. For the present constitution carried that requirement as its own adoption.

Constitution Revision Bill Action Seen

By M. W. HALLORAN
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

While somewhat disturbed by delay, backers of the state constitutional convention bill were assured today that things would begin to move Tuesday by way of getting action on the measure.

Senator A. O. Stetvold, chairman of the senate judiciary committee, has assured the sponsors that the bill will be taken up by the committee at its Tuesday session.

Proponents and opponents, both inside and outside the legislature, will be heard.

There was some uneasiness among backers of the bill because the committee failed to act last week.

But it seems an unexpected appearance of some members of the supreme court in support of a salary-raising measure for district judges threw the committee off its stride.

(After all, when the top notchers of the courts call, a committee made up solidly of lawyers has to be polite. It's like when "teacher" drops in for a visit on Johnny's pa and ma.)

Senators Gordon Rosenmeier of Little Falls and Gerald T. Mullin of Minneapolis, sponsors of the measure and champions of constitutional revision, expressed confidence today that Chairman Stetvold would speed up the work.

They felt sure the measure will come out of committee this week ready for debate by the whole senate at an early date.

The measure provides for a referendum of the people in the 1950 general state election on the question: shall a constitutional convention be called.

Job of the convention, if authorized by the people, will be to revise the state constitution, may be rewrite it.

Purpose would be to eliminate outmoded and contradictory provisions of the state's fundamental law and write into it provisions designed to improve state government processes.

Regarding constitutional revision as one of the most important issues, numerous good government organizations will be represented at the committee hearing Tuesday.

An identical bill is in the house, where the sponsors headed by Representatives Thomas Christie

of Minneapolis and Howard Rundquist of Dawson are awaiting senate action.

Backers of the legislation anticipate no easy sledding for this measure. It will run up against the opposition of legislators who say "leave well enough alone."

Appl. Star 7/5/49

24 ** — THE MINNEAPOLIS Showdown on Constitution Bill Slated

The state senate judiciary committee will take a showdown vote Thursday on recommending the proposed constitutional convention bill. This was decided today after the committee listened to a spirited discussion of the measure.

The bill would authorize a vote by the people in the 1950 general state election on the question:

Shall a constitutional convention be called?

Mrs. Stanley Peterson, president of the Minneapolis Republican Work Shop, supporting the move, said:

"I would feel abused and frustrated if I tried to operate my home with 1837 machinery. I think the legislature has done amazingly well all these years under a constitution adopted 23 years ago."

Senator Donald Wright got into an argument with Senator Gerald T. Mullin, a champion of the measure, when he asked if it were not possible that "the people would lose some of their basic rights if the constitution were rewritten" by the proposed convention.

Mullin said the idea was unthinkable that a convention would repeal any provision of the bill of rights—but if it did the people would be protected by the bill of rights which also is in the federal constitution.

A former state senator, M. J. Galvin, now representing the railroad companies, attacked the proposal, asking "who's suffered from this supposedly bad and troublesome constitution?"

Galvin struck at the plan of some constitutional revisions to have judges appointed in the first instance by the governor, charging it would tend to perpetuate members of a governor's political party on the bench.

Stuart W. Leck, for the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce governmental affairs committee, answered those who said the constitution can be amended to bring about any required changes.

"It is almost impossible to amend the constitution," Leck said, "because our amending machinery is so cumbersome. It requires a majority of all persons voting to carry an amendment—yet only one-third of them vote on amendments."

"We have the same difficulty trying to amend our city charter," he said.

P. F. Sherman, Minneapolis Good Government group, criticized the provision requiring all tax bills to originate in the house of representatives.

"That's one change we need," he said, "for it compels the senate tax committee to sit in idleness until bills have been passed by the house."

Constitutional Revision Hangs on Mere Thread

By M. W. HALLORAN

Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Constitutional revision was hanging on by a mere thread today, so far as the 1949 legislative session is concerned.

It was knocked over late Friday, even though 80 of the 131 members of the state house of representatives voted for a constitutional convention bill.

That was two-thirds of those voting, 49 "no" votes being registered.

But there were 10 members either absent or ducking the vote—and so the necessary two-thirds of the entire house, that is 88, were not obtained. The measure still has a little breath in it—for one or two of those who voted against it have consented to move for reconsideration Monday or Tuesday.

All six of the measure's sponsors put up a valiant fight for it. But the appeal to leave "well enough alone," and that "times are so unsettled that there is not time" was persuasive enough to beat the bill.

Thus, the present constitution's requirement that it takes a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of each house to even ask the people if they want a convention to tackle the revision job once more defeated the measure.

In 1945 a similar bill received a majority, but fell by the wayside for want of the necessary two thirds.

Representatives Stanley Holmquist, Grove City; Thomas Christie and Harold Lundeen, Minneapolis; Robert Sheran, Mankato; Howard Rundquist, Dawson, and E. B. Herseth, Kittson county, were the house sponsors.

They insisted, first, that all the bill does is submit to the people the question: "shall a constitutional convention be called?"

"Why deny the people a voice on so vital a matter?" asked Christie. "Besides, this bill requires the convention to submit to the people any draft of a new constitution it may make."

Thus, supporters said, the people pass on it twice. Are the people not to be trusted? they asked.

Holmquist listed 16 obsolete provisions in the constitution and asserted it was time these be removed.

Sheran insisted there was no need to fear that anything discriminatory against any class of people or industry would be "put over" in a revised constitution.

Representative Carl Iverson of Ashby alone attacked the convention idea. He feared the revisers would make it too easy to amend the constitution and he raised the objection that conditions are too unsettled to undertake so important a job.

Rundquist pointed out that the nation faced a crisis—it was on the verge of civil war—when the delegates to the 1857 convention drafted the present state constitution.

Herseth said that constitution, good as it is, needs to be revised in the light of changes over the years. He pointed out that many other states have had conventions which revised their constitutions to the advancement of good government.

Lundeen said the revision committee set up by the 1947 legislature had done good work in writing proposals for changes in this fundamental law of the state.

But, he said, the committee had concluded that the real, practical way to revise it was in convention.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA
84 South Tenth Street, Room 417
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

CALL FOR

A
C
T
I
O
N

April 4, 1949

Dear League Member:

I'm asking you to do something for the League TODAY - NOT TOMORROW. - but TODAY. Write a letter to your State Senator and Representatives (get their names from your League President, if necessary) and ask them to vote for the bills in their respective houses which will put to a vote of the people the calling of a Constitutional Convention.

We ask you to do this only if you can do so sincerely, on the basis of your own personal conviction, but we are certain that there are few League members who have taken part in our Constitution study during the past year who do not feel the need for considerable revision in that document. The only means now possible for an overall, coherent revision is by a constitutional convention, which can be called only if the Legislature by a 2/3 vote decides to submit to the people the question of calling such a convention.

If we do not have a Constitutional Convention, any revision done will have to be on a piecemeal basis, with the possible result of increased confusion and ambiguity, and many fundamental problems left unsolved. Besides all the technical reasons, such as the elimination of obsolete and contradictory material, a logical and unified arrangement of subject matter, and omission of statutory detail to make the instrument flexible and capable of changing with the times, there are other basic psychological reasons why we should have revision and why a constitutional convention might be the healthiest way for this to be brought about. Many provisions of our present constitution are actually ignored or in some way circumvented. This leads to a growing disrespect for law on the part of the people, which is most unfortunate. Also, the very life of democracy depends upon keeping the grass roots vocal upon having vigorous local and state governments which solve their own problems rather than running to Washington with them. And last but not least, the people need to be reminded of the fact that they are the government. There has been no overall consideration by our citizens of their fundamental laws since the Constitution was adopted over 90 years ago. There is a tendency for them to think of the government as something entirely foreign to themselves, something to be blamed for everything that goes wrong - and at the same time, to feel that the laws laid down for them by their forbears are too sacred to change. A constitutional convention could serve to remind them of this most important fact - THAT THEY ARE THE GOVERNMENT.

April 4, 1949

With this bit of background and with what you have learned from your own study and discussion in mind, sit down and write your letter. Make its tone a personal one - not "formletterish"- get your husband to sign it with you if he will. And get it off today. Do it preferably as a private citizen rather than as a League member.

In the few days following see how many of your friends you can interest in writing similar letters. The 2/3 vote is going to be most difficult to get. There are special interests now protected in the constitution who will strongly oppose it; a considerable lethargy exists on the part of many of the legislators themselves. However, the legislators who worked on the Commission and have been doing some thinking on the subject, strongly favor revision - and it will not be an impossible job to get the 2/3 vote. This is our major item of work on the State Program. Let's make it a successful one!

Sincerely,

Evelyn Thomas

Mrs. Lincoln Thomas
Chairman State Constitution Legislation

Mr. Gillen requested unanimous consent to make a motion which request was granted.

SUSPENSION OF RULES.

Mr. Gillen moved that the rules be so far suspended that the names of six authors be allowed to remain on H. F. No. 810.

Which motion prevailed.

H. F. No. 810, A bill for an act proposing a convention to revise the Constitution of the State of Minnesota.

Was read the third time and placed upon its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill,

66th Day]

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1949

37

Mr. Meinhofer moved that those not voting be excused from voting.

Which motion lost.

Mr. Howard moved that those not voting be excused from voting.

Which motion prevailed.

And the roll being called, there were yeas 80, and nays 40, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Anderson, H.R.	Dixon	Istrup	Murk	Ryan
Anderson, V.F.	Ehrenberg	Johnson, L. A.	Nelson	Ryti
Basford	Felt	Karas	Nordin	Searles
Beamblossom	Flem	Keller	Norman	Sheran
Bergerud	Frederickson	LaBrosse	Oberg	Shipka
Biernat	Gillen	Langley	Olsen	Silvola
Blomquist	Goodin	Lejke	Otto	Swanstrom
Bondhus	Hagland	Letnes	Peterson, O.	Temezyk
Chilgren	Hegstrom	Lundeen	Peterson, P. K.	Tucker
Christie	Herseeth	Lundrigan	Podgorski	Tweten
Cina	Herzog	Madden	Prifrel	Volstad
Crowwell	Hill	Mattson	Reed	Voxland
Dahle	Holm	McReynolds	Richardson	Wanwick
D'Aquila	Holmquist	Meinhofer	Riedner	Welch
Day	Holtan	Mills	Rundquist	Windmiller
Dirlam	Ilalley	Mosier	Rutter	Mr. Speaker

Those who voted in the negative were:

Allen	Dickinson	Gesell	Kaplan	O'Brien
Anderson, A.B.	Dominick	Gibbons	Kinzer	O'Malley
Anderson, J.A.	Dunn	Haag	Kosloske	Omtvedt
Appeldorn	Eneqvist	Halverson	Lee	Ottinger
Aune	Erdahl	Howard	Lux	Rinke
Burroughs	Erkel	Iverson	Memmer	Root
Burtness	Ernst	Johnson, A. I.	Morberg	Swanson
Clark	French	Johnson, M. N.	Moriarty	Waibel

So the bill was lost.

120
11

yeas
thompson
telle
Knutson
Mueller

negatives
Matten
Crawmer
Larson
Schneek
Schwartz

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT

DECEMBER, 1947

SUMMARY OF THE
MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT ACT

The Minnesota State Legislature at its last regular session, enacted a Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act which establishes by legislative action a comprehensive housing policy for the State of Minnesota. With the active support of Governor Luther W. Youngdahl, the housing and redevelopment bill was a non-partisan measure which received the support of civic interest groups of the state and received an almost unanimous vote. The measure was endorsed by such organizations as the Minnesota League of Women Voters and the Minneapolis Real Estate Board.

The Act comprehends two subjects:

1. What is commonly known as low-cost housing which should be more properly termed housing for persons of low income and
2. Redevelopment projects for the rehabilitation of deteriorating or blighted areas.

The Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act covers broadly the following subjects:

1. Authorizes cities, villages and boroughs to create housing and redevelopment authorities and to transfer property already owned by the municipality to these authorities with or without consideration.
2. Power for local housing and redevelopment authorities to acquire land for private or public housing developments or for other uses, including public purposes other than housing, or for industrial and commercial use, and to sell or lease acquired property to private enterprise for housing and development purposes. These authorities may exercise the power of eminent domain, clear land and prepare sites for building by putting in the necessary improvements.
3. Authorizes for housing and redevelopment authorities to undertake public low-rent housing projects subject to local public referendum. Cities can be prepared to

take advantage of any federal aids to housing that are made available.

4. Authorizes cities, villages and boroughs to provide special types of financing for the purpose of getting housing and redevelopment projects started.

5. Permits housing and redevelopment authorities to improve sites for construction and pay back the cost of such improvements out of the increased tax collections from the new construction.

6. Authorizes cities to cooperate in providing housing by furnishing without cost, for redevelopment projects, parks, playgrounds, recreational, community, educational, water, sewer or drainage facilities, or any other work which the city is empowered to undertake under its general powers.

7. Authorizes insurance companies, savings banks, and building and loan associations to invest in bonds and securities of redevelopment corporations engaged directly in housing development.

8. Permits insurance companies to organize redevelopment corporations and engage directly in housing.

9. Permits, but does not require, cities to grant limited tax exemption to redevelopment companies building rental housing. The exemption cannot exceed ten years, but may be for a shorter period and only applies to the increased excess valuation after construction.

Upward of more than 40 states have public housing laws. Some run back to 1934 and many to 1937. The constitutionality of such laws have been upheld in several dozen instances.

Approximately two dozen states have now adopted redevelopment laws, a number of them having been passed in 1943 and 1945. In sustaining the New York redevelopment law which is similar in many respects to the Minnesota Act, the highest court of the State of New York said:

"For a long period of years both state and municipal governments have recognized an ever increasing social and economic loss due to conditions in the blighted urban areas where slums exist. It is a fact within common knowledge that conditions prevailing in slum areas affect the health, safety and welfare of the public, causing indirectly a heavy capital loss and a diminishing rate of tax revenues."

In some states, there is a separate act for low-rent housing and a separate act for redevelopment work, but this is because the housing laws were passed at an earlier date before there was a nationwide movement toward redevelopment programs. In such states where redevelopment laws were later enacted,

separate acts are sometimes used, but in a large number of these cases, the redevelopment laws confer upon the existing housing authorities the duty to carry out the redevelopment projects.

In the Minnesota Act, the two subjects, low-rent housing and redevelopment work and related subjects, are combined because to do otherwise would involve useless duplication. The local housing and redevelopment authority created by a municipality under the State Act exercises both kinds of powers. The various subjects are, however, set up in separate articles of the State Act in such a manner that low-rent housing, redevelopment of existing buildings, redevelopment projects and private redevelopment companies are treated separately.

The primary purpose of the State Act is to encourage private building construction to produce the greatest number of houses and pre-empt the entire housing field if possible. Major emphasis in housing must be on a program which produces permanent housing by assisting private capital to do the job. Although housing by public bodies for persons of low income is authorized by the Act, it must be recognized that the only solution broad enough to be significant in solving the housing problem lies in tapping the sources of private capital which have always financed volume construction. The Act encourages sound municipal planning so that new construction is properly related to necessary public services and facilities thereby protecting the sources of public revenue.

Public action is permitted to provide for situations where private industry is unwilling or presently unable to provide proper housing and for the redevelopment of deteriorating or blighted areas, but the restrictions are such that it is only when private industry fails to fill the need that public action is permitted. Eight points should be emphasized:

1. The bill nowhere calls for any expenditure of state funds.
2. No community is required to proceed under the Act; any action to be taken will be voluntarily on the part of the local municipalities and low-rent housing projects and subject to a referendum. In other words, it is an enabling act.
3. Except for the small tax which city councils are authorized to levy in connection with the redevelopment of blighted areas, there is no provision for taxation. Cities may elect not to levy this tax. Other methods of local financing are provided for in the Act.
4. Veterans' preferences are emphasized throughout the housing provisions of the bill.
5. Present and contemplated federal legislation has been kept in mind throughout the bill, and, whatever form federal legislation may take, communities should be in a position, without further legislation, to take advantage of federal aid.

6. It does not provide for or permit competition between the work of public agencies and private construction but definitely provides a safeguard against such competition.

7. The full faith and credit of the city or village is not pledged for the payment of any obligations incurred by a housing and redevelopment authority. Cities cannot make any appropriations out of its general revenue for housing and redevelopment work. Financing low-rent housing for persons of low income and for redevelopment projects must be self-sustaining in the manner provided by the Act.

8. Redevelopment projects calling for the use of municipal aids including the power of eminent domain and other municipal services and facilities may include the provision of sites for industrial and commercial purposes.

The Act has been divided into articles and except for those provisions, which are common to all of its features, each article may be considered separately as though it were a separate topic.

ARTICLE I.

Article I contains the short title of the Act which is the "Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act."

A complete and succinct statement of existing conditions, the necessity for the Act, its purposes and the methods by which these purposes are to be accomplished may be found in the declaration in Section 2 of the Act, and Section 3 contains the necessary definitions. These provisions are similar to the laws of other states; particularly those in which legislation of this character has been sustained and are standard provisions.

ARTICLE II.

Article II provides for the creation of local housing and redevelopment authorities to administer the Act. It will have been noted under the section in Article I dealing with definitions that the term "municipality" is sufficiently broad enough to include not only cities but also villages and boroughs. The provisions of the Act are entirely optional; consequently, if the city, village or borough does not desire to use it, there is no compelling force requiring a city to proceed, but if it is believed by the people of any community that the exercise of all or even a small part of the powers granted by the bill is advantageous, the way is open for any city, village or borough to proceed. It is interesting to note that smaller cities and villages are taking advantage of the new powers made available by the Act. Not only have the cities of the first class formed housing authorities, but smaller cities have also done so.

The creation of a separate housing and redevelopment authority, at all times under the control of the governing body of the municipality as to matters of broad policy or importance

is found in practically every housing and redevelopment act. In Michigan and perhaps in one or two other states, the housing and redevelopment authority is a department of the city government and takes action in the name of the city, but there are obvious advantages to having a separate public body which can act as such, particularly to avoid questions of debt limitations, obligations of the municipalities, etc. It is particularly necessary in an act of this type which is optional and may be taken advantage of by one or a number of cities.

Before a local housing authority is created, the governing body must determine that any one or several of the following conditions exist: Adequate housing accommodations are not available to veterans and servicemen and their families, or there is a shortage of decent, safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations available to persons of low income and their families at rentals they can afford, or substandard slums or blighted areas exist which cannot be redeveloped without the assistance made available by the Act. If any one of these conditions exist in a municipality, the governing body is justified in creating a housing and redevelopment authority.

Then, and this is an absolutely new provision not found in the laws of other states, in order to assure public support of housing for low-income families, there is a provision that a referendum must be held on the question before any such projects may be undertaken. A referendum does not have to be held for redevelopment projects.

The housing and redevelopment authority consists of five commissioners appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the governing body. The original appointments are staggered over a five-year period, and subsequent appointments are to be made for five years. The members of the authority must be residents of the municipality and hold no other public office.

ARTICLE III.

Article III prescribes the general powers of housing and redevelopment authorities. These provisions are standard and are found in similar statutes in many other states. Powers are given to deal with the Federal Government and to take advantage of any federal aid. Members of a housing authority have no financial responsibility for their official acts. In line with the modern idea concerning tort liability of public bodies, the housing and redevelopment authority made responsible for tort in the same manner as a private corporation. The housing authority in the management of any housing or redevelopment project protects itself under this provision by public liability insurance. There are provisions in this Article as to construction work and purchases requiring competitive bidding and advertisement for bids in the case of expenditures of a thousand dollars or more.

ARTICLE IV.

Article IV deals with housing for persons of low income. A local housing and redevelopment authority cannot

initiate any low-rent housing projects until an analysis is prepared demonstrating that there is a need for such low-rent (1) which cannot be met by private enterprise, (2) a gap of at least 20 per cent has been left between the upper rental limitation for admission to the proposed low-rent housing project and the lowest rents which private builders are providing a substantial supply of decent, safe and sanitary housing, and (3) housing for families of low income has been approved by the voters at a referendum election.

Under the Act, only families in the lowest 20 per cent of the income group of the community are eligible to live in the project. A tenant must be a citizen of the United States. As between applicants equally in need and eligible for occupancy, preference shall be given to the families of servicemen including families of servicemen who died in service and families of discharged veterans. Occupancy of any dwelling unit in a low-rent housing project may not exceed four years except that the local authority may extend it for two years on findings of changes justifying continuing occupancy.

Local authorities are required to manage their low-rent housing project in an efficient manner to enable them to fix the rentals or payments for dwelling accommodations at rents consistent with their providing decent, safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for persons of low income, and they are not to construct or operate housing projects for profit or as a source of revenue to the municipality.

Rents are to be just high enough to produce revenues which together with all other receipts of the authority, will pay the principal and interest on bonds, create reserves to meet the payment of principle and interest, meet the cost of maintenance and operation and administrative expenses of the authority and make a payment to the municipality of not less than 5 per cent of the shelter rent received from the operation of the project. Low-rent housing projects are owned by a public body and are not taxable under the Act and the laws of the state, but the authority is required to make a payment of not less than 5 per cent of the shelter rent in lieu of taxes.

The low-rent character of the project is maintained by the use of federal financial assistance. There are some 600 housing authorities in the United States today and several hundred of these authorities have constructed low-rent housing projects. In the principal cities, each authority has several projects. The Act contains limits and safeguards to insure that low-rent housing will be truly for the benefit of persons of low income. Periodic investigations must be made to determine whether the persons who receive the benefit are within the proper class.

It is further required that no project for low-rent housing or the clearance of a blighted area involving the construction of new low-rent housing units shall be undertaken unless there has been or will be an elimination of a substantially equal number of unsafe or unsanitary buildings. This

requirement may be deferred not exceeding five years if the housing shortage is so acute as to force dangerous overcrowding. Low-rent housing may, under this requirement, be built on vacant land.

Under certain circumstances, the local authority, in order to conserve the existing housing supply, may purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire existing buildings for low-rent housing in lieu of new construction.

It should be noted that in Article IV there are absolutely no provisions for taxation. These low-rent housing projects must be, with federal aid, self-sustaining. It has been the experience in other states that with the federal contributions, the bonds of such authorities have found a ready market and authorities have been able to carry on without the necessity of taxation.

According to a 1947 report of the Federal Government, the average monthly gross rents in low-rent housing (including utilities) were as follows:

All localities	\$ 19.11
Metropolitan districts over 500,000	22.34
Other cities, north and west	20.98
South - white families	16.63
South - Negro families	14.55

There has been no construction of public low-rent housing projects with federal financial assistance since 1942 and none can be undertaken at the present time until the Congress acts further in amending the United States Housing Act of 1937. Under municipal home rule in Minnesota, our cities could have undertaken these projects, and several efforts to provide for public low-rent housing through charter amendments were considered. The Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act eases this situation by making a smaller vote necessary for the passage of a referendum on the question than is required for a charter amendment.

ARTICLE V.

Article V deals with the subject of redevelopment and rehabilitation. Redevelopment and the provision of low-cost housing should not be confused. It should be remembered that the purpose of redevelopment projects is to replace, rehabilitate, and rebuild blighted areas. While some of the cleared areas may be used for public housing, it is contemplated that those which are redeveloped by private industry particularly will be used to furnish housing for higher and medium-income families as well as those of low income, and, in proper cases, for industrial and commercial purposes. In other words, the whole purpose is to change a deteriorating area into an attractive, sanitary, income-producing and revenue-producing property.

Before any redevelopment project is instituted by a redevelopment company, any individual, firm, or corporation, or by the authority itself, a plan must be prepared, which is to be considered by the authority, and, if there is a planning agency in the municipality, it must be reviewed by that agency before the authority acts. If an authority determines that a redevelopment project should be undertaken, it applies to the governing body of the municipality in which the project is located for approval. Before the governing body can grant its approval, it must find:

1. That the project area would not, by private enterprise alone and without the aid sought, be made available for development and redevelopment;
2. That the proposed land uses and building requirements in the project areas in the locality will afford maximum opportunity to privately financed development or redevelopment and materially improve conditions in the area; and
3. That the redevelopment plan is based upon a local survey and conform to a comprehensive plan for the locality as a whole.

An authority may make any of its land in a redevelopment project available for use by private parties and concerns by sale, lease, or otherwise, or may itself retain property for redevelopment by it. The land is to be made available at its fair use value.

Leases or sales made of property acquired for redevelopment purposes shall provide that the lessee or purchaser shall carry out the approved redevelopment plan and that no use shall be made of any of the property included in the lease or sale of any building or structure erected thereon which does not conform to that approved plan. The inclusion of other conditions which will insure conformity to the plan are authorized. Leases or sales may be of all of a project or of parts of it.

Until all building constructions and other physical improvements specified to be done and made by a purchaser have been completed, the purchaser shall have no power to convey the area or any part of it without the consent of the authority. Redevelopment plans may be modified. A purchaser or lessee may be required to furnish a bond as security for fulfillment of the agreement.

Before a plan is approved the authority must be satisfied that decent, safe and sanitary housing is available for the displaced low-income families.

After property has been assembled, the authority shall have its use value determined and may have appraisals made by land value experts for that purpose. Inasmuch as it is contemplated that the cost of a redevelopment project may be greater than the proceeds from the sale or lease of property, or since the property may be developed by the authority, authorities are authorized to raise funds by (1) federal aid, which will be first

resorted to; (2) the issuance of bonds, which may be, with the consent of the governing body, retired from a special bond fund consisting of the increased tax receipts from a redeveloped area as compared with the taxes paid prior to redevelopment; and finally (3) as provided in the so-called Indianapolis plan, by the levy of a tax of not more than ten cents per hundred dollars of assessed value for the first two years and five cents per hundred dollars thereafter. Since this is an enabling act, cities are not required to levy this one-mill tax for redevelopment purposes.

ARTICLE VI.

Article VI deals with the issuance of bonds by authorities, which may be payable in several ways but which are declared not to be a debt of the city, the county, the state or any political subdivision thereof, the definite provision being made that those bonds shall be payable out of no other funds than those of the authority. These bonds are to be tax exempt. When bonds issued by an authority or by any public authority or agency in the United States are secured by a pledge of annual contributions to be paid by the United States government or any agency thereof, the state, municipal corporations, political subdivisions, and public bodies, financial institutions, insurance companies, and fiduciaries are authorized to invest in them.

ARTICLE VII.

Article VII makes the real property of an authority exempt from sale under execution, although under other provisions of the act, obligations of an authority may be enforced by mandamus. Authorities are authorized to cooperate with each other. The property of an authority is declared to be public property, used for essential and public governmental purposes, and that property and an authority shall be exempt from all taxes and special assessments of the city, the county, the state or any political subdivision thereof, but with these exceptions. First, property which an authority leases for development in connection with a redevelopment project shall have the same tax status as if it were owned by private individuals. Second, provision is made for the payment by authorities of a percentage of the shelter rentals collected each year in a low-rent housing project, to be paid in lieu of taxes, the basic figure being set at five per cent with provisions for adjustments upward in accordance with the situation and the necessity of meeting federal requirements. Such a system has operated very successfully in the case of low-rent housing projects.

ARTICLE VIII.

Article VIII authorizes state public bodies to furnish certain public facilities and services to authorities. Authorities in turn may assist private builders with these facilities or others furnished by the authority to build up the necessary equity for private home financing.

ARTICLE IX.

Article IX deals with private limited dividend companies which undertake housing projects in redevelopment areas. Its provisions were included because there have been a number of very successful operations under provisions of this type, particularly by insurance companies. A person, firm or other company does not have to form a redevelopment company if it wants to participate in redevelopment projects under Article V of the Act. It must be a redevelopment company if it requests partial tax exemption.

Briefly, this article provides for the organization of limited dividend corporations, to be known as redevelopment companies. Such a company, after providing for expenses, taxes, and assessments, may receive for interest, amortization, depreciation and dividends not exceeding 6 per cent of the total actual final cost of a project, those payments to be cumulative. When a company is dissolved or a project sold, any excess profits are to be paid into the general fund of the municipality in which the project is located.

Redevelopment companies may issue income debenture certificates and bonds under trust indentures. Certain of these bonds are made authorized securities. They may not acquire any real property or interest therein for a project or projects until approval by the governing body of the municipality. As in the case of all redevelopment projects, the approval of a plan is required in the first instance. It is then contemplated that a contract will be entered into between the authority and the company or, when all the stock, debentures, and mortgage bonds of a company are owned by one or more insurance companies, between the authority, the redevelopment company and the insurance company or companies.

An authority may take property by condemnation for a redevelopment company and sell it to the redevelopment company for use in accordance with the terms of the act.

Insurance companies are specifically authorized to organize redevelopment companies and hold their stocks, income debenture certificates, and bonds, and to make capital contributions to those companies.

As an inducement to insurance companies and other investors to organize these redevelopment companies and carry out redevelopment projects, the governing body of a municipality in which any project of a redevelopment company is located may exempt from all local taxes (not including special assessments) so much of the value of a property included in a project as represents an increase over the assessed valuation of the property at the time of its acquisition by the redevelopment company. This exemption may not extend for more than ten years. In New York, the tax exemption extends for 50 years, and in Wisconsin, it was raised in 1945 from 10 to 30 years. This means that, if the taxes on the property included in a project were \$2,000 before redevelopment started, and after redevelopment,

they would on the basis of assessed valuation on the improved property be \$20,000, during the exemption period the redevelopment company would pay on the \$2,000 valuation basis and be exempt from the payment of taxes on the improvements. The city, therefore, does not lose any taxes but builds up the assessed valuation of the community.

HOUSING

(Talk given by Mrs. David Shearer, December 9, 1948, at Legislative Luncheon for members of Hennepin County delegation, sponsored by League of Women Voters of Mpls.)

The League of Women Voters of the United States has had the subject of housing on its program since 1936 - subsidized housing for families of low income. The Minnesota League of Women Voters has had Minnesota enabling legislation for similar housing on its program for support since 1943. Leagues throughout the United States have worked for a federal general housing bill as first embodied in the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill and then in the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill as proposed to the 80th Congress. It is our hope that the 81st Congress will enact a housing bill of the scope and far-sightedness and effectiveness of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill in order that a long-range attack may be made on the nationwide housing situation. It is also our hope that the provisions in such a bill for dealing with subsidized low-rent housing for low-income families will be of a nature to adequately provide for these families.

It is our belief that the Minnesota Housing and Redevelopment Act passed by the Minnesota state legislature in 1947 needs certain amendments so that it will be possible for Minnesota communities to more readily take advantage of the opportunities and benefits opened up by federal legislation.

One amendment should be an extension of the partial tax exemption period offered to private enterprise to induce business to build rental housing on land redeveloped or reclaimed by the local housing authority, thus providing rental housing at moderate rents and rehabilitating blighted areas. Our law provides for partial tax exemption for ten years - that is, the taxes would be no higher than they were before the improvement began. This is not a long enough period, however, for long-range planning and financing. In New York City, for example, private companies such as the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company have built large projects and the tax exemption lasts for twenty-five years. Long-term financing makes it possible to keep rents at a reasonable level at a reasonable profit.

The requirement that construction of housing projects such as just described must begin on or before August 1, 1949, in order that they may be eligible for partial tax exemption should be removed. The nearness of this date would practically prohibit any such building.

Our law should also be amended to eliminate the referendum requirement. It is cumbersome and does not safeguard a community or private enterprise in any way that they are not already protected in our own law and in federal legislation. Both laws require that at least a 20 per cent gap be left between the highest rents asked tenants by a low-rent housing project and the lowest rents asked by private builders for decent housing. If federal funds were earmarked for use in Minnesota and a general election were one or two years off, unless an expensive special election were held, the funds might be allocated somewhere else and we would be helping to pay, through our federal taxes, for subsidized housing in some other state that was ready to use it. The referendum is really on the idea of whether a local authority should build public housing, not on a specific project which must have the consent of the local governing body. The need for public housing has been established by the Act and by local findings before the establishment of a local authority.

Another amendment that is needed to insure successful operation of the bill is one to allow a municipality to contribute financially to public housing or redevelopment. Our bill authorizes a 1 mill tax levy for redevelopment of blighted land but a community cannot contribute a cent for housing to go on the land.

A new federal housing bill would most certainly limit the amount that could be spent on each unit of a housing project to be partly subsidized with federal funds. With building costs as they are or are likely to be for some time, there would be a gap between the cost limitations set down in the federal bill and the actual costs. So in order to secure housing which is as important as the restoring of blighted land, a community should be allowed to contribute financially to such housing.

In addition to a discussion of the most important amendments desired to the 1947 state housing and redevelopment law, I would like to make a few other remarks.

Although the last state legislature passed a rent control law to go into effect when the federal rent control law expires, and our own law will eventually expire unless extended. It is hoped that the federal law will be extended for at least a year from March 1, 1949, when it expires.

Another aspect of housing legislation is an anticipated drive for stimulating, through federal legislation, the production of rental housing for the group of people just above the low-income level and just above the relief level. This is the largest group of all of people seeking decent, safe and adequate shelter at rents they can afford.

I am very glad to have had the opportunity of presenting these views to the members of the delegation from Hennepin County to the state legislature. Thank you.

IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT THE 1949 AMENDMENTS
TO THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT ACT
LAWS 1947, CHAPTER 487

1. The referendum requirement for any public low-rent housing project is not removed except in the one case where the project is completely self-sustaining with federal financial assistance and without any direct loan or grant from municipal tax sources.
2. If federal financial assistance for any public low-rent housing project is made conditional upon a local grant or loan on any matching basis, the project cannot go ahead without a referendum. (Pending federal housing legislation does not require the appropriation of local tax monies as a condition of federal aid.)
3. The bill does not authorize cities to go into locally financed public low-rent housing projects that are not part of a federal program even with a referendum. The federal government has committed itself to the maximum national housing program that it is within the industrial capacity of the nation to absorb over the next several years.
4. The Legislature should encourage municipalities to direct municipal housing activities out of high income, tax financed emergency housing into low-rent housing federally financed without local grants.
5. The maximum call upon local financing for grants or loans is still limited to the small tax that must be used for redevelopment purposes only, except in the case of Item 2 where a referendum must be held.
6. The bill encourages local housing and redevelopment authorities to assist and induce private individuals, associations, and groups to secure private loans for housing.
7. The bill seeks to induce private enterprise to build rental housing in redevelopment areas by increasing the return on investment from six to six and one-half per cent and changing the tax abatement period from ten to twenty-five years.
8. The bill does not authorize local housing and redevelopment authorities to take over and manage any existing emergency or temporary housing because authorities were created for the purpose of using public powers and their limited resources for the purpose of improving housing and redevelopment conditions by undertaking and managing their own projects. Existing temporary and emergency housing creates a disposition problem for the developing agency.
9. The other amendments are mostly required to meet changing conditions of federal legislation, are technical amendments or clarify the act without making substantial changes.

LEGISLATURE GETS HOUSING BILL TODAY

**Amendments to State
Act Sure of Strong
House, Senate Backing**

By RICHARD F. KLEEMAN
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Amendments to the 1947 Minnesota housing and redevelopment act will be introduced with strong backing in both houses of the 1949 legislature today.

Prepared under the supervision of the state housing and redevelopment director, Stuart Rothman, the bill will be sponsored in the upper house by Senators Gerald T. Mullin and Donald O. Wright, Minneapolis, and B. G. Novak, St. Paul. House sponsors will be Representatives Carl D'Aquila, Hibbing; Arthur Gillen, South St. Paul; Clarence Langley, Red Wing; Carl O. Wegner, Minneapolis; and E. R. Hirsch, Buffalo.

Major change of the general revision would eliminate the need for a referendum on low-rent housing projects where only federal funds are involved. Where any local funds are involved—even if they are required as a condition for receiving federal aid—a referendum still would be necessary.

Wright and Mullin urged adoption of the changes to "divert municipal housing actions out of tax-financed high income so-called emergency housing into the field where housing is needed most—low-rent housing financed without local bonds."

Their statement hinted at a development Mullin has mentioned frequently: a future ban by the legislature on the type of "emergency" temporary housing the Minneapolis city council has constructed.

Although such housing has met an admittedly great need, Mullin has stated, it has proved too costly and too inadequate to be augmented.

The proposed amendments to the state housing law do not go as far as the Minneapolis housing and redevelopment authority—cre-

ated under the 1947 act—would like, according to a written statement it issued last December.

The local group, while in agreement with Rothman's proposals, also would like to see removed the ban on purchase, lease or management of any housing project now owned by the federal government. This apparently refers only to the Summer field development in Minneapolis, which some local housing experts feel might some day be better operated under local instead of federal supervision.

Also unchanged in the bill to be presented today is the ban on municipal contributions to a low-cost housing project—except when required by the federal government and then only after a popular vote. The Minneapolis authority proposed removal of this.

Rothman has stated that any changes of a purely local nature that the Minneapolis unit wants can be obtained directly through Hennepin county legislators.

But the county senate delegation has shown itself unwilling to go further than Rothman-backed proposals.

Other changes which are incorporated in the new bill:

- If a local authority has an unencumbered balance from the tax it collects for redevelopment only, it may borrow from it to conduct a survey on low rent housing conditions.
- Encouragement to private investors to enter the low-rent housing field by increasing the maximum return on their investment from 6 to 6.5 per cent and lengthening the period of tax abatement from 10 to 25 years.

The present requirement that a low-cost housing project contribute 5 per cent of its shelter rent to the municipality and school board in place of property taxes is retained in the law, Rothman said.

ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS EDITORIAL

February 5, 1949

AN IMPROVED HOUSING ACT

"The senators and representatives who introduced the bill amending Minnesota's 1947 housing and redevelopment act, on Friday, are to be commended for a move that will correct that statute's greatest flaw. The provision whose elimination they seek is the one which requires a referendum in a city undertaking a federally financed low cost housing project.

Major changes to be made by the pending amendments are these: removal of the referendum requirement on public low cost housing projects when such projects are completely self-sustaining, with federal aid; retention of the referendum, however, if any local tax funds are necessary as a direct loan or grant, as a condition for receipt of federal aid.

If the long discussed public low cost housing measure, pending in one form or another before several recent congressional sessions, were now on the statute books, the Minnesota Legislature could not defend any hesitance whatever in removing the referendum requirement of our state act. Cities wanting to take advantage of federal grants would not want to face the handicaps and delays involved in a special election, just for the purpose of making such funds available. There is no referendum requirement as to the use of any other federal aid.

Minnesota's housing act is an enabling act, and nothing else. As such, it should enable cities to facilitate action when the congressional decks are cleared as to this issue, rather than hampering such action, as its present terms do."

Pub. Ho. 5164 Unnecessary Referendum

TWO years ago the Minnesota legislature passed the Minnesota municipal housing and redevelopment act so that Minnesota cities could set up housing and redevelopment authorities. Among other things, the authorities were to facilitate the fullest local participation in a federal housing program promised by congress and were empowered, within certain limits, to undertake urban redevelopment and the building of low rent housing projects. Together with Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, there are nine such housing authorities in the state today.

But Minnesota lawmakers wrote a heavy handicap into the state law of 1947 and now the cities and the state director of housing and redevelopment are trying to remove it.

That is a requirement that cities must have a referendum in which a majority of the voters approve public housing in general before the local housing authority can even consider a housing program.

It seems strange that such a well-accepted thing as public housing should require a referendum before it can be undertaken by a housing authority. In approving the creation of housing authorities two years ago the duly elected representatives of the people of Minnesota, the state legislators, approved the principle of public housing. Local governments, by establishing housing authorities, also approved the principle of public housing.

What useful purpose might a referendum serve? None that we have heard about. In 40 other states with local housing authorities, no referenda are required.

In house file 576 and senate file 424, both the state and the cities are seeking to have the legislature amend the act, removing the referendum requirement. If that provision of the housing and redevelopment act is kept, it will throw onto the cities the cost of holding an unnecessary referendum and might well delay their public housing programs, once federal funds become available.



Affiliated with the
National League
of Women Voters

ACTION

April 4, 1949

Dear President:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has endorsed the Administration bills, S. F. 424 and H. F. 576, which embody amendments to the Housing and Redevelopment Act passed by the legislature in 1947. These amendments are proposed in order to make the law work effectively and to carry out the intent of the legislature.

This 1947 Act authorized the establishment by a local governing body of a local housing authority. Several of these have been set up in communities throughout the state to carry out a program of urban redevelopment, clearance of blighted areas and low-rent housing. The proposed changes would enable Minnesota communities which have Authorities to participate fully and without delay in the federal aid for such programs that will most certainly be voted by the 81st Congress.

The most important amendment is that to abolish the requirement that a referendum be held on whether a community shall have low-rent housing. There is no necessity for this requirement because the need was declared by the state legislature in the 1947 Act and was demonstrated by the local governing body before the appointment of a local authority. A referendum would cause unnecessary delay in making plans and surveys preceding a low-rent housing project as would a special election which would also be expensive. A fact to be remembered is that low-rent projects and other activities of an authority are subject to the consent of the local governing body. Both the Federal and State Acts contain safeguards against too much low-rent housing in any one community. Federal taxes paid by Minnesotans help to pay for housing and slum clearance in other states. We should be in a position to accept our share as soon as the federal program is voted by Congress.

Our 1947 Act permits communities to give a tax privilege to companies, such as large insurance companies, as an inducement to them to undertake redevelopment projects and to provide rental housing at moderate rents. The law now requires that physical construction of a project must start on or before August 1, 1949 in order to enjoy this tax privilege and the duration is ten years. A long-range project cannot be started that soon and ten years is not a long enough low-tax period to be an inducement. Other states have set their periods for reduced taxes at from 25 to 40 years. The amount of taxes that private enterprise would pay would be the amount of the tax levy before the redevelopment began. Our law should be amended to extend the date for physical construction and the duration of the tax privilege.

All of the amendments proposed in S. F. 424 and in H. F. 576 would improve the Act passed in 1947. The most important however, is the one to remove the referendum requirement. The next most important is the one explained just above.

It will be necessary to wire your senator and representatives immediately asking them to work for both of these amendments, and to vote for the bills if they include these amendments.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Shearer
Mrs. David Shearer
Housing Legislation Chairman



Affiliated with the
National League
of Women Voters

ACTION

April 7, 1949

Dear President:

Yesterday, Thursday, April 7, the Minnesota House of Representatives passed unanimously H. F. 576, the amendments to the 1947 Housing and Redevelopment Act including the important amendment which removes the referendum requirement. If you were ever skeptical of the effectiveness of your communications to your state representatives, let me tell you that one of the wires from one of you touched off an hour and one half debate (giving the League much good publicity incidentally) and because of the debate the bill passed. Now, of course, it is due to come up in the Senate.

The same opponents will start working like mad on all of the senators. When I say the "same" opponents I mean practically the same men who have opposed all housing legislation since 1939. Outside of the Senate they are the same few men who represent the firmly entrenched big city opposition. Inside the Senate the opposition is much better organized than in the House but some of the usual opponents are beginning to weaken. An affirmative vote is in part up to us.

Some of us here are going to talk to every senator. They don't give us much time, however, and we need more help from you. Because of the very satisfactory results of your wires to members of the House, we who are working here on the spot think that if you would wire or write immediately once more to your senators it could very well mean passage of the housing amendments bill, S. F. 424. Then our state legislation would be in good form and it is about time after ten years and six legislative sessions.

It is unusual to send out another Call for Action on the same bill but the opposition in the Senate will be led by some very experienced legislators. What happened in the House yesterday demonstrated that word from the leagues had a good deal of effect. If word from the League were to have as much effect in the Senate, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota could take a lot of credit for a good housing and redevelopment law which has been on our Program and for which we have worked since 1939.

Of course, this is urgent. It might come up on Special Orders on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Shearer

Mrs. David Shearer

The hour of 2:30 o'clock P. M. having arrived, which is the hour set for the House Special Order, H. F. No. 576 came before the House for consideration.

Mr. Root moved to amend thereof, as follows:

Section 7, Subdivision 2, and before the word "any" on, insert the following new units of".

Mr. Lee moved that the o'clock P. M. be continued H. F. No. 576.

Which motion prevailed.

The question recurred on question being taken on the F. No. 576,

Mr. D'Aquila moved that voting.

Which motion prevailed.

65th Day]

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1949

35

And the roll being called, there were yeas 37, and nays 72, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Anderson, A. B.	Ehrenberg	Howard	Moriarty	Searles
Anderson, H. R.	Erdahl	Johnson, M. N.	Nordin	Tveten
Anderson, J. A.	Eikel	Kaplan	Oberg	Voxland
Blomquist	French	Keller	O'Brien	Windmiller
Burroughs	Gesell	Knutson	Peterson, O.	Mr. Speaker
Dickinson	Haeg	Lee	Rinke	
Dixon	Halverson	Lundeen	Root	
Dominick	Hill	Memmer	Rundquist	

Those who voted in the negative were:

Anderson, V. F.	Day	Johnson, A. I.	Olsen	Shipka
Appeldorn	Felt	Johnson, L. A.	O'Malley	Silvola
Basford	Flom	Konloske	Omtvedt	Swanson
Beanblossom	Frederickson	LaBrosse	Otto	Swanstrom
Bergerud	Gibbons	Langley	Peterson, P. K.	Talle
Biernat	Gillen	Letnes	Podgorski	Thompson
Bondhus	Goodin	Lux	Priffel	Tomczyk
Burtness	Hagland	Madden	Reed	Tucker
Carlson	Hegstrom	McReynolds	Richardson	Volstad
Chilgren	Herseth	Melhofer	Riedner	Wanvick
Christie	Herzog	Morberg	Rutter	Wagner
Cina	Holm	Mosier	Ryan	Welch
Clark	Holmquist	Murk	Ryti	
Dahle	Holtan	Nelson	Schenck	
D'Aquila	Ilstrup	Norman	Sheran	

So the motion was lost.

H. F. No. 576. A bill for an act relating to the replanning, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of substandard, slum, blighted, and other areas in this state and to the furnishing of decent, safe and sanitary housing for veterans, servicemen, and persons of low income, and their families; creating local housing and redevelopment authorities and defining their powers and duties; providing for cooperation with private enterprise in accomplishing the purpose of the act; providing methods of financing and authorizing the acceptance of federal and other aid; authorizing the creation of limited dividend corporations to engage in redevelopment and defining their powers and duties; providing certain limited tax exemptions; authorizing financial institutions, insurance companies, fiduciaries, and others to invest in securities of authorities and redevelopment companies and to otherwise cooperate with them; granting powers to insurance companies in connection with redevelopment companies; defining powers of the state housing commission and other state agencies and officers in the administration of the act; granting to municipalities, authorities, and other public bodies the powers necessary for accomplishing

HOUSE SPECIAL ORDER.

The hour of 2:30 o'clock P. M. having arrived, which is the hour set for the House Special Order, H. F. No. 576 came before the House for consideration.

Mr. Root moved to amend H. F. No. 576, the printed copy thereof, as follows:

Section 7, Subdivision 2, page 5, line 41, after the word "to" and before the word "any" appearing in the new matter thereon, insert the following new language: "the first 1000 family units of".

Mr. Lee moved that the House Special Order set for 3:00 o'clock P. M. be continued until completion of consideration on H. F. No. 576.

Which motion prevailed.

The question recurred on the motion of Mr. Root and the question being taken on the motion of Mr. Root to amend H. F. No. 576,

Mr. D'Aquila moved that those not voting be excused from voting.

Which motion prevailed.

the purpose of the act; and amending Laws 1947, Chapter 487, Section 3, Subdivisions 13 and 22, Section 4, Subdivisions 1 and 5, Section 7, Section 8, Subdivision 4, Sections 12, 18 and 20, Section 24, Subdivision 3, Sections 27, 28, 35, Section 37, Subdivision 13, Section 40, Subdivision 2, Sections 41 and 42, Section 43, Subdivision 1, Section 44, Section 46, Subdivision 2, Section 49, Subdivision 1, Sections 50, 52, 53, 55 and 60.

Was read the third time and placed upon its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill,

And the roll being called, there were yeas 112, and nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Allen	Dixon	Howard	Mosier	Ryti
Anderson, J.A.	Dominick	Ilisley	Murk	Schenck
Anderson, V.F.	Ehrenberg	Ilstrup	Nelson	Searles
Appeldorn	Erdahl	Johnson, A.I.	Nordin	Sheran
Aune	Eikel	Johnson, L.A.	Norman	Shipka
Basford	Ernst	Johnson, M.N.	Oberg	Silvola
Beanblossom	Felt	Karas	O'Brien	Swanson
Bergerud	Flom	Keller	Olson	Swanstrom
Biernat	Frederickson	Koaloake	O'Malley	Talle
Blomquist	French	LaBrosse	Omtvedt	Thompson
Bondhus	Gesell	Langley	Otto	Tomczyk
Burroughs	Gibbons	Lejk	Peterson, O.	Tucker
Burtness	Gillen	Letnes	Peterson, P.K.	Tweten
Carlson	Goodin	Lundeen	Podgorski	Volstad
Chilgren	Haeg	Lundrigan	Prifrel	Voxland
Christie	Hagland	Lux	Reed	Walbel
Cina	Hegstrom	Madden	Richardson	Warwick
Clark	Herseth	McReynolds	Riedner	Wegner
Crowell	Herzog	Melhofer	Rinke	Windmiller
Dahle	Hill	Memmer	Root	Mr. Speaker
D'Aquila	Holm	Mills	Rundquist	
Day	Holmquist	Morberg	Rutter	
Dickinson	Holtan	Moriarty	Ryan	

So the bill was passed and its title agreed to.

Mr. Anderson, H. R., moved that the Call of the House be lifted.

Which motion lost.

Mr. Tweten moved to amend the House Appropriations Committee Amendment to S. F. No. 1216 as follows:

Page 4, Section 7, Item 8, line 37, after the colon after the word "Association" and before the word "Southeastern", insert the following:

April 14, 1949

SPECIAL ORDER—CONTINUED.

H. F. No. 576: A bill for an act relating to the replanning, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of substandard, slum, blighted, and other areas in this state and to the furnishing of decent, safe and sanitary housing for veterans, servicemen, and persons of low income, and their families; creating local housing and redevelopment authorities and defining their powers and duties; providing for cooperation with private enterprise in accomplishing the purpose of the act; providing methods of financing and authorizing the acceptance of federal and other aid; authorizing the creation of limited dividend corporations to engage in redevelopment and defining their powers and duties; providing certain limited tax exemptions; authorizing financial institutions, insurance companies, fiduciaries, and others to invest in securities of authorities and redevelopment companies and to otherwise cooperate with them; granting powers to insurance companies in connection with redevelopment companies; defining powers of the state housing commission and other state agencies and officers in the administration of the act; granting to municipalities, authorities, and other public bodies the powers necessary for accomplishing the purpose of the act; and amending Laws 1947, Chapter 487, Section 3, Subdivisions 13 and 22, Section 4, Subdivisions 1 and 5, Section 7, Section 8, Subdivision 4, Sections 12, 18 and 20, Section 24, Subdivision 3, Sections 27, 28, 35, Section 37, Subdivision 13, Section 40, Subdivision 2, Sections 41 and 42, Section 43, Subdivision 1, Section 44, Section 46, Subdivision 2, Section 49, Subdivision 1, Sections 50, 52, 53, 55 and 60.

Was read the third time and placed on its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill,

And the roll being called, there were yeas 59, and nays none, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Almen	Dennison	Johnson, J.A.	Neumeier	Spokely
Andersen, E.L.	Dernek	Julkowski	Novak	Sullivan
Anderson, M.H.	Dougherty	Larson	O'Brien	Vukelich
Baughman	Duenke	Laerman	Pedersen	Wagener
Bridgeman	Feldt	Ledin	Peterson, E.	Wahlstrand
Burdick	George	Lofvegren	Peterson, E.L.	Wefald
Bushnell	Goodhue	Masek	Rogers	Welch
Butler	Grottum	Mayhood	Rosenmeier	Welle
Carey	Hagen	Miller	Siegel	Wright
Carley	Imm	Mitchell	Simonson	Wuertz
Carr	Johanson	Mullin	Sinclair	Zwach
Dahlquist	Johnson, C.E.	Nelsen	Sletvold	

So the bill passed and its title was agreed to.

S. F. 352
Sen. Wahlstrand, Wright, Grottm
(Reps. Ilstrup, P. K. Peterson, Madden,
Holmquist)
Passed by Senate 48-0 on 3/10/49
Reported to pass, as amended, by House
Health Comm. 3/25/49

A BILL

FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND
TO THE CONTROL OF PREVENTABLE DISEASES;
TO AUTHORIZE COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH AND
JOIN IN ESTABLISHING COUNTY OR MULTIPLE
COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR
FINANCING BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENTS AND FOR PRIVATE GIFTS; TO
PROVIDE FOR BOARDS OF HEALTH AND ~~FULL-TIME~~
HEALTH OFFICERS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
SUSPENSION UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES OF
EXISTING LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH AND HEALTH
OFFICERS; TO PROVIDE FOR PROMULGATION BY
COUNTY BOARDS OF REGULATIONS FOR PRESERVATION
OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. The term health department, as used in this act, is defined as a health department organized and supported by one or more counties, and employing-qualified-medical-nursing-and-other-personnel-under-the-direction-of a-full-time-qualified-health-officer.--Reference-hereinafter-made-to-health-departments-means-such-full-time-health-departments-unless-otherwise-specified.

Sec. 2. Subdivision 1. Any county or two or more adjacent counties are hereby authorized and empowered, by resolution adopted by a majority of the members of the county board or county boards of the respective counties, to establish and maintain a health department as herein defined. The county commissioners of any two or more adjacent counties may submit, and on petition of qualified electors equal to 10% of the total vote at the last general election, shall submit such action to a vote of the people. If the majority of the voters voting thereon favor the action, it shall go into effect on the date specified.

Subd. 2. A city of the first or second class located within a county in which a health department is established under this act, shall not come within the jurisdiction of the board of health of such health department until such city, by ordinance of its governing body, shall take action to be included within the jurisdiction of such health department subject to the referendum provided in the following subdivision. In counties containing a city of the first class and wherein the majority of the county commissioner districts lie within the city of the first class, it shall require the unanimous vote of the county board to establish a county health department as provided for in this act.

Subd. 3. The governing body of a city of the first or second class may submit, and on petition of qualified electors equal to 10% of the total vote at the last regular municipal election, shall submit such action to a vote of the people. If the majority of the voters voting thereon favor the action, it shall go into effect on the date specified.

Sec. 3. All powers and duties now or hereafter vested in or imposed upon the local health boards defined in Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 145.01 shall, in all areas included in the jurisdiction of any health department established under this act, be transferred to, vested in and imposed upon such health department from the date when the health officer of such health department assumes the responsibilities of his appointment or such later date as may be determined by such health department; provided, however, that nothing herein shall affect the registration of vital statistics, except that when any city comes within the jurisdiction of any health department established under this act and is without a city health officer, the state registrar of vital statistics shall appoint a local registrar therein.

Sec. 4. Subdivision 1. Every health department shall be responsible to a local board of health as hereinafter provided for.

Subd. 2. The board of health of a health department embracing one county shall consist of five members appointed by the board of county commissioners. Where two or more counties combine to form a health department, each such county shall, by the same method, appoint two members to the board of health, except that the county having the largest population shall appoint three such members. In each such board of health, one member from each county shall be selected from the largest participating municipality located within such county. In each such board of health, one of the members so appointed shall be a doctor of medicine and one shall be a doctor of dental surgery, each licensed to practice in Minnesota. The remaining members of the board shall be laymen, representative of the people served by the health department.

Subd. 3. At the first meeting of any board of health appointed under this section, the members thereof shall determine by lot the respective original terms to be served by each member, whether one, two, or three years. The same number of such members shall be chosen for each such length of term as nearly as may be. All subsequent appointments, except to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, shall be for three year terms.

Subd. 4. The officers of the board shall be a chairman and a vice chairman, to be elected annually by the members thereof for a term of one year.

Sec. 5. Subdivision 1. Every health department established under this act shall be operated and maintained from funds appropriated and fees collected within the counties included in the area covered by such health department, together with such state and federal funds and private grants which may be appropriated or granted to it or to any of its participating county or other political subdivisions. The cost of maintenance of every such health department shall be borne by the several participating counties on the basis of the ratio of the population of each such county to the total population served by the said health department, and the amount thus required of each of the participating counties for such health department purposes shall be spread as a separate tax levy against all of the taxable property of each of such counties, provided, however, that the tax levy shall not exceed one mill against all of the taxable property of each such county, and except that where a city of the first or second class does not come within the jurisdiction of such health department its population shall not be considered in such computation, and the health department tax levy of such county shall not apply to the property within such city.

Subd. 2. The health officer and board of health of every health department created under this act shall annually prepare a budget of its proposed expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year and determine the proportionate cost to each participating county. A certified copy of such budget, which shall include a statement of the amount required from each such county, shall be delivered to the board of county commissioners of each participating county. The county boards of all participating counties in each such health department shall meet in joint session, prior to the regular annual July meetings of such boards, for due hearing and agreement on such health department budget. The budget adopted shall be effective when approved by a majority of the members of each such county board in attendance at such joint meetings, ~~provided that such attending members shall constitute a quorum of such board.~~ A majority of each county board shall be in attendance to constitute a quorum for a joint meeting. At its regular meeting in July, each such county board shall include in its annual levy of county taxes, such amount as may be necessary not to exceed the tax limitations imposed by this act for the health department purposes provided for in this act, as a separate levy over and above the limits now imposed for the general fund of the county. Such amount, when collected, shall be credited to the "health department fund" of the county.

Subd. 3. In the accounts and treasury of the county wherein is located the principal office of each multicounty health department there shall be created a "joint health department fund." The treasurer of each county participating in such health department shall pay or cause to be paid into this joint fund from the county "health department fund" all tax monies, fees, grants-in-aid, gifts, or bequests designated for public health department purposes by drawing a warrant in favor of the "joint health department fund" payable to the treasurer of the county selected as the place of deposit of such fund. The said fund shall be used only for the purposes of said health department in accordance with the adopted budget, and shall be expended in the manner prescribed by such board of health pursuant to properly authenticated vouchers of such health department signed by its health officer.

Sec. 6. Subdivision 1. The board of health of every health department organized under this act shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly at such time and place as may be provided by such board, and such special meetings as may be called by its chairman or a majority of its members. Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to statutory travel and other necessary expenses while engaged in their official duties.

Subd. 2. The board of health shall employ a full-time health officer who shall be a doctor of medicine duly licensed and registered in the State of Minnesota who shall have ~~special training or experience in public health administration~~ the approval of the State Board of Health. He shall be appointed for a term of five years subject to removal for cause after a hearing before the ~~said~~ board of health. He shall be the executive officer of the board of health, shall select subordinate personnel subject to the approval of the board and shall have general supervision of all work conducted by such health department.

Subd. 3. Whenever a county or multiple county health department is established under this act the county health nurse in each of said counties shall be under the supervision and jurisdiction of such county or multiple county health department.

Subd. 4. Every such board of health shall enter into a joint agreement with the boards of county commissioners of the counties and the governing bodies

of participating cities of the first and second class within its jurisdictional area to regulate such matters as salary scales, merit systems, the acquisition of property and personnel of previously existing health departments, the distribution of assets upon withdrawal of any county or city and other matters wherein practices may vary in different participating counties and cities.

Subd. 5. Every such health officer and board of health shall annually prepare a budget of the proposed expenditures of such health department for the ensuing year and the proportionate cost thereunder to each participating county; provided, however, that for the first year of operation of any such health department this function may be performed by the said board alone.

Subd. 6. Each such board of health shall prepare and cause to be published for free public distribution an annual report of the work of its health department.

Subd. 7. Each such board of health may make recommendations to the boards of county commissioners for local legislation pertaining to the public health and generally applicable throughout their counties. It may also recommend to any municipality within its jurisdiction local legislation having specific application to health problems peculiar to such municipality.

Sec. 7. Subdivision 1. The board of county commissioners of any county within the jurisdiction of any health department created under this act shall have the power to adopt and to alter by resolution, and to enforce reasonable regulations for the preservation of the public health, applicable throughout the whole or any portion of the county. Proposed regulations shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation throughout the county or counties served by the health department before adoption. Provided, however, in counties containing a city of the first class and wherein a majority of the county commissioner district lie within a city of the first class, it shall require the unanimous vote of the county board to adopt such rules and regulations, except that and no such county regulation shall supersede or conflict with higher standards established by statute, the regulations of the state board of health, or the provisions of the charter or ordinances of any city pertaining to the same subject matter.

Subd. 2. Nothing in this act shall prohibit any municipality from adopting ordinances or resolutions for the regulation of the public health setting higher standards than those of the state board of health, the board of county commissioners, or the statutes.

Sec. 8. Subdivision 1. Every health department created under this act, subject, however, to the general supervision of the state board of health, shall cause all laws and regulations relating to public health to be obeyed and enforced within its jurisdictional area.

Subd. 2. After any two or more counties shall have taken action to establish a joint health department under this act, any participating county may withdraw therefrom not earlier than one year from the beginning of the next fiscal year following written notice to its board of health and the boards of county commissioners of all other participating counties of its intention so to do.

Subd. 3. Any city of the first or second class participating in a health department established under this act may withdraw therefrom in the manner provided for the withdrawing of a participating county. Thereafter its population shall not be considered in the computation of apportionment of taxes for health department purposes and the health department tax levy of the county thereof shall not include the taxable property within such city.

Subd. 4. Whenever any county or city of the first or second class shall withdraw from any health department established under this act, all provisions of law relating to local health boards and officers as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1945, Sec. 145.01, shall immediately become applicable within such county or city.

Sec. 9. If any of the provisions of this act shall be held unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

COUNTY UNIT HEALTH BILL

(Talk given by Mrs. Elmer Ruston, December 9, 1948, at Legislative Luncheon for members of Hennepin County delegation, sponsored by League of Women Voters of Mpls.)

Madam Chairman, members of the Hennepin County Delegation, and friends: The League of Women Voters has been interested in health legislation for many years. We were very gratified by the splendid work done by the 1947 legislature in passing the bill which provided state aid to counties for public health nurses. However, we were very disappointed that the bill to enable counties or groups of counties to join together to set up full time public health departments failed to pass. In passing the school district reorganization act, the legislature recognized the need of school districts to consolidate for more efficient administration and use of funds as well as to equalize educational opportunity for all the youth of our state. Just so there is a need for the consolidation of our local health units to provide more adequate public health services for the people of Minnesota. Now what is meant by adequate public health services? Perhaps the most conservative and traditional interpretation of public health is that it is the responsibility of government to protect the individual in the community against the special hazards of communal life. This includes control of communicable and preventable diseases, environmental sanitation in all its aspects, protection of health in maternity, infancy and childhood, health education, and the recording of vital statistics.

According to the American Public Health Association, in order to carry out such a program adequately, it is necessary for a given area to have a full time health department, staffed by professionally trained personnel. This should include a full time public health officer, a public health engineer, a non-professional sanitary assistant, one public health nurse for every 5,000 population, and one clerk for every 15,000 population. In order to have a broad enough tax base to support such a program a minimum population of 50,000 people is necessary.

Contrast with this, the actual situation in Minnesota today. Under the present statutes, every township, village, city, county and borough is permitted to set up a local health department. There are 2,700 such jurisdictions in Minnesota, or about 1 for every 1,000 population. It is not difficult to see that under such conditions, it is practically impossible to carry on an adequate public health program. There are only 4 health departments in Minnesota headed by full time public health officers. These are Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Rochester - Olmsted County department; 57.8% of the balance of the political subdivisions have part time medical health officers.

It is estimated that minimum local health services would cost approximately \$1.50 per capita, which seems to be a stumbling block. However, this should not be considered an expenditure, but an investment that pays high dividends. For example, one case of TB costs the taxpayers \$2,500 a year for hospitalization. This would give adequate public health services to 1,666 people at \$1.50 per person. According to Dr. Harry A. Wilmer of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis saved \$10 million in TB treatment costs by making a \$200,000 chest X-ray survey. The net gain was figured as the amount saved by the city in hospitalization of cases found by the survey before these victims infected others - plus the amount saved in salaries lost by persons discovered to have TB.

Let us consider the present situation in Hennepin County since it is our responsibility to help solve these problems.

Hennepin County has a large Metropolitan area outside the city limits of Minneapolis which is being served by these small antiquated health units. This is of importance not only to rural Hennepin but also to the city of Minneapolis since diseases know no boundary lines. Dr. Haven Emerson, Chairman of the A.P.H.A. sub-committee that made the survey of the health needs of the entire country stated that the Minnetonka area is the bedroom of Minneapolis, since there are so many commuters. Consequently, conditions there should be of concern to Minneapolis residents.

There are serious problems of environmental sanitation at Minnetonka. This was brought out very clearly in a survey of Orono township made by the State Department of Health following an outbreak of typhoid fever in 1941 due to Lake pollution. Besides sewage disposal, the lake area needs a program for garbage collection. Some of the present methods of garbage disposal certainly constitute health hazards. A full time sanitary engineer is a necessity in the Minnetonka area to cope with these problems. Under our present set-up it is practically impossible to carry on a constructive program in environmental sanitation. There are at least 7 political sub-divisions that have jurisdiction around this lake while it is all definitely all one public health area.

The need for a uniform program of milk control for all Hennepin County is also apparent. In 1947 there were 15 cases of undulant fever in rural Hennepin and 7 in Minneapolis. This is definitely on the increase. In 1937 there were only 3 cases in the entire county. This past year only 3 counties in the state had a higher incidence than Hennepin. Undulant fever can be prevented by permitting only the sale of pasteurized milk and by eradication of Bang's disease. However, milk ordinances are only as good as the enforcement behind them. So here again there is the need of more efficient supervision.

Health authorities have suggested three proposals that would give adequate health services for this area.

department

1. A metropolitan area/like the Greater New York metropolitan area.
2. Minneapolis and Rural Hennepin have one department.
3. Rural Hennepin department housed in same building with Minneapolis Department as well as private agencies administering public health programs.

This is suggested so that the programs can be co-ordinated, and prevent overlapping.

In order that one of these may be realized it is our earnest hope that the Hennepin County delegation will take leadership in seeing that legislation will be passed at the 1949 session, which will permit counties to set up full time health departments that are economically feasible.

mp. 13. Star
**Permits Joint
Departments in
Adjacent Areas**

A multiple county health bill, backed by Gov. Luther Youngdahl, was to be introduced in the Minnesota house of representatives today.

A similar measure had the support of the governor in the 1947 session, but was killed in the house appropriations committee. Gov. Youngdahl again urged enactment of such legislation, "or some suitable substitute measure within the framework of existing health statutes."

Sponsoring the measure are Representatives E. R. Istrup, Buffalo; Leo D. Madden, Eyota; Stanley W. Holmquist, Grove City, and P. K. Peterson, Minneapolis.

The bill would authorize any county to establish a health department, or two or more counties to join in establishing and maintaining one. Each county board would include in its annual tax "a separate levy over and above the limits now imposed for the general fund of the county," Istrup explained.

"The funds would be credited to a 'health department.'"

The measure provides that "any county or two or more adjacent counties, are empowered, by resolution of the county board or boards of the respective counties," to create such a setup.

Further, the proposal would allow the governing body of first or second class cities to submit such action to a vote of the people on petition of qualified electors equal to 10 per cent of the total vote cast at the last regular municipal election.

A majority vote could put the project into effect.

The county health board, composed of persons appointed by the respective boards of county commissioners, would employ a full-time officer for a five-year term.

The 1947 county public health bill, though containing proposed state appropriation, went to the house appropriations committee on the theory that counties, once embarked on the plan, might get over their heads financially and have to come to the state for aid.

Wed, April 6

Mr. Ilstrup moved to amend S. F. No. 352, the typewritten bill, as follows:

In the title of the bill, line 7, after the word "AND" and before the word "HEALTH" strike the words "FULL TIME".

Which motion prevailed and the amendment was adopted.

S. F. No. 352, A bill for an act relating to public health and to the control of preventable diseases; to authorize counties to establish and join in establishing county or multiple county health departments; to provide for financing by local, state and federal governments and for private gifts; to provide for boards of health and full time health officers; to provide for the suspension under certain circumstances of existing local boards of health and health officers; to provide for promulgation by county boards of regulations for preservation of the public health.

Was read the third time, as amended, and placed upon its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill, as amended,

And the roll being called, there were yeas 112, and nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Anderson, A.B.	Erdahl	Iverson	Moriarty	Schenck
Anderson, H.R.	Erkel	Johnson, A.I.	Mueller	Schwanke
Anderson, J.A.	Ernst	Johnson, L.A.	Murk	Searles
Anderson, V.F.	Felt	Johnson, M.N.	Nelson	Shipka
Appeldorn	Flom	Kaplan	Norman	Silvola
Aune	Frederickson	Karas	Oberg	Swanson
Basford	French	Keller	O'Brien	Swanstrom
Beamblossom	Gesell	Kinzer	Olson	Talle
Bergerud	Gibbons	Knutson	Omtvedt	Thompson
Biernat	Gillen	Kosloske	Ottinger	Tomezyk
Blomquist	Goodin	LaBrosse	Otto	Tucker
Bondhus	Haeg	Langley	Peterson, O.	Tveten
Burroughs	Hagland	Lee	Peterson, P. K.	Volstad
Burtness	Halverson	Lejk	Podgorski	Voxland
Carlson	Hegstrom	Letnes	Reed	Waibel
Christie	Hertzog	Lux	Richardson	Wanvick
Cina	Hill	Madden	Riedner	Wegner
Clark	Holm	Matchan	Rinke	Welch
Croswell	Holmquist	Mattson	Root	Windmiller
Dickinson	Holtan	McReynolds	Rundquist	Mr. Speaker
Dixon	Howard	Meihofer	Rutter	
Dominick	Illsley	Mills	Ryan	
Ehrenberg	Ilstrup	Morberg	Ryti	

So the bill was passed, as amended, and its title agreed to.