



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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LOBBY

by letter...



Legislative District _____

State Senator _____

State Representative _____

STATE SUPPORT ITEMS

CURRENT AGENDA

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will work for revision of the constitution of the State of Minnesota.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. Reapportionment by statute.
- II. Fair Employment Practices Commission.
- III. Party designation for legislators.
- IV. Civil service system.

WRITING YOUR LEGISLATOR

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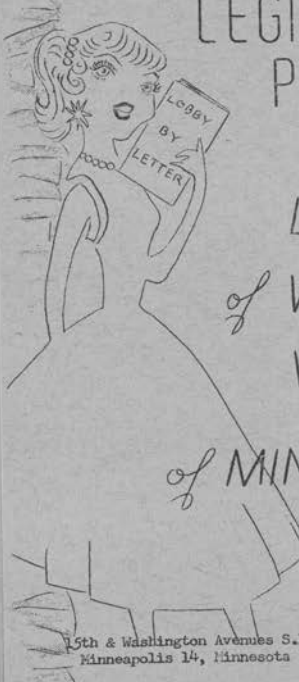
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LEGISLATIVE
PROGRAM

1955-1957

LEAGUE
OF WOMEN
VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA

15th & Washington Avenues S.E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - PROGRAM
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
R.E.P.C.
P.D.
P.S.

Dear League Member,

Your new Lobby by Letter is all dressed up with the "pink lady" look.

We have included in the insert our latest resource material on program. We also feel that we have given you the best arguments we have for supporting these measures in the legislature.

This is the legislative program that we want legislators to vote for in the 1957 session. Every legislator will receive a copy of the insert in October. This will give him time to become acquainted with our program before the session starts.

We hope you will get busy and write to your legislator before the session starts. If possible, talk to him in person. Let him know your "wishes" about our state program. He will then be better prepared to "work" for you.

You can use your Lobby by Letter along with the map in the back page of "Well, What D'ya Know...Minnesota Has a Constitution." Use it now. Use it during the session when you answer calls for action.

Mrs. Donald Guthrie
Legislative Chairman
League of Women Voters
of Minnesota

P. S. Some correct salutations:

The Honorable John Doe
Governor of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

Governor _____:
Sir:
Dear Sir:

The Honorable Carl Smith
Senate Chambers
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Senator _____:
My dear Senator _____:
Dear Sir:

The Honorable Paul Jones
House Chambers
St. Paul, Minnesota

Representative _____:
Dear Mr. _____:
Dear Sir:

and DON'TS in WRITING YOUR LEGISLATOR

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Letters short. Many letters are received by your legislator each day, and he may not get as prompt a reading as a brief statement.

A letter to arrive while the issue is alive. If your legislator is a committee member, he will appreciate having your views while the bill is before him for action.

Letters of commendation when your legislator has done something of which you particularly approve.

Write to a legislator from any other district except your own.

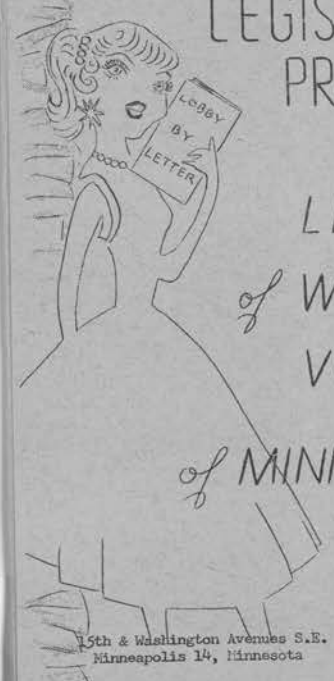
Letters that demand or insist he vote for or against a certain bill, or that you want him to vote for, but not why.

Write to him with defeat at the next election.

Write a chain letter, form letter, or postcard.

Write as a chronic letter writer.

Write a legislator more than once on the same subject. Quality, not quantity.



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CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
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The Honor
House Cha
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DO'S and DON'TS in WRITING YOUR LEGISLATOR

ALWAYS REMEMBER—You write letters to your representatives not to get them to do what you want, but to help them better represent you.

DO spell your legislator's name correctly and know whether he is a Senator or a Representative.

DO describe the bill by number or by its popular name. Your legislator has hundreds of bills before him during the session and cannot always take time to figure out to which one you are referring.

DO present a concise statement of the reasons for your position, particularly if you are writing about a field in which you have specialized knowledge. He has to vote on many matters with which he has had little or no first hand experience. Some of the most valuable help he gets comes from facts presented in letters from persons who really know what they are talking about.

DO make your letters short. Many letters are received by your legislator each day, and a long one may not get as prompt a reading as a brief statement.

DO time your letter to arrive while the issue is alive. If your legislator is a committee member, he will appreciate having your views while the bill is before him for study and action.

DO write letters of commendation when your legislator has done something of which you particularly approve.

DON'T write to a legislator from any other district except your own.


DON'T write letters that demand or insist he vote for or against a certain bill, or that tell him you want him to vote for, but not why.

DON'T threaten him with defeat at the next election.

DON'T write a chain letter, form letter, or postcard.

DON'T become a chronic letter writer.

DON'T write a legislator more than once on the same subject. Quality, not quantity, is what counts.



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CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
P.O. BOX 100
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CURRENT AGENDA

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- * Issues chosen by convention for concerted action.
** Issues to which LWV has given sustained attention and on
which it may continue to act.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - PROGRAM
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
F.E.P.C.
REAPPORTIONMENT
P.D.
2.5.

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Minnesota's constitution is its fundamental law. It should:
1) set forth the principles of government; 2) delegate power
between the 3 branches; 3) guide legislative action. The
legislature passes laws to meet current needs of the state
within the principles of the constitution.

MINNESOTA NEEDS A NEW CONSTITUTION BECAUSE:

1. It restricts the executive by not giving it adequate au-
thority equal to the responsibility it bears for doing its
job.
2. It limits the legislature by imposing 19th century proce-
dures for a 20th century job.
3. It hinders speedy and equal justice by the courts (two
amendments relating to the judiciary, submitted to the voters
in 1954 and 1956 point to the need for overall examination of
this part of the constitution).
4. It prevents local government from being truly local by
making cities, towns, villages and counties come to the legis-
lature for management of many of their affairs.
5. It imposes obstacles in the way of an efficient and eco-
nomical fiscal policy for the state by its outmoded and re-
strictive provisions.
6. It instills in the people a disrespect for the constitution
and law by the example of the legislature's refusal to carry
out its constitutional duty to reapportion itself.

MINNESOTA'S CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE REVISED BY A CONVENTION BECAUSE:

1. In the United States the citizen is the constitution maker.
This job cannot rightly, therefore, be done by the legislature,
but must be done by Convention. Self government rests upon
a) the power to prescribe the basic law; b) the power to
elect representatives to put it into effect. Loss or
diminution of either of these prerogatives weakens
self-government. The fact is that:
1) The people have not had opportunity to review
the constitution since drafted in 1857.
2) As early as 1871 Gov. Austin declared it
outmoded, inconsistent, inadequate, and

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
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asked for a convention to rewrite it.

3) The last 3 governors (2 Republican and 1 Democratic-
Farmer-Labor) have supported a constitutional convention
bill.

4) The legislature has taken no action on reapportioning
the state in 42 years. There are disparities in repre-
sentation as large as one representative to 7,000
people, and one to 107,000 people.

2. The legislature provides the machinery for calling a con-
vention; a constitutional commission does research and makes
recommendations for constitutional changes; only the people
through a convention can achieve a coordinated, integrated,
and flexible constitution for Minnesota.

3. A convention attracts outstanding citizens to serve as
delegates. Delegates to a Minnesota constitutional conven-
tion would be elected from the same districts, and in the
same manner as are state representatives. Legislators may
also serve as delegates. A convention is traditionally con-
servative.

4. A convention is less susceptible than a legislature to
pressure groups. Its delegates will not be standing for re-
election; they are aware that what they do will become his-
tory.

5. The Minnesota Constitutional Commission (composed of 18
legislators, a member of the Executive Department, a Supreme
Court Justice, and 3 citizens) agreed unanimously upon the
desirability of a convention, as opposed to the amendment
process, for the comprehensive consideration of our compli-
cated document.

6. The study, research and recommendations made by the Minne-
sota Constitutional Commission has laid the groundwork for a
convention; this will lessen the work and time and, there-
fore, expense of a convention.

7. Amendments are slow, costly, cumbersome, compromis-
ing and difficult to understand in relation to the
constitution as a whole. There have been 80 amend-
ments in 99 years. Since the amending process
was made more difficult (1899), only 1/3 of the
amendments submitted to the voters have

REAPPORTIONMENT
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passed. Forty amendments would be necessary if only the
major changes in our constitution recommended by the Minne-
sota Constitutional Commission were submitted to the voters.
If 4 amendments were submitted at each election (about aver-
age), it would take 10 elections. The Secretary of State
estimates that 1/5 of total election costs are due to
amendments; the amending process is expensive and less than
satisfactory.

New Jersey's recent convention cost was paid for almost
immediately by resultant court reorganization. Missouri offi-
cials estimate that reform in the new Department of Revenue
only, brought about by its recent convention, saves more than
\$1,000,000 annually.

The following 6-year sequence could evolve in Minnesota:
1957: question of constitutional convention submitted to the
people;
1958: people vote "YES";
1959: legislature sets up machinery for convention;
1960: voters elect delegates to a convention;
1960-1: convention meets and frames a constitution;
1961: legislature sets up election for approval or rejection
of document framed by convention;
1962: voters approve or reject this document.

8. Constitutional conventions, attended by widespread public
interest in the constitution, convention proceedings and re-
sults, have increased the understanding of governmental prob-
lems in other states. Because of an awakened and informed
citizenry, constitutions produced by conventions have a higher
record of voter approval than amendments have had in Minnesota.

The passage of Amendment 3 on November 2, 1954, was a mandate
to the legislature from the people of Minnesota to pass a bill
which will submit to the voters of Minnesota the question
of whether they want a constitutional convention called
to revise Minnesota's constitution. This mandate of
the voters was not carried out in the 1955 legislative
session.

The League of Women voters will during the 1957
legislative session:

Support a bill submitting to the voters
the question of calling a constitu-
tional convention.

REAPPORTIONMENT
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7.5.

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REAPPORTIONMENT

The Minnesota Picture

The Minnesota constitution says that our state legislature should be apportioned equally on the basis of population. It also says that the legislature has the responsibility (or duty, as interpreted by the State Supreme Court) to reapportion itself every 10 years.

This provision was carried out regularly from 1860 until 1913, when the legislature reached its present size. Since then, our legislators have been caught in a constitutional dilemma: to add to a legislature already too large; or to rectify serious inequities by redistricting and reapportioning the entire state. Instead of doing either they have simply disregarded the constitutional provision.

Since the 1910 census, the basis of the last reapportionment, there has been tremendous growth and shift in population. This has resulted in grossly unfair representation for many Minnesota citizens. Over 50% of our legislators are chosen by less than 35% of our population. This means that 1/3 of Minnesota's voters can impose their will on the entire state. Deviations run from 7,290 voters in Ward 4, Dist. 40, in Ramsey County, to 107,246 in the south half of rural Hennepin (36). This is more than a 1-14 ratio for un-representative democracy.

The National Picture

On the national scene, more and more states are seeing the need to solve their reapportionment problems. Neighboring states of Illinois, Michigan, South Dakota, and Wisconsin have recently done so.

The report of President Eisenhower's Commission on Intergovernmental Relations voiced the nation-wide concern about state legislative reapportionment. It emphasized one serious result of state neglect of the reapportionment problem: urban governments have bypassed the states and made direct cooperative arrangements with the national government in such fields as housing, urban development, and air and defense facilities. This tends to weaken the state's proper control over its own policies and its authority over its own political subdivisions. The report concludes that the states could help "to minimize

REAPPORTIONMENT
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7-23

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The pressure for greater centralization or greater Federal participation in state and local affairs, by making sure that representation in their legislatures is on a fair and equitable basis."

Ways to Solve the Problem in Minnesota

1. A constitutional convention could rewrite the reapportionment article.
2. A constitutional amendment (incorporating some area-population compromise and reinforcement provisions) could be submitted to the people.
3. A statute could be passed at any session of the legislature, to carry out the present constitutional provision. The "Bergerud Bill," submitted at several recent sessions, is an example. The LWV supported this statutory measure in 1955 as fair, workable, and realistic.
 - a. It offers an immediate answer to a growing problem.
 - b. It rectifies the most serious inequities throughout the state, yet--
 - c. It limits metropolitan representation in both houses. Legislators from Hennepin and Ramsey Counties would each represent over 18,000 people; outstate legislators each only 14,000.

Passage by the House in 1955 of the first reapportionment measure in 42 years indicates that Minnesota may soon follow the lead of other states which have recently taken steps to make state legislatures representative of all the people.

The League of Women Voters will during the 1957 legislative session:

Support legislation to reapportion our state legislature. Under our Current Agenda, Constitutional Revision, we are prepared to support fair changes in our present constitutional provision, either by convention or by separate amendment. Until such time, we will continue to support the statutory approach (of which the Bergerud Bill is one example) under our Continuing Responsibilities.

P.E.P.C.
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FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION

The 1955 session of the legislature passed a strong and enforceable Fair Employment Practices Law, considered one of the best in the country today.

During its first year the Minnesota Fair Employment Practices Commission and its staff have been laying the groundwork for a positive and constructive education and enforcement program against discrimination. The following important steps have been achieved:

1. Details of implementing the new state policy of non-discrimination in employment have been made clear to all state employees who have personnel responsibilities, and to those who deal with state contracts. Mayors and county officials have been similarly informed. Questions relating to race and religion have been dropped from governmental application forms. (Eight complaints of alleged discrimination have been received. In two cases the employers were exonerated. The other four cases are still pending, as of August 7, 1956.)

2. Agreements have been worked out with the 3 city commissions which provide that cases falling within local jurisdictions shall be handled locally unless the complainant wishes the state commission to investigate his case.

3. The cooperation of the Minnesota State Employment Service in all its local offices has been solicited; literature and instructions have been furnished them. Cooperation of as many private employment agencies as possible has been solicited, and machinery has been set up for cooperation with human relations organizations in the state.

4. Copies and summaries of the new law, instructions as to how to file a complaint, and other literature relative to implementation of the new law have been printed and distributed.

5. Conferences have been held with business and labor leaders to build a policy of full equality of employment opportunities. The railroads and taconite industry are two of the most important groups which have been contacted.

6. One of the most important achievements has been the organization of local advisory citizens' committees

F.E.P.C.
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7-5

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throughout the state, in cooperation with the Governor's Human Rights Commission, which will concern themselves with human rights and fair employment practices. Some 20 of these local committees have been organized; eventually there will be 35 or more. Committee members were carefully chosen (more than 500 persons were consulted before selections were made). These committees will not only interpret and publi- cize the law in their respective communities, but they will analyze and study local problems, such as those concerning Indians and migrant workers, and will confer with the 2 state commissions in working out solutions.

The League of Women Voters will during the 1957 legislative session:

- A. Oppose any crippling legislation.
- B. Support measures that help to carry out the intent of the law.
- C. Support adequate appropriations to administer the law.

P.D.
7-53

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times from facts presented in letters from per-
sons talking about.

Letters are received by your legislator each day,
and are read as a brief statement.

The issue is alive. If your legislator is a com-
mittee man, your views while the bill is before him

When your legislator has done something of

other district except your own.

ask him to vote for or against a certain bill, or
to support it, but not why.

at the next election.

by letter, or postcard.

Write on the same subject. Quality, not quan-

PARTY DESIGNATION FOR LEGISLATORS

In American democracy the political party is the main channel
of communication between Voter and Government. Parties help
make government responsible and responsive to the people. A
return to party designation would:

1. Help the voter choose wisely. The voter wants to know, as
he does now, the candidate's personality and background; in
addition, he has a right to know which issues he favors. Only
allegiance to a party can insure this. (Only in Nebraska and
Minnesota is the voter denied this aid.)

2. Help the legislator campaign effectively, by turning a
popularity contest into a debate on issues. Once elected, the
legislator would find it easier to resist the pressure of
special interest groups; party pledges already given provide
an effective counter-pressure.

3. Help the legislature function more efficiently. At present,
organization waits almost until the session opens; a few in-
dependents or fence-straddlers are paid dearly for adherence
to one faction or another by choice committee assignments;
leadership is less effective; strategy suffers.

4. Help the governor pursue the program he has been elected
to carry out. Lack of legislative responsibility for state-
wide problems has hampered the program of every recent execu-
tive.

5. Strengthen the two-party system in our state. No legis-
lative program can be realistic or effective unless legisla-
tors participate in its making. The majority party would
shoulder responsibility for legislative action. The minority
could become a healthy and really effective opposition.

The League of Women Voters will during the 1957 legislative
session:

Support a bill for party designation for legislators.
(The opponents of this bill defeated it last session
by adding an amendment for party designation for county
officials.)

P.D.
C.S.

Legislative District _____

State Senator _____

State Representative _____

STATE SUPPORT ITEMS

CURRENT AGENDA

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will work for revision of the constitution of the State of Minnesota.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. Reapportionment by statute.
- II. Fair Employment Practices Commission.
- III. Party designation for legislators.
- IV. Civil service system.

WRITING YOUR LEGISLATOR

write letters to your representatives not a, but to help them better represent you.

actly and know whether he is a Senator or a

y its popular name. Your legislator has hun-session and cannot always take time to figure

reasons for your position, particularly if you have specialized knowledge. He has to vote had little or no first hand experience. Some times from facts presented in letters from per-alking about.

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next election.

r, or postcard.

ace on the same subject. Quality, not quan-

CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM

The League's responsibility for our state civil service system is two-fold. We must:

1. Work to preserve the good features of the system when under legislative attack.
2. Continue to work for its improvements.

Civil service has been a part of Minnesota state government since 1939. It is modern in its administration, and in extent of its coverage is one of the best systems in the country. Although firmly established, it has not been subjected to extensive analysis or investigation until the Interim Committee on the Civil Service Program made its study. No material changes have been made in the initial Civil Service Act since adoption. The report of this committee, the result of 18 months of study of the civil service system of Minnesota, was submitted to the 1955 Legislature. This committee seeks to improve the civil service system through its recommendations.

VETERANS' PREFERENCE

In seeking to improve the civil service system, the League has for many legislative sessions worked for a modification of veterans' preference laws. Minnesota is the only state that grants every known type of preference to disabled veterans. The principle of the merit system requires the selection of public employees solely on the basis of merit and fitness. Veterans' preference is contrary to the merit system because it requires that preference be extended to members of a special class on the basis of membership in that class. The League believes that veterans should be rewarded with some preference in jobs, but that it has been overdone. The following recommendations of the Interim Committee for changes in veterans' preference are essentially the same as those long supported by the League:

1. A passing grade should be required before the application of veteran's preference points.
2. The veterans' preference points should remain as at present: 10 points for disabled veterans, and 5 points for non-disabled veterans, but absolute preference should be abolished.

Legislative District _____

State Senator _____

State Representative _____

STATE SUPPORT ITEMS

CURRENT AGENDA

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will work for revision of the constitution of the State of Minnesota.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. Reapportionment by statute.
- II. Fair Employment Practices Commission.
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other district except your own.

assist him vote for or against a certain bill, or
at, but not why.

next election.

t, or postcard.

ence on the same subject. Quality, not quan-

All veterans should be placed on the eligible lists in the
rank their earned score, augmented by veterans' preference
points, entitles them.

3. Disability status should be accorded to those veterans
actually experiencing a degree of impairment deemed com-
pensable by the Veterans Administration, i.e. disability
rated at 10% or greater.

4. The points allowed each veteran, both disabled and non-
disabled, should constitute his total veterans' preference
credit. Each veteran should have the right to apply such
portion of his total credit as he desires on any particular
examination for either initial employment or for promotion
until his credit is exhausted.

5. Veterans' preference points allowed to a widow of a veter-
an should only apply as long as she has not remarried.

6. Veterans' preference points allowed to a wife of a dis-
abled veteran should apply only if the disability is rated
50% or more by the U. S. Veterans Administration.

The League of Women Voters agrees with the conclusions of the
Interim Committee Report on veterans' preference that:

1. An equitable and just veterans' preference system is per-
fectly possible without including provisions which discrimi-
nate unjustly against disabled veterans, non-disabled veter-
ans or non-veterans.
2. Such a system is compatible with the cause of good govern-
ment and good public administration.
3. If the modifications should be adopted, Minnesota would
join the states having a civil service system and sound veter-
ans' preference system with justice for all.

The League of Women Voters will during the 1957 Legislative
session:

- A. Support legislation modifying veterans' preference.
- B. Support uniformity of veterans' preference laws for
the state and its subdivisions.
- C. Support additional measures which its members feel en-
hance the principles of the merit system in govern-
ment.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

**15th and Washington Ave. S.E. TSMc Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
Minn. No. 14-9/56-35c**

• administration and procedure

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION

The Commission consists of nine members, one from each congressional district in the state. The primary responsibility of the Commission is to secure compliance with the law by persuading employers, employment agencies and labor unions to consider and utilize all workers on merit and without discrimination. In dealing with specific complaints, it is the Commission's function to solve the problem presented by conference, education and persuasion.

BOARD OF REVIEW

If the Commission is unable to resolve a complaint by conference, the Governor will appoint a three-member Board of Review, drawn from a panel of citizens already appointed. This Board will provide a public hearing for all parties concerned and will determine whether the complaint should be dismissed or whether certain actions are necessary to secure compliance with the law. The Board will issue an order based upon its findings.

COURT PROCEDURE

If the order of the Board is not complied with, the Commission may file an action in the District Court to secure compliance. Likewise, if any party wishes to appeal from the order of the Board, he may file an action in the District Court. After full consideration, the District Court will issue whatever order may be necessary to make sure that fair employment practices are followed. A violation of such a court order would constitute contempt of court, punishable by a \$250.00 fine or six months imprisonment.

• commission members

State Fair Employment Practices Commission

Mrs. Eugenie Anderson, Red Wing,
Chairman

Judson Bemis, White Bear Lake

Glenn Chinander, Newport

William Cratic, Minneapolis

M. J. Daly, Belle Plaine

Stephen Fligelman, Detroit Lakes

Mrs. Arthur T. Laird, Duluth

Ralph Shepard, Worthington

Mrs. Gladys Thompson, Wadena

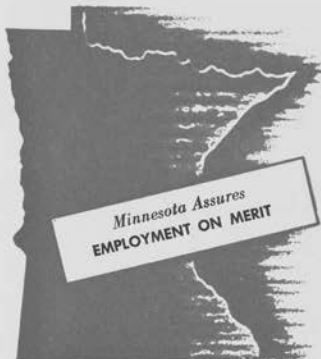
• staff

Wilfred C. Leland, Jr., *Executive Director*

Richard K. Fox, Jr., *Assistant Director*

Fair Employment Practices Commission

State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota
Capital 2-3013, Extension 896



Summary of Minnesota State
Fair Employment Practices Law

● public policy

"... the public policy of this state is to foster the employment of all individuals in this state in accordance with their fullest capacities, regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, or national origin, and to safeguard their rights to obtain and hold employment without discrimination. Such discrimination threatens the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of this state and menaces the institutions and foundations of democracy.

It is also the public policy of this state to protect employers, labor organizations, and employment agencies from wholly unfounded charges of discrimination. This act is an exercise of the police power of this state in the interest of the public welfare."

(From the FEP Law, Section 1)

● coverage and exemptions

This act applies uniformly throughout the state to employers, labor organizations and employment agencies, but does not cover:

- (1) employers of fewer than eight persons,
- (2) employment within an immediate family,
- (3) persons employed in domestic service, or
- (4) religious or fraternal organizations with respect to bona fide qualifications based on religion.

● unfair employment practices

FOR A LABOR ORGANIZATION . . .

TO DENY full and equal membership rights to an applicant for membership or to a member because of race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

TO EXPEL a member from membership because of race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

TO DISCRIMINATE against an applicant for membership or a member with respect to his hire, apprenticeship, tenure, compensation, terms, upgrading, conditions, facilities, or privileges of employment because of race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

TO FAIL to classify properly, or refer for employment or otherwise discriminate against a member because of race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

FOR AN EMPLOYER . . .

TO REFUSE to hire an applicant for employment; or to discharge an employee because of race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

TO DISCRIMINATE against an employee with respect to his hire, tenure, compensation, terms, upgrading, conditions, facilities, or privileges of employment.

FOR AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY . . .

TO REFUSE or fail to accept, register, classify properly, or refer for employment or otherwise discriminate against an individual because of race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

TO COMPLY with a request from an employer for referral of applicants for employment if the request indicates directly or indirectly that the employer fails to comply with the provisions of the act.

FOR AN EMPLOYER, EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OR LABOR ORGANIZATION . . .

TO DISCHARGE, expel, or otherwise discriminate against a person because that person has opposed any practice forbidden under this act, or has filed a complaint, testified or assisted in any proceeding under this act.

TO WILFULLY resist, prevent, impede, or interfere with the Commission, the Board of Review, or any of its members or representatives in the performance of duty under this act.

TO REQUIRE, before an individual is employed by an employer or admitted to membership in a labor organization, the applicant to furnish information that pertains to the applicant's race, color, creed, religion or national origin unless information on the national origin of the applicant is required for purposes of national security.

TO CAUSE to be printed or published a notice or advertisement that relates to employment and discloses a preference, limitation, specification or discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

FOR ANYONE . . .

intentionally to aid, or attempt to aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce another person to engage in any of the practices forbidden by this act.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

FAIR EMPLOYMENT
PRACTICES LAW



As passed by
The Minnesota Legislature
April 1955

CHAPTER 516 — H. F. No. 778
(Coded)

AN ACT FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES, CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION; PREVENTING AND PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT BASED ON RACE, COLOR, CREED, RELIGION, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN; ESTABLISHING METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR THIS PURPOSE AND PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT.

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

Section 1. Declaration of policy. As a guide to the interpretation and application of this act, be it enacted that the public policy of this state is to foster the employment of all individuals in this state in accordance with their fullest capacities, regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, or national origin, and to safeguard their rights to obtain and hold employment without discrimination. Such discrimination threatens the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of this state and menaces the institutions and foundations of democracy. It is also the public policy of this state to protect employers, labor organizations and employment agencies from wholly unfounded charges of discrimination. This act is an exercise of the police power of this state in the interest of the public welfare.

Sec. 2. Title. This act shall be known as the Minnesota State Act for Fair Employment Practices.

Sec. 3. [363.01] Definitions. Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of this act, the words defined in this section have the meanings ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. **Board.** "Board" means the board of review appointed under provisions of this act.

Subd. 3. **Commission.** "Commission" means the State Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Subd. 4. **Employment agency.** "Employment agency" means a person or persons who, or an agency which regularly undertakes, with or without compensation, to procure employees or opportunities for employment.

Subd. 5. **Labor organization.** "Labor organization" means any organization that exists wholly or partly for one or more of the following purposes:

- (1) collective bargaining;
- (2) dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment; or
- (3) mutual aid or protection of employees.

Subd. 6. **National origin.** "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of his lineal ancestors.

Subd. 7. **Person.** "Person" includes partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, trustee in bankruptcy, receiver, and the state and its departments, agencies, and political subdivisions.

Subd. 8. **Respondent.** "Respondent" means a person against whom a complaint has been filed or issued.

Subd. 9. **Unfair employment practice.** "Unfair employment practice" means any act described in section 5.

Subd. 10. **Discriminate.** The term "discriminate" includes segregate or separate.

Sec. 4. (363.02) **Exceptions.** This act does not apply to:

- (1) The employment of any individual

(a) by his parent, grandparent, spouse, child, or grandchild, or

(b) in the domestic service of any person;

(2) A person who regularly employs fewer than eight individuals, excluding individuals described in clause (1); or

(3) A religious or fraternal corporation, association, or society, with respect to qualifications based on religion, when religion shall be a bona fide occupational qualification for employment.

Sec. 5. (363.03) **Unfair employment practices.** Except when based on a bona fide occupational qualification, it is an unfair employment practice:

(1) for a labor organization, because of race, color, creed, religion or national origin,

(a) to deny full and equal membership rights to an applicant for membership or to a member;

(b) to expel a member from membership;

(c) to discriminate against an applicant for membership or a member with respect to his hire, apprenticeship, tenure, compensation, terms, upgrading, conditions, facilities, or privileges of employment; or

(d) to fail to classify properly, or refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against a member;

(2) for an employer, because of race, color, creed, religion, or national origin,

(a) to refuse to hire an applicant for employment; or

(b) to discharge an employee; or

(c) to discriminate against an employee with respect to his hire, tenure, compensation, terms, upgrading, conditions, facilities, or privileges of employment;

(3) for an employment agency, because of race, color, creed, religion, or national origin,

(a) to refuse or fail to accept, register, classify properly, or refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against an individual; or

(b) to comply with a request from an employer for referral of applicants for employment if the request indicates directly or indirectly that the employer fails to comply with the provisions of this act;

(4) for an employer, labor organization, or employment agency to discharge, expel, or otherwise discriminate against a person because that person has opposed any practice forbidden under this act or has filed a complaint, testified, or assisted in any proceeding under this act;

(5) for a person intentionally to aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce another person to engage in any of the practices forbidden by this act;

(6) for a person intentionally to attempt to aid, abet, incite, compel, or coerce another person to engage in any of the practices forbidden by this act;

(7) for any person, employer, labor organization or employment agency to wilfully resist, prevent, impede, or interfere with the commission, the board of review, or any of its members or representatives in the performance of duty under this act;

(8) for an employer, employment agency, or labor organization, before an individual is employed by an employer or admitted to membership in a labor organization, to

(a) require the applicant to furnish information that pertains to the applicant's race, color, creed, religion or national origin, unless, for the purpose of national security, information pertaining to the national origin of the applicant is required by the United States, this state or a political subdivision or agency of the United States or this state; or

(b) cause to be printed or published a notice or advertisement that relates to employment or membership and discloses a preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion or national origin.

Sec. 6. (363.04) State Fair Employment Practices Commission. Subdivision 1. **Creation, membership.** There is created a State Fair Employment Practices Commission, to consist of nine members, one from each congressional district of the state of Minnesota; and at least one of whom shall be an attorney at law, appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, for a term of five years to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified. The chairman shall be designated by the governor.

Subd. 2. Terms. To ensure a continuity of work, the initial appointments to the commission shall be: one member for a term of one year, two for a term of two years, two for a term of three years, two for a term of four years and two for a term of five years. All members shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

Subd. 3. Vacancies. A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the balance of the unexpired term.

Subd. 4. Removal. Upon notice and hearing a member may be removed by the governor upon a finding of inefficiency, neglect of duty, misconduct or malfeasance in office.

Subd. 5. Traveling expenses. Each member of the commission shall receive reimbursement for necessary traveling expenses incurred on official business. Reimbursement shall be made in the manner provided by law for state employees.

Sec. 7. (363.05) Duties of commission. Subdivision 1. **Formulation of policies.** The

commission shall formulate policies to effectuate the purposes of this act and shall:

(1) establish and maintain a principal office in St. Paul, and any other necessary branch offices at any location within the state;

(2) meet and function at any place within the state;

(3) appoint an executive director to serve at the pleasure of the commission and fix his compensation and prescribe his duties;

(4) employ such attorneys, clerks and other employees and agents as it may deem necessary, fix their compensation and prescribe their duties.

(5) to the extent permitted by federal law and regulation, utilize the records of the department of employment security of the state when necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act;

(6) obtain upon request and utilize the services of all state governmental departments and agencies;

(7) adopt suitable rules and regulations for effectuating the purposes of this act;

(8) issue, receive, and investigate complaints alleging discrimination in employment because of race, color, creed, religion or national origin;

(9) subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and take testimony relating to the case before the commission, and require the production for examination of any books or papers relative to any matter under investigation or in question before the commission;

(10) attempt to eliminate unfair employment practices by means of education, conference, conciliation, and persuasion;

(11) conduct research and study discriminatory employment and labor practices based

on race, color, creed, religion, or national origin;

(12) publish the results of research and study of discriminatory employment and labor practices based on race, color, creed, religion, or national origin when in the judgment of the commission it will tend to eliminate such discrimination;

(13) develop and recommend programs of formal and informal education designed to promote good will; and may make recommendations to agencies and officers of state or local subdivisions of government in aid of such policies and purposes in eliminating discriminatory employment and labor practices based on race, color, creed, religion, or national origin; and

(14) make a written report of the activities of the commission to the governor each year and to the legislature at each session.

Subd. 2. Executive director, duties. To the extent determined by the commission and subject to its direction and control, the executive director may exercise the powers and perform the duties of the commission.

Sec. 8. (363.06) Grievances. Subdivision 1. Complaint, filing. Any person aggrieved by a violation of this act may file by himself, or his agent, or attorney a signed complaint with the commission, stating the name and address of the person alleged to have committed an unfair employment practice, setting out the details of the practice complained of and any other information required by the commission. Any employer whose employees, or some of them, or any labor union whose members, or some of them, refuse or threaten to refuse to cooperate with the provisions of this act, may file with the commission a signed complaint asking for assistance by conciliation or other remedial action.

Subd. 2. Complaint, issuance by commission. Whenever the commission has reason to believe that a person is engaging in an unfair employment practice, the commission may issue a complaint.

Subd. 3. Time for filing complaint. A complaint of an unfair employment practice must be filed within six months after the occurrence of the practice.

Subd. 4. Inquiry into complaint. When a complaint has been filed or issued, the commission shall promptly inquire into the truth of the allegations of the complaint. If after the inquiry the commission determines that there is probable cause for believing that an unfair employment practice exists, the commission shall immediately endeavor to eliminate the unfair employment practice through education, conference, conciliation, and persuasion. If the commission determines that there is no probable cause for believing that an unfair employment practice exists, the commission shall dismiss the complaint.

Subd. 5. Attempts to eliminate unfair practices. The commission, in complying with subdivision 4, shall endeavor to eliminate the unfair employment practice at the place where the practice occurred, or the respondent resides or has his principal place of business.

Subd. 6. Publication of accounts of cases. The commission may publish an account of a case in which the complaint has been dismissed or the terms of settlement of a case that has been voluntarily adjusted. Except as provided in other sections of this act, the commission shall not disclose any information concerning its efforts in a particular case to eliminate an unfair employment practice through education, conference, conciliation and persuasion.

Sec. 9. (363.07) Board of review. Subdivision 1. Creation, membership, terms.

There is created a board of review. The board shall be drawn from a panel of 12 persons to be named and appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Members on the board of review shall be apportioned so that each congressional district of the state of Minnesota shall have a minimum of one resident member on said board of review. At least four members of the panel shall be lawyers. For purposes of holding prescribed hearings, three persons, one of whom shall be a lawyer, shall be appointed from the panel by the governor and shall constitute and serve as the board of review. The governor shall designate a member of the board to serve as its chairman. No member of the panel of the board of review shall be a member of the commission. The term of office of each member of the panel shall be three years except that the terms of the members first appointed are: four for one year, four for two years, and four for three years. Members shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. Vacancies shall be filled by the governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate.

Subd. 2. Removal of member. After written notice and a hearing, the governor may remove a member of the panel for inefficiency, neglect of duty, misconduct, or malfeasance in office.

Subd. 3. Compensation, expenses. Each member of the board shall receive \$25 per day while the board is in session and reimbursement for necessary expenses actually incurred on official business.

Subd. 4. Notice to governor. On failing to eliminate an unfair employment practice in the manner prescribed by section 8, the commission shall notify the governor in writing of that fact, and request him to appoint a board of review to conduct a public hearing in the case.

Subd. 5. Hearings. The board shall conduct a hearing at a place designated by it within the county where the unfair employment practice occurred, or the respondent resides or has his principal place of business. It may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production for examination of any books or papers relating to any matter under investigation or in question before the board. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of practice to govern its hearings and it shall employ necessary assistants, fix their compensation, and prescribe their duties.

Subd. 6. Notice to commission of hearing. The board of review shall notify the commission of the time and place of the hearing to be conducted by the board. Thereupon the commission shall issue and serve by registered mail upon the respondent a copy of the complaint and a written notice requiring the respondent to answer the allegations of the complaint at the hearing. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing. Within fifteen days after receipt of the copy of the complaint and the notice, the respondent shall serve upon the commission, by registered mail, a verified answer to the complaint.

Subd. 7. Conduct of hearings. The commission shall submit evidence and present the case before the board in support of the complaint. The complainant shall appear in person at the hearing and is subject to cross-examination by the respondent, his attorney or agent. The respondent, his attorney or agent, may appear at the hearing, submit evidence, and present his case.

Subd. 8. Evidence receivable. The board of review shall not be bound by the strict rules of evidence that prevail in courts of law, but its findings must be based upon competent and substantial evidence. The board shall not receive in evidence any evidence per-

taining to the efforts of the commission to eliminate the unfair employment practice through education, conference, conciliation, or persuasion. Each witness at the hearing shall testify under oath. All testimony and other evidence submitted at the hearing shall be recorded and transcribed. The board, at the request of the complainant or respondent, shall provide a copy of the transcript of the hearing without charge.

Subd. 9. Findings, order. If the board of review finds that the respondent has engaged in an unfair employment practice, it shall make findings and shall issue an order directing the respondent to cease and desist from the unfair employment practice found to exist and to take such other affirmative action as in the judgment of the board will effectuate the purposes of this act and shall serve the order on the respondent personally, and the commission and the complainant by registered mail.

Subd. 10. Findings, order. If the board finds that the respondent has not engaged in an unfair employment practice as alleged in the complaint, the board shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law and shall issue an order dismissing the complaint and shall serve it on the complainant personally, and the commission and the respondent by registered mail.

Sec. 10. (363.08) District court, review orders of board of review. Subdivision 1. Institution of proceedings. Subject to subdivisions 2 and 3, the commission, complainant or the respondent may institute in the manner prescribed by subdivision 4 a proceeding in the district court for judicial review and enforcement of an order of the board.

Subd. 2. Time limit. Except for a proceeding by the commission to enforce an order of

the board, a proceeding in the district court shall be instituted within 60 days after service of an order of the board.

Subd. 3. Jurisdiction. A proceeding under this section shall be instituted in the district court for the judicial district in which an unfair employment practice covered by the order of the board occurred, or the respondent resides or has his principal place of business.

Subd. 4. Procedure. A proceeding under this section is instituted by:

(1) filing with the clerk of the district court a petition stating the relief requested and the grounds relied on for that relief; a transcript of the hearing held before the board, and a copy of the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order of the board, and

(2) serving a proper notice of motion returnable at a special term of the court on the complainant, the respondent, and the commission.

Subd. 5. District court, exclusive jurisdiction. When a proceeding has been instituted under this section, the district court has exclusive jurisdiction of the proceeding and shall hear and determine the proceeding.

Subd. 6. Appearances in court action. The commission, complainant, respondent, and any person aggrieved by an order of the board may appear in the proceeding.

Subd. 7. Court determination. In a proceeding under this section, the district court shall determine whether the findings of the board are supported by competent and substantial evidence, and whether the order of the board is supported by the findings. The court may, in its discretion, remand the proceeding to the board for further hearing, or take additional evidence on any issue, or order a trial de novo to the court.

Subd. 8. Restraining orders, temporary relief. The district court has power to grant

temporary relief by restraining order or otherwise; to modify the order of the board in any particular; to order compliance with the order of the board; to issue its order modifying the order of the board and enjoining compliance therewith; to vacate the order of the board and dismiss the proceedings; or to make such orders in the matter as the interests of justice may require.

Sec. 11. (363.09) Violation of order of district court as contempt of court. Any person, employer, labor organization, employment agency or party who or which shall wilfully violate any order of the district court entered pursuant to a proceeding under this act shall be cited to the district court for and as being in contempt. Procedure for review of the order shall not be deemed to be such wilful conduct.

Any person, employer, labor organization, employment agency, or party found in a proceeding before the district court to be in contempt shall be punishable under Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 588.10, which provides for imprisonment for not more than six months, or a fine of not more than \$250, or both.

A proceeding under this section shall be commenced by the commission serving a notice of motion, and an order to show cause upon the respondent, and the complainant, and filing the same with the clerk of the district court of the county in which the aforementioned order is entered.

Sec. 12. (363.10) Appeal to supreme court. The commission, or the respondent, may appeal to the supreme court as provided by Minnesota Statutes, Section 605.09, clauses (2) and (7) from an order of the district court issued pursuant to section 10, subdivision 8, of this act.

Sec. 13. (363.11) Construction of act. The provisions of this act shall be construed

liberally for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof. Nothing contained in this act shall be deemed to repeal any of the provisions of the civil rights law or of any other law of this state relating to discrimination because of race, creed, color, religion or national origin; but, as to acts declared unfair by section 5 of this act, the procedure herein provided shall, while pending, be exclusive.

Sec. 14. Appropriation. There is appropriated from any money not otherwise appropriated in the state treasury to the commission for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act: \$30,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, and \$30,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957.

Sec. 15. This act becomes effective July 1, 1955.

Approved April 19, 1955.

STATE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION

Members:

Mrs. Eugenie Anderson, Red Wing,
Chairman

Judson Bemis, White Bear Lake

Glenn Chinander, Newport

William Cratic, Minneapolis

M. J. Daly, Belle Plaine

Stephen Fligelman, Detroit Lakes

Mrs. Arthur T. Laird, Duluth

Ralph Shepard, Worthington

Mrs. Gladys Thompson, Wadena

Staff:

Wilfred C. Leland, Jr., Executive Director

Richard K. Fox, Jr., Assistant Director

State Office Building

St. Paul, Minnesota

Capital 2-3013, Extension 896



TO USE OUR SERVICES . . .

Fill out and mail the following to the
Fair Employment Practices Commission
201 State Office Building
St. Paul 1, Minnesota
CApitol 2-3013, Extension 896

I believe I have been discriminated against:

- in applying for a job
- in being considered for a promotion
- in applying for union membership
- in being dismissed from a job

I belong to _____, I would
Name of Organization

like to have the following free Commission
services for my group:

- speaker
- literature
- assistance in planning a human relations program

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. NO. _____

REMEMBER . . .

A complaint may be considered by the Commission *only* if reported within six months after the incident.

The law provides that no one shall be discriminated against because he has filed a complaint, testified or opposed any practice forbidden by the law.

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Mrs. Eugenie Anderson, Red Wing,
Chairman
Judson Bemis, White Bear Lake
Glenn Chinander, Newport
William Cratic, Minneapolis
M. J. Daly, Belle Plaine
Stephen Fligelman, Detroit Lakes
Mrs. Arthur T. Laird, Duluth
Ralph Shepard, Worthington
Mrs. Gladys Thompson, Wadena

STAFF:

Wilfred C. Leland, Jr., Executive Director
Richard K. Fox, Jr., Assistant Director

Fair Employment Practices Commission
201 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA
CApitol 2-3013, Extension 896



Fair Employment Practices

AND
YOU



WHAT TO DO
If You Have A Complaint
Of Discrimination

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Fair Employment Practices Commission

IF YOU BELIEVE . . .

you've been refused a job or a promotion because of your race, color, creed, religion or national origin . . .

THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

There's a law in Minnesota in effect since July 1955, that prohibits employers, employment agencies, and labor unions from discriminating against a worker because of his race, color, creed, religion or national origin.



HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO

Go to the Fair Employment Practices Commission office at 201 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota,



OR phone St. Paul Capital

2-3013, Extension 896. If this is not convenient, then fill out the form on the back of this pamphlet and mail it to the Commission office.



A staff representative will give you a confidential interview and assist you in preparing a statement of just what happened. Then the Commission takes over.

You don't need a lawyer nor will it cost you anything. The services of the Commission are free.

The next thing that takes place is a personal visit by the Commission representative to the employer, employment agency or labor union which you feel discriminated against you. Your complaint will be thoroughly investigated to determine whether discrimination was involved.

The party against whom the complaint is made has a fair chance to present his side of the story. Many things are discussed, one of which is whether the applicant measures up to the standards set by the employer or labor union. The qualifications of the person are important because the heart of the Fair Employment Practice Law is employment on merit.



All the evidence is carefully weighed. The Commission reviews the current employment practices of the company, employment agency or union. If the investigation indicates discrimination, the Commission directs the respondent to comply with the FEP Law and correct the discriminatory practices. If the Commission finds that no discrimination was practiced, the complainant's suspicion is removed and the employer, union or employment agency is cleared.

If the Commission cannot solve the problem in this way, the Governor will appoint a Board of Review to conduct a public hearing. After considering the facts presented by all the people concerned, the Board will issue an order to take whatever action is necessary to secure compliance with the law.

If the Board's order is not carried out, the Commission may take action in District Court to enforce the law. If either the complainant or the respondent wishes to appeal from an order of the Board, he may take the problem before the District Court. Failure to comply with an order of the District Court constitutes contempt of court, punishable by a \$250.00 fine, six months imprisonment, or both.

State of Minnesota
Fair Employment Practices Commission_____
Complainant,

vs.

COMPLAINT

Respondent.

The complainant, _____ residing at

_____, (telephone _____),

charges that: The respondent, _____,

whose address is _____,

(telephone _____), committed an unlawful employment practice within the meaning of the Minnesota Fair Employment Practices Law (Chapter 516, Laws 1955) and specifically within the meaning of Section _____, Subsection _____, of said law.

The facts supporting this complaint are:

Date: _____

Signature of Complainant

OUTLINE OF GENERAL FUNCTIONS OF CITIZENS COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

The Citizens Committees on Human Rights and Fair Employment Practices will be advisory to the Governor's Human Rights Commission and to the Minnesota Fair Employment Practices Commission. It will be the responsibility of the committees to carry on constructive educational programs designed to build good relations between the members of all racial, religious and nationality groups in the community and to assure equal opportunities to all citizens in every phase of community life.

The general functions of the citizens committees may be outlined as follows:

1. To seek to persuade all those in the community who establish policy in employment or in other areas of community life to afford equal treatment and equal opportunities to all.
2. To carry on educational programs designed to attack prejudices against the members of different groups and to build good relations between the members of all racial, religious and nationality groups in the community.
3. To refer to the two commissions specific cases of alleged discrimination in employment or in other phases of community life.
4. To suggest to the two commissions problems on which they should be working, procedures they might follow or projects they might undertake to better serve the citizens of each community and of the state.

Within this general framework, each citizens committee is encouraged to develop an appropriate program in accordance with the intergroup relations situation in its own community and to call upon the two commissions for any assistance that may be appropriate or desirable in connection with this program.

The work done by each member of a citizens committee is a vital part of a total program. Its objective is the improvement of human relationships between members of all groups in the State of Minnesota to the end that this state can be made a better place in which to live for all people.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
University of Minnesota
15 E Washington Avenue S.E.
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

YES!

1957

Minnesota Has A Constitution



and

It's A Great Constitution

The purpose of this booklet is to present facts as to why Minnesota does not now need a Constitutional Convention.

Obviously, a state Constitution may need amending from time to time. Whenever it is advisable to amend a specific portion of our Constitution, it can be done simply and inexpensively in the traditional way by the Legislature first studying a proposal, then passing the same on to the voters for approval or rejection.

This booklet is prepared as a public service by the Minnesota Employers' Association in the interest of constitutional government for Minnesota.

HOW IMPORTANT IS HISTORY?

It is true that 59 Republican and 55 Democrat delegates met separately in 1857 for seven weeks and each prepared a recommended proposed Constitution. And that four or five men from each group made up a joint committee of eight or ten men who met for ten days to reconcile and agree upon a proposed Constitution that contained compromises between the two groups. And that proposal was submitted to the voters on October 13, 1857 when the voters approved the Constitution by 30,053 votes.

It's interesting history but has no bearing upon whether a Constitutional Convention is necessary today.

It is also true that since that time 83 amendments have been added to our Constitution to meet the changing times and strengthen our Constitution. These amendments were carefully considered by Legislatures in the past and approved by the voters from time to time after full legislative and public consideration.

HOW IS A CONVENTION CALLED?

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate must by two-thirds vote submit the question of calling a Constitutional Convention. Here is the pertinent quotation from Article XIV, Section 2:

"Whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature shall think it necessary to call a convention to revise this constitution, they shall recommend to the electors to vote at the next general election . . ."

You can see from the above that it was the intent of the founding fathers that the calling of the convention be clearly necessary and further that the Legislature shall recommend it to the voters. This destroys the argument that the Legislature must submit the question to the people whether or not the individual legislator feels the convention is necessary.

WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT MINNESOTA'S CONSTITUTION?

The above question might be answered by asking another. What is bad or evil about Minnesota's Constitution. As you read this can you think of anything, or have you ever been told that there is anything in the Minnesota Constitution that is harmful to you, your family, your religion, your business or the community in which you live? It is true that there are some obsolete provisions in our Constitution that now have no legal force or effect. But none of these obsolete provisions are doing anyone any harm.

Our Constitution has a bill of rights protecting freedom of religion; and of the press; it protects our citizens from unreasonable searches and seizures; grants rights of jury trial; prevents illegal arrest and being placed in double jeopardy; guarantees justice without delay; prevents cruel and unusual punishment; grants bail to those arrested; the right of habeas corpus; freedom from imprisonment for debt and protects the people in countless other ways.

The rights in these sections of our Constitution would all come under the scrutiny of a Constitutional Convention.

Our government is divided into three branches — legislative, executive and judicial. Over the years our government has worked well with this system of checks and balances, which has preserved free government for our people.

The Constitution sets up a system of trust funds and support for our schools and universities.

Our Constitution is short, having but 15,465 words. Louisiana had a Constitutional Convention in 1921, and theirs has an estimated length of 201,423 words.

Minnesota's Constitution is easily amended so as to keep in step with the times. It has been amended 83 times through and including the 1956 election.

Under our Constitution Minnesota has grown to become one of the great farm, industrial, business and cultural states of the nation.

ARE THERE AMENDMENTS THAT SHOULD NOW BE MADE TO OUR CONSTITUTION?

There are at least four proposed amendments that are non-controversial. These amendments would eliminate four obsolete provisions that no one has been very concerned about but that have given the advocates of a convention some opportunity to imply that all of the Constitution is outmoded. The amendments would eliminate the following:

Election of United States Senators by the state Legislature. Minnesota voters have elected U. S. Senators since 1916.

Restrictions on the right of women to vote. Women have voted since 1920.

Limiting the state debt to \$250,000. The state debt has far exceeded that figure for years.

Giving Indians the right to vote without the necessity of a court order declaring them capable of voting.

These amendments can be easily and economically effected in the traditional manner.

Certainly they are not of enough import to justify the expense of between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000 for a Constitutional Convention.

ARE THERE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES THAT SOME PRESSURE GROUPS ARE SEEKING?

Yes. There are many controversial issues that might be submitted to the voters in separate fashion to determine what the people of the state wish. For example, the League of Women Voters advocate giving our Governor more power by having the Governor appoint such state officials as the State Treasurer, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State and the State Auditor.

They also advocate a four-year term of office for the Governor and other state officials, instead of the present two-year term.

They also advocate longer or more sessions of the Legislature.

These are typical of many controversial issues that would have to be wrapped in one package by a Constitutional Convention.



There are many others affecting education, highways, abolition of trust funds, labor laws, taxation, welfare, party designation, reapportionment of the Legislature, appointive rather than elective judges, etc. that other groups or individuals advocate.

If any of these proposals are advanced as reasons for calling a Constitutional Convention and are as important as is claimed by some — then the people of Minnesota should have the right to vote upon them entirely upon their own merits. No citizen should have to buy or refuse a package deal on such a basic matter as our state Constitution.

WOULD IT BE CHEAPER TO HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION THAN TO REVISE BY AMENDMENTS?

No. Authoritative analysis based upon the present expense of conducting a legislative session indicates that the minimum expense required to conduct a Constitutional Convention would be \$1,500,000.

Once the convention adjourns there is a very substantial cost of submitting the new Constitution to the voters. For example, it must be printed in entirety in many newspapers.

Further than that would be the work of many legislative sessions to make the statutes conform to the new constitution. Note the Missouri experience on the following page.

In Minnesota, the average cost, based upon the records of the Secretary of State, indicate that the cost of submitting a constitutional amendment including direct and indirect cost such as printing, pay of election clerks, etc., is only \$25,690.



WHAT HAS BEEN THE EXPERIENCE OF STATES THAT HAVE HAD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS?

MISSOURI EXPERIENCE

Missouri, which redrafted its Constitution in 1945, not only spent a large sum on the project but then had to hire 12 lawyers who worked two years analyzing 15,000 statute provisions, after which it was necessary to introduce 550 bills at the next session of their Legislature to make the Constitution workable. Printing costs, etc. were very heavy.

On top of that, the Legislature had to immediately submit six amendments to the new Constitution to meet changed conditions.

NEW YORK

New York had a convention in 1938 and by 1953 had added 56 amendments. Ten more amendments were submitted to the voters in 1955.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey had a convention in 1947, added two amendments in 1953, and defeated two in 1955.

A NEW CONSTITUTION DOES NOT STOP THE AMENDING PROCESS.

WHO WOULD BE THE DELEGATES TO SUCH A CONVENTION?

It is doubtful if many Minnesota citizens, without a special interest involved, could afford to leave their professions, businesses or farms for the time required and be a candidate to such a convention, with the expense of a campaign, and then subject themselves to the pressure, the unpleasantness and the sacrifice involved.

Picture what could easily happen. The political parties with their political machines would have candidates for delegates; the city political machines would seek delegates to secure freedom to operate and to tax; the school forces would seek new revenue; the welfare groups, the old age pension groups, the co-ops, the business interests, the labor unions with their great power and interest in labor laws and regulations, and every spending agency in the state would be seeking more power and money. Labor unions could finance the campaigns of their delegates if they wished far beyond the ability of any individual.

About the only unrepresented group might be the taxpaying citizens of Minnesota — the people who would have to pay the bill.

Minority pressure groups of today result in people with interests to serve being elected in every campaign, as distinguished from the period of Minnesota history prior to 1945.



SOME FACT AND FICTION

Fiction: Our Constitution is old and out of step with the times.

Fact: So is the United States Constitution old. So is the Magna Carta. So are the Ten Commandments. However, the basic principles in all of them are good. Unless there is something in our state Constitution that is actually harmful, it is not necessary to completely revise it. And if there is anything in it that should be changed, it can easily be done in the traditional manner.

Fiction: Minnesota's Constitution is too long.

Fact: Many states have much longer constitutions than Minnesota has. Louisiana has 201,423 words. Here are a few others: California - 72,000; Texas - 39,000; Oklahoma - 35,000; Missouri - 30,000; Massachusetts - 28,500. Minnesota has 15,465 words.

Some have compared the length of the United States Constitution with Minnesota's. There is nothing unusual in a state Constitution being longer than the national Constitution. The U. S. Government is one of specifically designated powers, whereas state governments embrace all powers not delegated to the Federal Government.

Each state accommodates its Constitution to the needs of its own people and area. Neither length nor terseness determines whether a Constitution serves its intended purpose.

Fiction: People want a Constitutional Convention.

Fact: The Minnesota poll on January 9, 1955 showed the people do not want a Constitutional Convention. Then 63% preferred to amend the Constitution in the regular manner, 22% preferred to have a Constitutional Convention, and 15% had no opinion. In 1948 two amendments were submitted to the people. One, to change the method of calling a Constitutional Convention to make it easier, and two, an amendment to allow the submitting of two or more amendments to the Constitution without requiring the voters to vote on each separately.

They were both defeated decisively by an affirmative vote. The first 641,000 against and 294,000 for. The second was defeated 621,000 against and 310,000 for.

Fiction: Under our Constitution the Legislature has remained unapportioned.

Fact: The Constitution is not at fault because there has not been reapportionment for many years. The Constitution provides for reapportionment on a population basis. However, the Legislature has not been able to evolve an acceptable formula.

Fiction: Minnesota's Constitution is long and contains a statutory language, matters which should be left to the legislature to handle by statute.

Fact: In the three states who have recently had constitutional conventions, New Jersey, New York and Missouri, the following statutory items remain in the constitution: For example, the Missouri constitution fixes the compensation of a legislator at \$125.00 and that certainly should be a statutory matter.

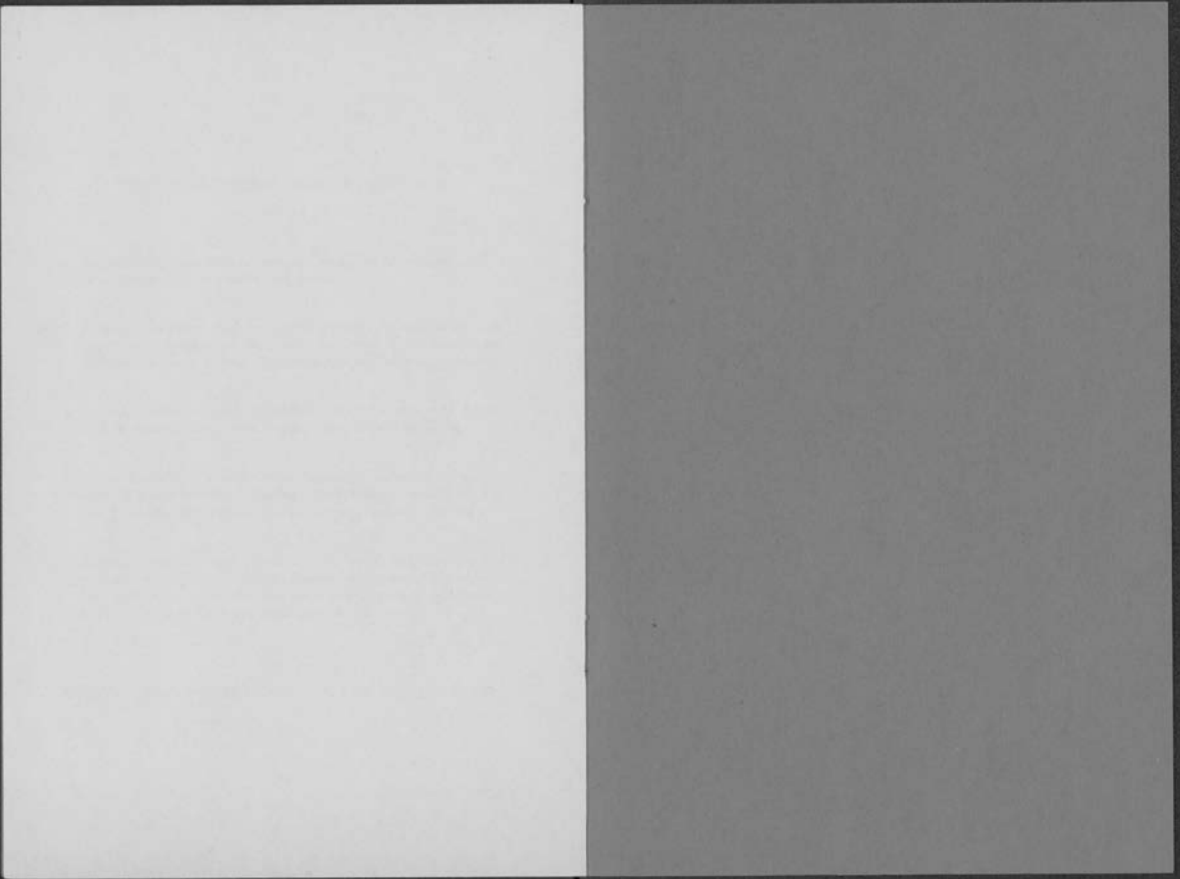
The constitution of New York provides for an action for wrongful death and provides that the amount for recovery shall never be subject to limitation. The New York constitution fixes the salary of the governor and this also should be left to the discretion of the legislature. The New York constitution provides for veterans' preference down to and including the exact number of points to be given a disabled veteran on an examination.

If any change in the reapportionment section of our Constitution is made, it should be offered to the people of the state as a separate measure for their approval or rejection.

THE REQUISITES OF A GOOD CONSTITUTION

1. A good Constitution must be plain and certain in its principles, and as far as possible free from doubt and question.
2. A good Constitution must be formed gradually; it must result from history and experience of the people, and must be the natural and deliberate expression of their thoughts, wishes and hopes in government.
3. A good Constitution must definitely apportion the powers of government between the departments and draw clear lines of distinction.
4. A good Constitution must not reflect temporary excitement and popular whims. The steps necessary in making a Constitution by amendment give time for temporary passion to cool and for excitements to pass away.
5. A good Constitution must provide for safe growth and expansion and must give security against public disorder and violence. Its provisions must recognize new thoughts and needs, changing times and changing conditions. It must allow easy modification in the future.

MINNESOTA'S CONSTITUTION HAS ALL OF THESE FEATURES



leg 51

November 16, 1956

Mrs. Donald Guthrie
4000 E. County Line, Birchwood
White Bear Lake, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Guthrie:

Since talking with you I have had a couple of days of enforced inactivity in which to do some thinking. I am afraid that if you do not get a chairman for your Civil Service lobbying committee you will find that it is going to be up to you to do the lobbying yourself.

I suggest you get your group together and tell them to concentrate on the 1956 Report of the Interim Committee on the Civil Service Programs, that part of the Governor's Special Message on Reorganization pertaining to personnel, and the section of the Self-Survey which came out about a month ago and which was chaired by Dr. Short. Mr. Neftalin would know whether copies of the latter are available. My notes on legislation passed in 1955 also might be of use. I turned them over to the State League for inclusion in the study material put out last February, but they were never used and were not returned to me. Perhaps the State office or Miss Salisbury would have them.

Mr. Goodin was not at our last CLIC meeting, so I could not find out what changes in veterans preference might be proposed. I will try to contact him when he returns to the city and pass on to you any information I gain. I am afraid that is all the help you can plan on from me because of the heavy schedule of activity to which I am already committed.

Cordially,

NCE:j
cc: State office

Mrs. T. O. Everson

re requested
12/3/56
outside instructions

C
O
P
Y

710

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

October 15, 1956

Dear Minnesota Citizen:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is launching a fall campaign to build public opinion for the calling of a constitutional convention. We have just published three publications to use as tools to spread citizen understanding of our program. Since you are one especially interested in Minnesota government, we wish to make these publications available to you.

Well, What D'ya Know...Minnesota Has A CONSTITUTION!

This is a popular type booklet--professionally written and cleverly illustrated. We plan to distribute it widely throughout the state to acquaint all Minnesotans with the need for constitutional revision. A copy is enclosed.

The State You're In

This is an 83 page research work on Constitutional Revision. It contains chapters on the making of Minnesota's Constitution, and the ways of improving it. Additional chapters are on The Executive, The Legislature, The Judiciary, Finance and Home-Rule.

You may have a copy by returning the enclosed card.

Legislative Program

This publication explains the program of the League of Women Voters for the 1957 legislative session.

We are hopeful that the information in these publications will be of value to you in your work for a responsible and responsive government for Minnesota citizens.

Echyl Young

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



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

Please mail to me free of charge your ⁽³²⁾ 83 page
research book on Constitutional Revision
entitled, "The State You're In."

Signed _____

Address _____

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
University of Minnesota
15 & Washington Avenue S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

copy went to ~~Marie~~ Guthrie
Paris -

act 1954

THE MINNESOTA FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LAW.

During its first year the Minnesota Fair Employment Practices Commission and its staff have been laying the education and enforcement groundwork for a positive and constructive program ~~and~~ ~~education~~ against discrimination.

Details of implementing the new state policy of non-discrimination in employment have been made clear to all state employees who have personnel responsibilities, and to those who deal with state contracts. Mayors and county officials have been similarly informed. Questions relating to race and religion have been dropped from ^(governmental) application forms.

Agreements have been worked out with the three city commissions which provide that cases which fall within local jurisdictions shall be handled locally unless the complainant wishes the state commission to ^{investigate} ~~process~~ his case.

The cooperation of the Minnesota State Employment Service in all its local offices has been solicited, and literature and instructions have been furnished them. As many private employment agencies as possible have been reached also, and machinery has been set up for cooperation with human relations organizations in the state.

Copies and summaries of the law, instructions as to how to file a complaint, and other literature relative to implementation of the new law have been printed and distributed.

Conferences have been held with business and labor leaders, building toward a policy of full ~~and~~ equality of employment opportunities. The railroads and the taconite industry are two of the most important groups which have been contacted.

Eight complaints of alleged discrimination have been received. In two cases the employers made satisfactory adjustments; in two cases employers were exonerated. The other four cases are still pending (as of August 7 1956)

One of the most important achievements of the Commission has been the organization, in cooperation with the Governor's Human Rights Commission, of some twenty local advisory citizens' committees throughout the state, which will concern themselves with human rights and fair employment practices. Committee members were carefully chosen; more than ^{five hundred} ~~one thousand~~ people were consulted before selections were made. Eventually there will be 35 or more of these local committees. They will not only interpret and publicize the law in their respective communities, but will analyze and study local problems, such as problems concerning the Indians and the migrant workers, and will confer with the two state commissions in working out solutions.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO FEPC IN THE 1957 LEGISLATURE?

1. There might be an attempt to cut the budget. The present modest budget of ^{30,000. per year} provides for a two-man staff and one clerical worker, besides the necessary expenses for travel for staff and Commission members, and possibly for Board of Review members, and for printing and other administrative costs.
2. A merger with the Governor's Human Rights Commission, purely for reasons of economy, may be proposed. In some states functions similar to those discharged by the two Minnesota commissions are successfully handled by one, it is true. But special legislation making a merger possible would have to be carefully worked out after each of the two commissions has had

the time and experience necessary to develop its program adequately. The Governor's Human Rights Commission was re-vitalized and enlarged shortly after the FEPC Commission was appointed, and it has been developing an extensive and important program of work, especially among the Indians and the migrant workers. Its budget is only 7,500 per year. It is the considered opinion of both commissions that they should work independently for at least two more years, before a merger is considered.

3. An amendment to prohibit discrimination because of the age of the applicant may be proposed by the Governor's Inter-Departmental ^{Comm. Rec} Commission on Problems of the Aging. The League has not studied this question.

4. It should not surprise us too much if the perennial "Right to Work" amendment would bob up again. This is the amendment which R. P. Prifrel testified before the House Labor Committee in 1955, someone has attempted to tack onto the FEPC bill in every session--the amendment which author Cina fought as "an attempt to break up labor unions." Had the enemies of FEPC succeeded in attaching this amendment to the bill in 1955 it would, of course, have constituted a serious threat to the bill.

Grace

Oct 13 - 1956 Agenda

NOTE: Next committee meeting with Mrs. Horner will be Wed. Oct. 17 from 10:00-12:00
Place: State office - University of Minn (Bldg), 10th & Washington Aves. S.E.
Because our Oct. 2 meeting was scheduled from 3-5, an inconvenient hour,
we changed to Oct. 17.

AGENDA

DO IT YOURSELF MEETING

ENCA MINNEAPOLIS, room 510 Wed. Oct. 3 from 10:00-3:00.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Plans of the State Committee | Mrs. Donald Guthrie | 10:00-10:30 |
| 2. Interviewing | Mrs. Stanley Kane | 10:00-10:30 |
| 3. Importance of Out State Lobbying | Mrs. Gordon Brandt | 10:30-11:00 |
| 4. Plans for a Constitutional Rally | Mrs. Homer Harvill | 11:00-11:20 |
| 5. Map of Legislative Districts | Mrs. Louise Ruckerting
(Edgar) | 11:20-11:30 |
| 6. Effective Lobbying | Senator Donald Fraser
Minneapolis | 11:30-12:00 |

Lunch

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Secured | The State You're In | Mrs. Stanley Kane | Approx. 10 min. |
| Publications | Well, what d'ya know | Mrs. John Hill | " " |
| Public Relations | Mrs. Horner (Alone) Greenstein | " " | " " |
| Legislative Plans | Lobby by Letter | Mrs. Donald Guthrie | " " |
| Legislative Action in the L&V | Mrs. Errol Horner | 1:40-3:00 | (2 hrs) |

People

(State Board) will give summary of tools prepared for their job and plans for using them in local leagues and in the community, to promote our State program. Then we would like Mrs. Horner to show local league presidents and legislative chairmen how they can go to work in their communities to get "yes" votes for a Constitutional Convention and for continuing responsibilities.

MINNESOTA CITIZENS CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

DONALD A. HOLMES, Chairman
Minneapolis

O. J. JERDE, Vice Chairman
St. Cloud

ROGER B. PAGE, Vice Chairman
St. Paul

MRS. RUSSELL T. LUND, Secretary
Edina

MISS CELIA LOGAN, Treasurer
Minneapolis

JAMES OLSON, Auditor
Minneapolis

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MRS. RALPH NORGAARD, Minneapolis
JAMES OLSON, Minneapolis
MRS. ELLIS PEILEN, Minneapolis
MISS BARBARA STUHLER, Minneapolis
MISS JOYCE VDEKS, Minneapolis

JUL 11 1956

Dear Friend:

Sometime ago you indicated an active interest in being a member of Minnesota Citizens Constitutional Committee and in taking a part in its program to accomplish a revision of our State Constitution.

During the last several months, much progress has been made in perfecting organizational matters on a state-wide basis and the Committee is now on the threshold of initiating its activities.

Already knowing your desire to be of help, we are enclosing a slip on which you may indicate your preference for assignment to Committees which have been activated.

We appreciate your interest and will look forward to receiving your slip at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Donald A. Holmes
Chairman

Barbara Stuhler
Assistant Secretary

Return slips to:

Miss Barbara Stuhler
134 Warwick Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

File
leg

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

84 SOUTH TENTH STREET, ROOM 406

MINNEAPOLIS 3, MINNESOTA

Atlantic 0941

NEW ADDRESS: Washington and 15th Ave., S.E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

May 23, 1956

Dear Legislator:

Governor Freeman has declared May 25 Minnesota Constitution Day.

Just 100 years ago Territorial Governor Gorman signed into law a bill to call a Constitutional Convention. This is the only Convention we have ever had in Minnesota.

These first framers of our government provided that the people of Minnesota should have the power through their legislature to call a Constitutional Convention whenever they felt the need. One hundred years later, there is that need.

The tremendous growth in government services and in population has resulted in the state government becoming one of the largest spending operations in the state. We feel it is time for us to examine our fundamental instrument of government with the idea that a simple, flexible and timeless constitution might be the answer to meeting more adequately the present needs of the people.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is therefore working for revision of our state constitution through the convention method.

In recognition of Minnesota Constitution Day, we are sending you a small "Price Tag" which we are distributing all over the state to sell the people on the idea that they deserve a better constitution. These tags also have state-wide coverage through the media of radio, television programs and newspaper releases.

From time to time we will send you further material that you might find useful in promoting the convention method of constitutional revision in your district.

We hope you will wear your "Price Tag" on Constitution Day, and help publicize the need for community understanding of our basic law.

Sincerely,

Edyth Young

Mrs. Basil Young
President

D. Guthrie
Mrs. Donald Guthrie
Legislative Chairman

GOOD BUY!

Item: A NEW STATE CONSTITUTION

Style: contemporary — tailored to a growing Minnesota by a convention of the people

Price: less than the cost of ONE regular legislative session

Size: adjustable and flexible for years of use

Improved features should:

- give Minnesota citizens more for their taxes
- give both executive and legislative branches power equal to their responsibility
- organize judicial branch more efficiently
- give counties, towns, and cities more self-government
- enforce reapportionment



TRADE IN

Minnesota's outmoded 1857 Constitution

- hastily written by 10 men in 10 days
- patched by amendment 80 times
- wasteful and inefficient

for a new and improved model, revised
by convention

For more information, call your local

League of Women Voters

or

League of Women Voters
of Minnesota

University of Minnesota

15th and Washington Avenue S. E.

Minneapolis 14, + Minnesota

FE 8-8791

(OVER)

Speech

A. Grassman 3, 1956-

Several years ago I confidently sailed off for the state legislature, a new lobbyist in a new nat, determined to do my bit for good government. More specifically, I went to get the matter of a constitutional convention handled. The first legislator to whom I spoke was an elderly gentleman who spent the greater part of the interview telling me about the feminine women he knew who raised children, instead of coming to St. Paul to raise the devil. I explained that this was not really my purpose. I have five sons, and I firmly believe that my responsibility as a mother is not only to raise my children but also to help make the community in which they live a good one for them to live in. I am sure that ~~that~~ a very good way to accomplish this is by working in the League of Women Voters.

Women join the League for a variety of reasons. However, regardless of the reason, membership gives us all a sense of pride in the heritage of the League of Women Voters. Most of us are too young to remember personally the long list of accomplishments the League has after its name. It was first in applying the technique of "learning by doing" to politics, the first to publish non-partisan voting records of senators and representatives, as a pre-election routine. We were also one of the first organizations to initiate legislative pressure by lobbying solely in the public interest.

On the national level the League worked hard and long for such important things as child welfare laws, equal rights for women, ~~Free~~ trade agreements, the pure food and drug act, and the abolishment of the "lame duck" or short term for Congress, to name just a few.

In Minnesota the League helped establish the Civil Service Council in 1931 and in 1939 the Civil Service Bill. They inaugurated radio service on non-partisan political education. More recently, we take pride in the part we played in the passage of Fair Employment Practices legislation, and in the progress we have made in educating the public to the need for the calling of a constitutional convention in Minnesota and for legislative reapportionment.

An article in the Saturday Evening Post summed up a long and complimentary story on the League with the following: "If the League were ten times as large, its size would not explain its remarkable influence on the pattern of American Political history. One of the most compelling reasons for its strength is its determination to squeeze an issue

dry of its pros and cons and to examine them as unemotionally as it can. This method makes for unbiased judgement insofar as any political issue can be definitively judged".

Because we can take pride in the league, in its purpose and its program, selling it should not be difficult. The secret of good public relations is in good overall planning. The initial planning should be done by all board members whose portfolios are affected by the proposed project, or by the corresponding committee members, when you are working on a committee level. First we must decide whom we want to reach, and what we want them to do when we have reached them. Do we want to inform them, or do we also want them to take some kind of action after the educational process is complete? We must also keep in mind that we are not only selling the product, that is, the league program, but also the league itself. In every public relations program, we must remember that the league is always looking for new members, is always interested in new finance contributors, and wants to sell publications. These aims should be incorporated in the plans for developing our ^{public relations} program.

A good way to illustrate public relations planning might be to use as an example a promotion that has been tried in Minnesota, and one with which most of you are probably familiar; the High School Essay Contest. The decision to sponsor ^{the} ~~an~~ essay contest was made by the State Board. It was to be a promotion to help build public opinion for the calling of a constitutional convention in Minnesota. ~~It was~~ The job was given to the Public Relations Chairman. She, and her ^{several} committee worked first with ~~the~~ State Board members. ^{she was assisted by} The resource people would furnish the background material for newspaper stories, radio, and T.V. They would also give the committee suggested topics for the contestants. The legislative chairman would keep the committee informed on which areas of the state needed extra work, and which legislators needed special attention. The publications ^{selected} chairman ~~suggested~~ league materials for the suggested bibliography. The finance chairman suggested ways to make contributors aware of what we were doing.

Then the committee went to work on its own. They decided that although local leagues could take care of their own communities, the state committee must be responsible for interesting people in areas where there are no leagues. Interesting students in a contest, would ultimately interest their parents in the subject. A contest would come to the attention of educators. It would reach newspaper people, and through them the readers.

3.

Areas of work were then assigned to the committee members. The person who worked with other organizations was responsible for checking on other successful contests. She found that the Department of Conservation in cooperation with the Minn. Federation of Women's clubs sponsored the most successful statewide contest. She called on the helpful commissioner of conservation, who gave her many suggestions. As a result, we learned that we must register with a state contest committee.

The committee secretary worked on the mechanics of the contest. She made up the announcement of the contest which outlined the rules, announced the prizes and the judges. She got the prizes, the first prize ^{was a} set of encyclopedia Americana, donated by that company. This was a good prize for students, and it had additional value in that Americana salesmen carried our announcement and contest rules all over the state. This not only promoted the contest, but also introduced many people to the league.

Another prize was a day at the legislature for the winners. This was planned so that although the contest was in April, we would get additional publicity in January when the legislature convened. We also planned, at that time, to try to get permission to have the winners read their essays to the legislature.

A letter announcing the contest was then sent to the principals of every ^{high} school in the state, public, private, and parochial.

The press chairman sent individual mailings to editors throughout the state. This was all done so far in advance, that she had time to first send voter's service information to them. This was non-controversial material, and it provided a service. She also sent information on other league services and ^{materials} information that might ^{be} available to them, hoping this would make them more eager to publish contest news later on. She decided to follow this with an MEA (Minnesota Editorial Association) release which would go to over 400 newspapers in the state. This would contain information on the contest, the judges, prizes, etc. She began to work on articles for special publications, such as the Social Science teachers magazine, the Minnesota Historical Society's publication, etc.

The committee chairman called on the assistant commissioner of education. This resulted in two announcements in Dean Schweichard's weekly newsletter to all teachers.

The secretary, who was free again, sent letters and rules to all of the librarians in the state, asking them to post contest information on their bulletin boards.

The radio and T.V. chairman arranged for a series of programs with Betty Gerling of KUOM/. These programs were broadcast to high school classrooms, and consisted of information on the contest, how to enter, rules, prizes, etc. Several league members were then interviewed on the various suggested contest subjects. The chairman also arranged for a program interview of the winners in January. Next she turned to established programs, and was able to get time on Arleigh Haberle, Bea Baxter, Meg Kingday's farm program, Jack Huston's programs. She got three minutes on station breaks on the 6 O'clock movie and 10 O'clock movies on T.V. She got many spot announcements from disc jockeys.

One person was assigned to work with local leagues. She suggested how they might go to their own newspapers, asking them to print contest information, use the MEA release, and perhaps even write an editorial on the contest. She asked them to go to their schools and libraries, urging them to push the contest. She even interested some local leagues in giving prizes to the winners in their own communities. She suggested that they go to their clubs and church groups with the information, and that they write letters to their editor.

This was the preliminary planning. The contest was over in April, and the winners were announced before the close of school in May. The prizes were to be awarded in January. The state legislative chairman then arranged for the first prize winner to read her essay to the senate, and the second prize winner to read her essay to the house.

The job was almost over. In January, a week before the legislature convened, the press chairman sent out an MEA release announcing ^{that} the winners, would read their essays to the legislature. However, the league had a gentlemen's agreement with the chairman of the rules committee. Unfortunately, he became ill and the vice chairman didn't like the idea. The release went out on Thursday. On Monday, the rules committee of the senate decided that this was too controversial a matter to be aired in the senate and they withdrew their permission. The frantic ^{league} press chairman called the Minnesota editorial association. They addressed envelopes and the league worked out a "ladylike" statement correcting the text of the original release. ~~Patricia would not read her essay.~~ Special delivery letters were sent to early papers, and the winner received a note in the mail informing her ~~that~~ ^{that} she could not read her essay. ~~xxxxxx~~ The press chairman

went home to bed, happy in the knowledge that she had taken care of everything. She woke up Wednesday morning to a front page story in the Minneapolis paper, pointing out that the legislators wouldn't allow poor Patricia to ~~xxx~~ read her essay, and after they promised! There was an editorial on the inside of the paper, and a reprint of the winning essay. She turned on her radio and heard the controversial essay and the contest discussed on every newsprogram for the next 12 hours. T.V. was equally accommodating. Clippings of a similar nature started to come in from all over the state..with banners reading, "Shame on the Senate." League phones were busy.

When the contest winners and their league escorts arrived at the legislature they were met by grinding T.V. cameras, ~~fixx~~ popping flashbulbs, and anxious reporters. Everyone wanted a story, and they felt to sorry for Patricia. Val Bjornson invited her to be photographed ~~xit~~ holding a million dollars, and she did. The kids were having a wonderful time. When they went into the senate, an announcement was made that the winner of the League of Women Voters' essay contest would read her winning essay to the senators. Patricia was surprised, but she just happened to have a copy with her. She read her essay, as the T.V. cameras ground away.

This essay contest was a very effective promotion. Some of its success was due to the advanced planning by the committee. By checking clippings from all over ~~the state~~, the press chairman determined that the additional publicity was started by the Worthington paper. When they received the correction, they called the contest winner, and then they were angry. They wrote an editorial, and gave the story to the wire services. This was picked up ~~orr~~ the wire services by other editors, radio, and T.V. , and it snowballed as the days passed. Therefore, we can see that this publicity was only possible, because a local league, Worthington, had such good relations with their newspaper editor that he was interested in what happened to a league. program. The press chairman's follow-through in correcting the original story was also responsible for the lovely chain of events.

This illustration is a good example of how good, advanced planning pays off. It prevents duplication of effort and thus saves woman power. It allow you to enjoy what you are doing, because there is less pressure; and if, by a fluke, pressure comes, you are organized to be able to handle it.

When you make your public relations plans, you may use the same techniques employed by this state committee. Decide on ~~xxxxxxx~~ a project that best suits the tastes and needs of your own community, and one that promotes your program on any level of government. Plan well, and have fun.

A large, dark, stylized letter 'M' is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text. It has a thick, blocky appearance with a slight shadow effect.

MINNESOTA NEEDS
PARTY DESIGNATION
FOR LEGISLATORS

M INNESOTA CITIZENS NOW ELECT THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE WITHOUT PARTY DESIGNATION

In other words, on a nonpartisan basis. Yet a body of 198 members finds it cannot function effectively without the machinery of party disciplines. Therefore, the Minnesota legislature organizes itself into 2 factions, corresponding roughly to the 2 political parties.

M INNESOTA'S LEGISLATURE THUS IS NOT NONPARTISAN EXCEPT IN NAME

M INNESOTA VOTERS DO NOT KNOW THE POLITICAL PARTY OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE LEGISLATURE

Yet, each legislator may choose the faction that he favors, Conservative if he is a Republican, Liberal if he is a Democrat-Farmer-Labor, without accounting for his choice in any way to the people who have elected him, and, the choice is generally for keeps.

M INNESOTA LEGISLATORS DO FORM "PARTIES" AND SO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF PARTISANSHIP WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY

M INNESOTA VOTERS BELIEVE THAT THE STATE LEGISLATURE FUNCTIONS ON A NON PARTISAN BASIS

Yet, the two factions caucus before each session convenes to decide upon the men who will hold important positions, such as the speaker of the House and the president pro tem of the Senate. They also decide what position their faction will take on the controversial legislation which will be introduced during the coming session.

M INNESOTA LEGISLATIVE LEADERS ARE NOT SELECTED ON A NONPARTISAN BASIS

M INNESOTANS GENERALLY THINK THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES ARE SET UP IN A NONPARTISAN WAY

Yet, the faction which holds the majority in either house always fills all chairmanships and vice chairmanships of all 39 standing committees and appoints a controlling number of members of these committees from its faction, regardless of the ability or experience of the members of the minority faction.

M INNESOTA'S METHOD OF ORGANIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES IS NOT NONPARTISAN

M INNESOTA'S GOVERNORS ARE ELECTED ON PARTY DESIGNATION AS ARE THE OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE STATE

Minnesota's governor campaigns on a political party platform. The people show their approval of the candidate's program by electing him. Then, they hold him to the program he has pledged. But the governor frequently finds his program blocked to a standstill by legislators who do not commit themselves to the party platform.

M INNESOTA'S NONPARTISAN POLICY FOR LEGISLATORS SHORT CIRCUITS THE OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT

M INNESOTA CITIZENS ARE DENIED A DIRECT VOICE IN THEIR OWN MINNESOTA STATE GOVERNMENT BY THE NONPARTISAN POLICY OF ELECTING LEGISLATORS

There is a basic cynicism in a law which denies the people this right. The legislators who favor the present method claim that they know what their people need and want. The critics assert that the party platform springs from the people and that legislators who commit themselves to it are more likely to be truly representative of the whole state.

M INNESOTA'S NONPARTISAN METHOD THWARTS THE GOVERNOR, THE PARTY AND THE CITIZEN

M INNESOTA NEEDS PARTY DESIGNATION FOR LEGISLATORS. SO SAY THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR PARTIES AND THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

- If you think so too, you can do something about it:
- 1) Join the party of your choice, work steadily to improve it.
 - 2) Have a voice in your party's platform beginning at the precinct caucus.
 - 3) Endorse and elect candidates who are for PARTY DESIGNATION.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 15 & Washington Aves. S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota 031058M - 2 for 5¢ March 1958

MINNESOTA NEEDS PARTY DESIGNATION FOR LEGISLATORS

WHY MINNESOTA
NEEDS A
CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION

HY MINNESOTA NEEDS A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

WHY HAS MINNESOTA LAGGED BEHIND?

Constitutional conventions aren't new-fangled; they are the American way of making the machinery of government responsive to the needs of the times. Some 200 conventions have been held in 48 states since the first one in Massachusetts in 1779.

When Minnesota's constitution was hastily written 100 years ago by 10 men in 10 days so Minnesota could get into the Union, it was expected that improvements and systematic review of the constitution would be needed. The Bill of Rights declares our right to make changes in our government; another section spells out the machinery for holding a constitutional convention.

MINNESOTA HAS NOT HAD AN ORDERLY REVIEW OF ITS CONSTITUTION IN 100 YEARS

WHAT NEEDS CHANGING?

Many changes are needed. For instance, the Constitution says...

- * the legislature may meet for only 90 days every two years, yet it must raise and spend over ~~\$3,000,000~~ and deal with over 3,000 bills affecting Minnesota citizens. ~~\$300,000,000~~
- * reapportionment of legislative districts should take place every 10 years, yet the legislature has successfully evaded this constitutional duty for 38 years.
- * special funds, taking up 7% of the state's income, may not be used for general purposes, making for an inefficient and rigid financial structure.
- * the state debt should not exceed \$250,000, yet it actually is over \$1,000,000.

MINNESOTA'S CONSTITUTION IS RIDDLED WITH OBSOLETE, HY-PASSED,
RESTRICTIVE PROVISIONS

WHO SAYS IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED?

- * the LEGISLATURE in 1947, when it appointed a Constitutional Commission which recommended 34 major changes, 6 new sections, and 78 corrections, plus a Constitutional Convention to accomplish them.
- * the "LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION," which in 1950 recommended changes covering our entire governmental structure and procedure.
- * President Eisenhower's COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS which in 1954 reported: "The Commission finds a very real and pressing need for states to improve...constitutions."
- * The DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR and REPUBLICAN parties and the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA, who are on record as favoring a constitutional convention for Minnesota.
- * These, and other responsible citizens believe...

AN OUTDATED STATE CONSTITUTION LIMITS THE SCOPE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE AND LOCAL ACTION

WHY NOT AMEND THE CONSTITUTION?

Amendments have been tried - some 83 times since 1858. The result - a confusing, cumbersome patchwork.

Amendments are the expensive way to remodel the Constitution.

Passing the three amendments in 1956 cost the taxpayer \$ 204,168

At this rate, getting only 30 needed changes in the Constitution by

voting on three amendments at each election would take 20 years and . . \$2,041,680

New Jersey's Constitutional Convention in 1947 cost only \$ 350,000

The 1957 Minnesota legislative session cost \$1,431,414

Amending the Constitution over the years would cost more than one regular session of the legislature.

FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF - A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION GIVES YOU MORE FOR YOUR MONEY

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TOWARD A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?

1. The legislature must submit the question of calling a convention to the people. Since 1949 it has refused to implement this right of the people to decide on review of the Constitution.
2. Voters would elect 131 delegates in the same manner as members of the House of Representatives. These people, legislators and civic-minded citizens of their districts, would convene for the sole purpose of reviewing and revising the Constitution.
3. The resulting document would be referred to the voters for approval at the next general election.

A CONSTITUTION REVISED BY CONVENTION WOULD BE A BASIC CHARTER THAT MINNESOTANS COULD UNDERSTAND - AND BE PROUD OF

WHAT COULD A REVISED CONSTITUTION DO FOR MINNESOTA?

IT COULD:

1. Allow our three branches of government and citizens to use the efficient methods of 1958, not 1858, in running the state's business.

IT COULD:

2. Enable the state to make the best use of its tax money.

IT COULD:

3. Cope with today's problems and help eliminate constant pleas for federal assistance.

ONLY A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION CAN PRODUCE A COHERENT AND WORKABLE CONSTITUTION FOR MINNESOTA

WHAT CAN WE DO TO GET A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR MINNESOTA?

We can KNOW the facts

We can CARE enough to tell others

We can ACT by writing our legislators and voting for men and measures favoring a Constitutional Convention.

If you want more information on any of the above points, send for "The State You're In," available for 85¢ from

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA
15th and Washington Avenues S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Minnesota Citizens Constitutional Committee
Issued by League of Women Voters of Minnesota
15th and Washington Aves. S.E., Mpls. 14
at the request of the Committee

leg -
Release:
Tuesday, May 22, and
thereafter

Committee Organized Statewide, Plans Action

The Minnesota Citizens Constitutional Committee set up last October has now been organized statewide with a board of directors composed of two members from each Congressional district in Minnesota and several directors at-large, besides the officers. The Committee already had included representatives of both political parties and of widely diversified citizen interests.

Action announced by the new board will be "to disseminate information about the Minnesota Constitution and the need for constitutional revision, and to support legislation submitting to the people of Minnesota the question of calling a constitutional convention to revise the constitution." The board emphasized the belief of the Committee that "the Minnesota Constitution can and must now be improved to achieve economical, efficient and responsible representative state government."

Directors, by Congressional districts, are:

District 1 - Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves, Rochester;; Albert Marshall, Red Wing.
District 2 - Mrs. Robert B. Ridder, 1744 Dodd road, St. Paul; one vacancy to be filled. District 3 - Kingsley Holman, 9622 Lyndale Avenue S., Bloomington, and John Mooty, 6013 Ewing Avenue S., Edina. District 4 - Mrs. Roger B. Shepard, Jr., 952 Summit Avenue, St. Paul; Roger B. Page, 1535 Branston Street, St. Paul.
District 5 - Miss Celia Logan, 611 E. Sixteenth Street, Minneapolis; P. Kenneth Peterson, 2617 W. Twenty-eighth Street, Minneapolis. District 6 - O. J. Jerde, St. Cloud; William B. Pearson, Ogilvie. District 7 - John A. Lundquist, Willmar; Mrs. Reuben Brustuen, Appleton. District 8 - Emil Erickson, Virginia; Mrs. C.L. Edson, 2121 Vermillion Road, Duluth. District 9 - Mrs. Floyd McDunn, Pelican Rapids; Joseph Kise, Moorhead.

At large - Miss Florine LeClair, 1005 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis; Mrs. Ellis Peilen, 2901 Ewing Avenue S., Minneapolis; James Olson, 5641 First Avenue S., Minneapolis; Miss Joyce Voeks, 2014 Second Avenue S., Minneapolis; Mrs. Ralph Norgaard, 3049 E. Calhoun Boulevard, Minneapolis; Miss Barbara Stuhler, 134 Warwick Street, S.E., Minneapolis; two vacancies to be filled.

An additional vice chairmanship and the post of assistant treasurer have been created. Two resignations have been received. Named to these four vacant offices are Mr. Page and Mr. Jerde, vice chairmen; Miss Logan, treasurer; Mr. Olson, assistant treasurer.

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

Release! Wednesday, January 30,
or thereafter

Teen-Agers to Address Legislature

Two rural Minnesota girls will have an experience unusual for teen-agers Thursday, January 31, when they will address the Legislature, St. Paul, on the need for a convention to revise the state constitution. Winners of a high school essay contest sponsored last spring by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, Miss Patricia Graf of Lismore, who placed first, and Miss Judith Keltgen of St. Peter, second, are spending the day at the Legislature as guests of the League. The trip is part of their award.

Miss Graf has been invited to read her winning essay, "Minnesota's Only Constitutional Convention," to the Senate at 10 a.m., pointing out some of the oddities and illegalities of the 1857 convention. In "A Teacher's Plea," to be presented in the House of Representatives at 2 p.m., Miss Keltgen will ask legislators to consider the embarrassment of history teachers who must admit to students that many provisions of the Minnesota constitution are not enforced.

George H. Leahy, Chief Clerk of the House, said "It's the first time in my memory, and I have been working for the Legislature for 22 years, that a high school student has been invited to address either the House or the Senate."

Since graduating from St. Anthony High School, Lismore, in June, Miss Graf, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Graf of Lismore, has been living in Worthington, where she is employed as a bookkeeper by the Farmers Elevator. A prospective teacher, Miss Keltgen, a senior at Good Counsel Academy, Mankato, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Keltgen. She is a 4-H Clubber and she worked last summer on her father's farm. She is co-editor of her school paper.

Also visiting the Capitol will be the runners-up in the contest, Miss Patricia Ann Skildum of Arden Hills, 10th grade at Mounds View High School, New Brighton, and Miss Mary Ann Jordan, Falcon Heights, 11th grade at Alexander Ramsey High School, Roseville. The group will visit both houses, attend committee meetings and lunch with some of the legislators from their districts. Their League escorts will be Mrs. George R. Springborg of Roseville, member of the state League legislative committee, and Mrs. Earl Wornor, also of Roseville.

Miss Betty Girling of Station KUOM will tape an interview with Miss Graf and Miss Keltgen to be played on a "Current Events" program sometime during the first week in February.

In addition to the trip, Miss Graf won a 30-volume set of Encyclopedia Americana and Miss Keltgen, an Oxford dictionary.

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

PR- F2D4 B 164
leg - F2D2 D 1957
JAN 29 1957

CORRECTION

CORRECTION

CORRECTION

In our MEA story marked for release Wednesday, January 30, or thereafter, and headed "Teen-Agers to Address Legislature", please correct as follows:

Kill paragraphs one and two, beginning "Two rural Minnesota girls..." and concluding "...constitution are not enforced."

Please substitute the following:

Two rural Minnesota girls will have an experience unusual for teen-agers Thursday, January 31, when they will be honored by the Legislature, St. Paul. Winners of a high school essay contest on "Our Minnesota Constitution" sponsored last spring by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, Miss Patricia Graf of Liamore, who placed first, and Miss Judith Keltgen of St. Peter, second, are spending the day at the Capitol as guests of the League. The trip is part of their award.

Miss Graf will be introduced to the Senate at 11 a.m. A copy of her essay, "Minnesota's Only Constitutional Convention," which points out some of the illegalities of the 1857 convention, will be distributed to each Senator. Miss Keltgen has been invited to read her essay, "A Teacher's Plea," in the House of Representatives at 2 p.m. She will ask legislators to consider the embarrassment of history teachers who must admit to students that many provisions of the Minnesota constitution are not enforced.

Now pick up the third paragraph of the MEA release beginning ...
"George H. Leahy, Chief Clerk of the House..."

The remainder is correct as written.

leg. F2 D2 D - 1557

FEB 27 1957

Release: Wednesday, March 6,
or thereafter

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
15th and Washington Aves., S.E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

PR - F2 D4 B 15

League, Bipartisan Committee
Warn People to Guard Rights

Minnesotans were warned today, as a result of testimony at a legislative hearing, "not to let a smoke screen of side issues hide the basic fact that they have the right to vote on whether they want a convention to revise the state constitution". The warning was made by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in consultation with the joint GOP-DFL legislative committee headed by P. Kenneth Peterson of Minneapolis and William Carlson of St. Paul. Calling a constitutional convention is in both party platforms.

"Opponents of the constitutional convention bill testifying at a House hearing have tried to switch the spotlight to many other issues," the statement said, "but not one has given a single real reason why the people should not be allowed to vote on having a convention.

"We advise those who believe in this right to tell their legislators immediately."

On the bipartisan committee are: GOP- Mrs. Leonard Wilson, Carlton; Senator Albert Quie, Dennison; Rep. Alf Bergerud, Edina; Mrs. C. E. Howard, Excelsior. DFL- Mrs. Marge Maki, St. Paul; Dr. C. W. McQuiggan, Marshall; Mrs. Betty Green, St. Louis Park; Gerald Dillon, Minneapolis.

Joining in issuing the statement were several persons who testified at the House hearing in favor of the constitutional convention bill. They are William Pearson, Ogilvie, master of the Minnesota State Grange; Donald Holmes, Minneapolis, chairman of the Minnesota Citizens Constitutional Committee; Mrs. Ellis Peilen, Minneapolis, state legislative chairman of the National Council of Jewish Women; George W. Lawson, St. Paul, active in the A.F.L.; Mrs. Graydon J. Kilborn, Minneapolis, Hennepin County Republican Workshop; Stanley Platt, Minneapolis; Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves, Rochester, constitutional convention chairman of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
15th & Washington Aves. S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Release: Wednesday, April 10
or thereafter

League President Attacks
State Senate Misuse
of Committee System

"The wither-on-the-vine school of handling lawmaking triumphed again Thursday, April 4th, when the State Senate Judiciary Committee once more refused to set a time to break the deadlock on the Constitutional Convention Bill," Mrs. Basil Young of Hibbing, President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, charged today, speaking for the League.

"This is the second time members of this committee have ducked the duty of resolving the stalemate," she continued.

On March 26th, with two members absent, the committee voted 9 to 9 on killing the bill and, again 9 to 9, on sending it to the Senate floor by recommending it to pass. Therefore, the bill remained before the committee. On March 28th committee members, by moving adjournment, avoided setting a time for a revote. On April 4th the committee voted against setting a time for another vote.

"Such delaying tactics are an example of the State Senate's misuse of the committee system, which is designed to expedite legislation and distribute the workload effectively," Mrs. Young pointed out. "Instead, some of the Senate committee members are perverting this system to kill bills by stalling until it is too late for the Senate to act on them, or to hamstring bills by preventing deliberate consideration under the pressure of the closing days."

Among other important bills which have suffered from Senate committee delays are party designation and reapportionment, Mrs. Young concluded.

copy to Mantis, Anderson, Office

June 2, 1957

Memo to Legislative Chairman re Committee Possibilities, from G. Wilson

On last year's state committee:

Mrs. Donald Guthrie, Birchwood, Chm.
Mrs. Gordon Grunditz, Richfield
Mrs. Edgar Kuderling, Mpls.
Mrs. Stanley Kane, G. Valley
Mrs. Grace Olson, Mpls.
Mrs. Hazel Swanson, St. Paul
Mrs. Virginia Olson, Bloomington?
Mrs. Phil Richter, Mpls.
V Mrs. Connie Smith, St. Louis Park?
Mrs. Mary Mantis, herself, St. Paul
Mrs. George Springborn, Roseville
Mrs. Wm. Sampson, St. Paul

Tang - Edina

Bauer - G. Lakeeland

R. Wright - St. P.

On local League Board last year:

Mrs. Rickert, Mrs. Reeve, Austin
Mrs. Berdie, Duluth
V Mrs. Robert Tharp, Golden Valley
Mrs. Kuderling, Mpls. (on state board)
Mrs. R. Drew Miller, Rochester
Mrs. Springborg, Roseville
Mrs. Robert Strauch, So. St. Paul
Mrs. Neil Slindee, Wells
Mrs. Wm. Ludka, White Bear

(Many Leagues seem not to have Legsl.
Chairmen)

4/3/57

Trace -

Talked to Ray Hemmaway.
He said press release was to
come from Expertise Committee
not D-F-L. He was to call
Bill Carlson - notified that
com. had not issued
release (? hasn't seen it),
referred to problems of com.
which I said I understood.
He will see that we are
notified of the next meeting.
Carl

3/27/57

Memo: To Doris and Barb:Grace:
From: Ethyl

I am enclosing copies of letters to John Mooty, Ray Hemenway, and sent copy of Hemenway letter to William Carlson, DFL Bipartisan chm., 947 Portland Ave., St. Paul.

It was complicated by the fact that Hemenway instead of Carlson answered my letter and asked for the committee; Mooty wrote and asked only for suggestions to Doris

I sent Mooty enclosed/copy of committee members with votes and notations.

You will note I mentioned you, Doris, to call Mr. Mooty. Would you and Barb get together and decide on strategy and let rest of committee know. In Hemenway's letter I said you, Barb, would call him, since he seemed to want to work thru you.

I am sending Mooty and Hemenway's letters to the office.

Grace: Would you send 4 Fs to Mooty & Carlson, if they haven't had them; Hemenway probably has, hasn't he? And if you think they should have the books, send them too.

S. Jud.Com. action was a blow. If only Erickson could be persuaded, we'd have it wouldn't we; I have a question mark next to his name on my list.

Grace: Will work on org. report later in day. You were to send me Conservation material when you get it.

Committee

March 27, 1957

Mr. John Moety
Chairman of the Republican
Group of the Bi-partisan Committee
885 Endicott-on-Robert
St. Paul 1, Minn.

Dear Mr. Moety:

Thank you for your letter, and request for suggestions as to how we can coordinate our efforts toward passage of Constitutional Convention, Party Designation and Reapportionment by the current Minnesota Legislature.

Perhaps if the members of our Legislative Committee working on these issues could work with the members of the Bipartisan Committee, duplication of effort would be avoided and the position of both committees strengthened.

If agreeable to you, I will appoint the following League members to work with this committee in the Legislature: Mrs. Donald Guthrie, 4000 E. County Line, White Bear Lake, Legislative Chairman, Miss Barbara Stuhler, 134 Warwick S.E., or World Affairs Center, U. of Minn., League representative on the Minnesota Citizens Constitutional Committee, Mrs. Stanley Kane, 701 Parkview Terrace, Reapportionment, Mrs. Gordon Grunditz, 6715 Elliott Ave., Minneapolis, Constitutional Convention, and Mrs. Albert J. Richter, 5038 Gladstone Ave., Minneapolis, Party Designation for Legislators.

I am asking Mrs. Guthrie to contact you to see if this meets with your approval, and discuss the next steps, and have written the DFL group

Our most immediate concern of course is getting the constitutional convention bill out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. You no doubt attended the committee meeting yesterday and witnessed the deadlock there. I am enclosing a list of the members of this committee showing the 1955 votes, and additional information we have been able to obtain as to their individual positions.

Again, thank you, and good luck to us all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young
President

March 27, 1957

Mr. Ray Hemmway
Chairman DFL State Central Committee
2841 University Ave.
St. Paul 14, Minn.

Le. 9-0701

6 Capt Franklin
Mpls.

Dear Mr. Hemmway:

Thank you for your letter, and suggestion that the League appoint a committee to work with the Bipartisan committee in the Legislature for passage of Constitutional Convention, Reapportionment and Party Designation.

I am appointing the following league members for this purpose:
Mrs. Donald Guthrie, 4000 E. County Line, White Bear Lake, Legislative Chairman, Miss Barbara Stuhler, 134 Werwick S. E., or World Affairs Center, U. of Minn., League representative on the Minnesota Citizens Constitutional Committee, Mrs. Stanley Kane, 701 Parkview Terrace, Reapportionment, Mrs. Gordon Granditz, 6716 Elliott Ave., Minneapolis, Constitutional Convention, and Mrs. Albert J. Richter, 5038 Gladstone Ave., Minneapolis, Party Designation for Legislators.

I am asking Miss Stuhler to contact you to see if this meets with your approval, and discuss the next steps.

I have also written Mr. John Mooty, Chairman of the Republican Group of the Bipartisan Committee, who wrote me asking for suggestions, and am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. William Carlson.

Again, thank you, and good luck to us all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young
President

DFL - } 9.00 a.m.
MCCO - } people & pressure

wire to mls. of land to
judiciary law.
→ 16 conversations

3/27/57

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From: Ethyl

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(Scoping Deal) C
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March 27, 1957

Mr. John Mooty
Chairman of the Republican
Group of the Bi-partisan Committee
685 Endicott-en-Robert
St. Paul 1, Minn.

Dear Mr. Mooty:

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Again, thank you, and good luck to us all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young
President

March 27, 1957

Mr. Ray Hemenway
Chairman DFL State Central Committee
2841 University Ave.
St. Paul 14, Minn.

Dear Mr. Hemenway:

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Again, thank you, and good luck to us all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young
President



Minnesota Republican State Central Committee

685 ENDICOTT-ON-ROBERT • ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

■ CAPITAL 2-1889
■ CAPITAL 4-1703

March 22, 1957

JOHN HARTLE
Owatonna
Chairman

MRS. R. D. HARMON
1 Sunfish Lane, St. Paul
Chairwoman

H. E. WESTMORELAND
Duluth
1st Vice Chairman

MRS. H. A. JOHNSON
St. Paul
1st Vice Chairwoman

PHIL HAMRE
Crookston
2nd Vice Chairman

MRS. SCOTT MITCHELL
Big Lake
2nd Vice Chairwoman

ROBERT GAMBILL
Wayzata
3rd Vice Chairman

MRS. INEZ MADSEN
Worthington
3rd Vice Chairwoman

MRS. C. E. BEATTIE
Red Wing
Secretary

GORDON SANDERS
Minneapolis
Treasurer

GEORGE F. ETZELL
Clarissa
National Committeeman

MRS. ELIZABETH HEFFELFINGER
Wayzata
National Committeewoman

HERBERT O. JOHNSON
Executive Secretary

Mrs. Basil Young
117 W. Howard Street
Hibbing, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Young:

As you may have noted, I was recently appointed as one of the Republican members of the Bi-partisan Committee to urge the passage of Constitutional Convention, Party Designation and Reapportionment by the current Minnesota Legislature. Since the date of my appointment I have had an opportunity to discuss these three matters with various members of the League but have not had an opportunity to contact you directly with reference to these three items.

It is feeling of the Bi-partisan Committee, and I am sure that it is also the feeling of the League, that next week will be a crucial week as far as these three items are concerned. We, of the Republican Party, are exerting our utmost efforts at this time and have made arrangements for various county chairmen and chairwomen to be in attendance at committee meetings next week.

We appreciate the wonderful cooperation that we have received from the League and wish to advise you that if at any time you have any suggestions to make to us we would appreciate receiving them.

Very Sincerely,

John Moaty, Chairman of the
Republican group of the
Bi-partisan Committee

JM:ea



DEMOCRATIC FARMER LABOR STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

2641 University Avenue

Saint Paul 14, Minnesota

Midway 6-2756

March 18, 1957

Chairman

RAY HEMENWAY
618 3rd Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Chairwoman

MRS. ANN VETTER
3309 East 50th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota

First Vice-Chairman

GERALD O'DONNELL
326 West George Street
St. Paul 7, Minnesota

Second Vice-Chairman

ERNEST O. PEARSON
3131 First Avenue
Hibbing, Minnesota

Third Vice-Chairman

VICTOR PAPPENFUS
Route 2
Winona, Minnesota

First Vice-Chairwoman

MRS. MARJORIE MAKI
520 7th Street N.W.
North St. Paul 9, Minnesota

Second Vice-Chairwoman

MRS. HELGA NIELSEN
635 Harmony Lane
Hutchinson, Minnesota

Third Vice-Chairwoman

MRS. ARVONNE FRASER
813 7th Street S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Secretary

DR. WILLIAM KUBICEK
Stoff House No. 9
Rosemount, Minnesota

Treasurer

VIC JUDE
Maple Lake, Minnesota

National Committeeman

GERALD HEANEY
700 Providence Building
Duluth, Minnesota

National Committeewoman

MRS. IONE HUNT
213 South 5th Street
Montevideo, Minnesota

Members at Large

L. J. LEE, Bogley
MRS. RUTH BYE, Uitchfield

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman

KINGSLEY HOLMAN
10262 York Lane
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Assistant Chairman

CLARENCE D. FISHER
1991 North Kent Street
St. Paul 13, Minnesota

Executive Secretary

JACK PUTERBAUGH
618 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mrs. Basil Young, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
15th and Washington Avenue S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Young:


We certainly are very happy with the way the League of Women Voters are supporting Constitutional Revision, Reapportionment and Party Designation.

While both parties call for it in their platform, it is real difficult to get it through the legislature without first getting party designation and party responsibility.

We may be prejudiced but we suspect that the Republicans are laying down on this matter and they are going to have a real tough time getting it through the Senate or out of Senate committee.

If you have any suggestions on how to accomplish this, we would certainly appreciate hearing from you. In fact, we would appreciate it very much if the League of Women Voters would appoint a committee to work with the Bi-Partisan Committee in the legislature.

Sincerely yours,


Ray Hemenway
Chairman

HGT:m
oeiu: 12

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th and Washington Avenue S.E. Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Federal 8-8791

November 12, 1956

Memo: To Local League Legislative Chairmen
From: Mrs. Donald Guthrie, State Legislative Chairman

Do you have any members who are interested in lobbying at the state legislature next session? If so, you are invited to bring them with you to the following meetings.

1. COFFEE GET-TOGETHER

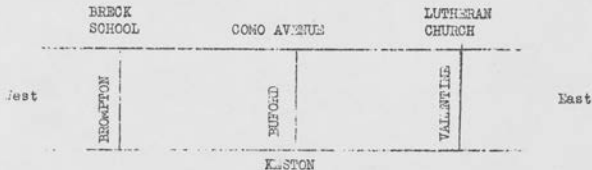
Tuesday, November 27th, at the home of Mrs. Homer Mantis,
2352 Buford Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota, 1:30 to 3:30 P.M.

Hostesses: Mrs. Homer Mantis, Legislative Chairman, St. Paul
Mrs. Edgar Kuderling, Legislative Chairman, Mpls.

2. TRAINING MEETING FOR LEGISLATIVE WORKERS

Thursday, December 6, 10 to 2:30, in the Faculty Women's Room,
Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota. Please mail
your luncheon reservations to the State Office by Tuesday, on
December 4th.

* MAP, supposed to help you get to Mary Mantis' house.....



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

February 12, 1957

Mrs. Elsbeth Parker
Local Government Chairman

Mrs. Frederick E. King
President

League of Women Voters of Minneapolis
84 South Tenth Street, Room 407
Minneapolis 2, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Parker and Mrs. King:

This is in reply to your letter of the 8th requesting permission to take action on two bills to be presented to the 1957 Legislature, both affecting items on your local program.

As described in your letter, the bill to set the Minneapolis tax levy for the City Council's current expense fund at 15 mills, would appear to be legislation effecting Minneapolis only, and no other locality would be involved. If this is true, then the State Board can grant you permission to support it. (Local Leaders Handbook, 3, page 10.)

However, from your letter, it does not appear clear to me that the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act affects Minneapolis only. It would seem to amend the general law and affect all Minnesota municipalities, in which case you would of course not be able to take any action on it since it is not a state current agenda or continuing responsibility item. (Same Handbook reference)

I am sending a copy of your letter and my reply to Mrs. O. H. Anderson, Mahtomedi, state organization chairman, and asking her to check into it further, and if you have any further information, will you give it to her, and we can discuss it at our next board meeting on the 21st of this month.

Thank you for writing me, and I am sorry to restrict you in working for this needed legislation. My husband and I did some work in this field in Hibbing several years ago, and I know how frustrating the present provisions of the Housing and Redevelopment Act can be. But I know you will understand that, under the rules which the League has adopted, we cannot authorize action by a local league at the state level unless the measure affects only the local community.

cc: state office
D. Anderson

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young
President

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS

84 South Tenth Street, Room 407, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

Telephone: Atlantic 6319

Feb. 8, 1957

Mrs. Basil Young, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
117 W. Howard St.
Hibbing, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Young:

On Wednesday the Minneapolis Board voted support of two bills to be presented to the 1957 legislature.

One is an amendment to the Minnesota Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act. In brief this bill would permit clearance and replanning of commercial and industrial areas as well as residential areas; redefine "blighted areas" to include areas that are predominantly open land so that they also could be redeveloped; allow the Minneapolis Housing Authority, with Council consent, to take over operation of Sumner Field; delete requirement that public housing tenants must be citizens of the U. S. (thereby facilitating relocation of displaced families); eliminate necessity to get consent of developer before making modifications in redevelopment plan after one or more parcels have been leased or sold (he could be protected by provisions in the lease or sales agreement); make it possible to use money in the special benefit tax fund (the tax revenue, above the amount collected from the area before redevelopment) to retire bonds issued for acquisition and clearance of land in the area reserved for public use (such as parks and schools); make the maximum levy for the local housing authority 1 mill instead of $\frac{1}{2}$ mill; permit the local governing body, if it deemed necessary, to supplement the funds of the local authority to enable the city to carry out an effective long-range urban renewal program.

The second is a bill to set the Minneapolis tax levy for the City Council's current expense fund at 15 mills (eliminating the present complicated procedure to compensate for the loss due to the homestead exemption and the repeal of the money and credits tax, and resulting in a slight increase in revenue).

Both of these proposals affect Minneapolis in areas which fall under items on our local program:

- 1) Item 2 - "Capital improvements: evaluation of long-range needs."
O.R. 4 - "Redevelopment and low-rent public housing."
- 2) Item 1 - "Taxes: improved tax structure and new sources of revenue."

We wrote to members of the City Council urging their endorsement of the housing bill. If it progresses we would like to be in a position to ask the Hennepin County delegation to support it in the legislature. We would also like to be able to work with our legislators on the current expense fund bill if and when the time is right -- and this could be very soon.

Therefore we respectfully request approval for such action on the part of the Minneapolis League.

Cordially,

Mrs. Elisabeth Parker
Mrs. Elisabeth Parker
Local Government Chairman

Marquerite King
Mrs. Frederick E. King
President

cc: State office

August 7, 1956

F2 D2A7

Memo: To E. Young, D. Guthrie, E. Duncan, Hill
From: Betty Kane (some insertions by G. Wilson)
Re: Legislative Rollcalls

To review: Our Veterans Service Chairman, Clem Klein, prepared some material on Rollcalls in the last Legislative Session (7 pages).

12 votes in the Senate, 12 votes in the House.

The votes in the Senate were on bills pertaining to:
Qualification of Probate Judges, Increasing old age assistance, Reorganization of state government, Regulation of firearms, Study of withholding taxes, Appointment of director of Civil Service, FEPC, Standards of quality of milk etc., Party Designation, Constitutional Convention, Reapportionment study commission, Veterans Preference research Commission.

The votes in the House were on bills pertaining to:

Increase in old age assistance, Appointment of Civil Service Director, Reapportionment, Uniform standards of milk etc., Withholding taxes, Probate Judges qualifications, FEPC, Relating to indecent literature, Reorganization of state government, Commission to study water pollution, Sale of firearms, Calling of Constitutional Convention.

Then Mrs. Klein had to resign because of family illness.

So, Luella (in Grace's absence on vacation) gave material to R. Williams to see if she could get fuller information on these bills, and she did so from the Journals. Still the material lacked any evaluation of these bills, so that the voter would know, accurately, how important or unimportant they were. Also, it was felt that some of the votes were unimportant, since all voted yes.

So, at Mrs. Duncan's request, Mrs. Guthrie asked one of her committee, B. Kane to work on the material. She did study it over, and her comments follow:

1. Bills should be screened. If we are to report votes on bills outside our legislative program, it should be decided 1) if bills here included are significant, 2) whether some bills not treated here should be included. No one person can make such a decision. (An example: is regulation of sale of firearms and ammunition to miners a measure of wide significance? On the other hand, are votes on submission of judicial amendment of importance?)

2. Description of bills does not always tell the tale. What about Civil Service bill (HF 158)? Is original bill an improvement in civil service system? Is amended bill? It might well be that crucial vote here was on the amendment. Someone like Mrs. Everson would have to analyze this bill before it would be meaningful. Also see HF 165 (Constitutional Revision)). The "indefinitely postponed" does not tell the reason for the House action.

Also see HF 824 - "Relating to distribution of indecent literature and imposing a penalty." The point of the fight on this bill was that the penalty went on the dealer or seller. The librarian's bill, which put the penalty on the publisher, I believe, and brought the Courts into the decision is not here described, as it should be, to round out the picture.

3. The League member would be primarily interested (in what went on in committees on constitutional revision, party designation, reapportionment, veterans preference. This is in the Legislative Report of 1955. With the addition of House votes on the Iverson and Bergerud bills, this would give the true picture.

4. Only the most careful study enables you to find out whether a particular measure finally passed, failed, or passed as amended. A different would help perhaps — treating subjects, such as Civil Service as a whole, with breakdown into House and Senate version, amendments, final etc. format

In general, if this is to be helpful (and not misleading or dangerous) it should be worked over by a committee and reviewed by experts."

Betty concluded that she couldn't do it. Sorry to say, "no", but it would take much time, and many people, and she can't spend that much time, nor is she so sure she could find the answers. She feels there are many better ways to spend our time. And there are many pitfalls and traps in this material, where the League could be tripped up, if it is not perfectly done.

An alternative to this, she and CW felt, was a limited rollcall — a 3 sheet thing to be attached to the Legislative Report — on League bills only.

CW — I know it is going to be embarrassing to say to local Leagues you won't get this after all, and we did promise it to you. But I honestly think we are not in a position to put such a n elaborate thing out, and be sure of its accuracy. And legislators hate rollcalls anyway, and if we made 1 single mistake, we'd surely hear about it.

Could we just tell them, we bit off more than we could chew, especially since our VS Chairman has resigned (however even if she hadn't, I don't think anyone in the League is capable of doing this job without expert help from somebody in government, or a professional lobbyist.

D. Guthrie and then

I'll send the 1 copy of C. Klein's material to E. Young should see it so a decision can be soon made.

I'll be out of the office for a few days, but R. Williams will be here tomorrow, and Luella Thursday and Friday, and I'll probably be back in office Monday, Aug. 13.

G. Wilson