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The above letter was approved by the board. Mrs. Westenhaver will send the letter over her signature.

WATER RESOURCES: Mrs. Frotzman read a report from the State League concerning DDT and other Persistent Pesticides. The question posed in the report asks whether their use should be restricted. The decision of the Board was that we were unable to come to a conclusion based on the facts we had at hand.

Mrs. Westenhaver presented to Mrs. Schade, the incoming president, her notebook, a gavel which will be inscribed, and a "rest-a-phone" attachment for her telephone.

The next meeting will be April 30.

Adjournment: 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Hippler

Mary Jane Hippler, Secretary

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

March 31, 1969

The combined meeting of the outgoing and incoming boards was held at the home of Mrs. Merlin Barber, 934 W. William, with Mrs. Janet Westenhaver presiding.

PRESENT: Mesdames Westenhaver, Barber, Schade Crow, Hippler, Johnson, Protzman, Mann, Weinman, Miller, Heilman, Beck, Nee, Coberly, Ohlsen, Deffenbaugh and Bowers.

ABSENT: Mesdames Butler, Dakin, Dumas and Homan.

MINUTES: The minutes of the regular board meeting, February 20, 1969, were approved as read. The minutes of the March 21 special boardmeeting were approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cash on hand, 3-1-69, \$449.43. Total Receipts, \$549.70. Expenditures, \$527.57. Cash on hand, 3-31-69, \$471.56. As of 3-31-69, the 50th Anniversary Finance Drive total in the Mutual Home and Savings account amounted to \$1,188.50.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Mrs. Schade announced that 8 Decatur LWV members attended the briefing at the League office in Springfield during our March 25 visit to the Legislature. 2) Mrs. Schade said we will have 7 delegates attending the LWV State Convention in Peoria April 22, 23, and 24. There is a visitor's pass for those wishing to attend for one day. Anyone wishing to be an alternate delegate should contact Mrs. Schade. 3) Mrs. Westenhaver read the state summary of school consensus questions, attached to the secretary's copy of the minutes. 4) Copies of THE PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT, a book that has been hard to obtain, will be on sale at the Convention for \$2.00 a copy. It is on the recommended reading list for the Electoral College study. 5) NBC will present a series of TV programs dealing with poverty starting Easter Sunday. The title is Challenge of a Closer Moon. 6) Mrs. Miller announced a Tuesday evening TV program presenting former Ambassador Reichauer on Japan. 7) Mrs. Westenhaver read a communication from the Decatur Education Association concerning a speech by a former National Education Association president to be held April 11, at 7:30 under DEA sponsorship. 8) The Governor's Conference on Youth will be May 15 & 16 at the Pick-Congress Hotel in Chicago. 9) A communication from Decatur School Superintendent Harmon Baldwin asked for the names of three LWV members as candidates to work on a committee to develop a long range plan for building or replacing school buildings. 10) A communication from the National LWV office states that April 17 is the kickoff for the 50th Anniversary Fund Drive. 11) A statement from State Human Resources Chairman Janet Otwell agreed that we were within League position in supporting the Decatur Fair Housing Ordinances when a Decatur LWV member testified before the Feb. 24 City Council Meeting. The City Corporation Council had questioned the legality of the measures we were supporting. 12) Mrs. Schade had been asked by Mr. Lindley Hurt of the Macon County Heritage Committee to ask our members to write letters to the Macon County Conservation District supporting the purchase of the Ogelsby Mansion. This is not a League position, but the board agreed to consider asking the membership (in the VOTER) to do this as individuals if they so desire. If the idea is controversial, we may want to present both sides as a voters service. 13) Mrs. Westenhaver announced that at an invitation from the Champaign LWV, several of our State Convention Delegates had agreed to meet with Champaign delegates to work on a Water and Air Pollution item for presentation at the convention.

FOREIGN POLICY: Mrs. Miller presented the program for the April 1 and 2 units. It will cover: 1. China Today, 2. Chinese Foreign Policy Goals, 3. U.S. Interest in Asia and 4. Communism vs. Democracy in Asia, 5. The Korean War, 6. Asian Countries, The Government and the People, 7. Chinese Relations with Asian Countries, 8. U.S. Relations with Asian Countries, 9. Outlook for Peaceful Settlement in Vietnam and 10. The Role of the U.S. in Asia.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE: Mrs. Crow presented a study guide for the Electoral College for use as a general outline for the April 16 meeting. The study guide was accepted by the board. (Copy attached to Secretary's minutes.)

SCHOOL STUDY: Mrs. Schade said the School Study committee has received more information than can be used by the local news media, and the committee would like to cut some of it before distribution to the media. However, they would like to publish the complete information in the VOTER. The board agreed to this. Mrs. Bowers moved we authorize the distribution of 10,000 copies of the School Board Candidates and the City Council Candidates Fact Sheets to be distributed through Voters Service. Seconded and passed. Mrs. Nee asked for 150 copies of each fact sheet to be sent to contributors.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Beck announced that the Community Housing Survey her committee recently completed is due in the National Office by May 1 to be used in drafting consensus questions for next Fall. She presented questions to be included as part 8 of the survey and moved that the questions be accepted by the board. Seconded and passed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Mrs. Barber said she is sending letters to the State and national people we hope to have speaking on the special telephone lines during the Community Conversations program with WDZ.

ORGANIZATION: Mrs. Heilman said information on the April 1 units will be in the Voter.

FINANCE: Mrs. Nee read letters from a couple of our contributors commending our Local League. We have now received \$1,221.50 from our members. The usual member contribution is around \$200.00 Non-members have contributed \$695. She has half the cards in from the solicitors and would like to send a follow-up letter to contributors who have not yet donated.

Mrs. Westenhaver presented the following letter to be sent to the Mayor with copies to Corporation Council Landholt and members of the City Council concerning our stand on proposals to the Human Relations Commission. The amended letter follows:

"Dear Mayor Rupp:

On February 24, 1969, a statement supporting certain sections of the Human Relations Commission proposal was read by Mrs. Robert C. Schade as Decatur League Representative. Mr. Landholt indicated that he felt the League was acting irresponsibly to support passage of ordinances which had not been proved constitutional.

We have submitted copies of the League statement along with the proposals of the Human Relations Commission to the State Board of the League. They concur with the Decatur League in the following:

'Determining constitutionality is not the function of the League, but rather the function of the courts.'

We feel therefore that the statement made before the Council was well within a local League position and our current National Position on Human Resources."

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Mary Jane Hippler

Mary Jane Hippler, Secretary

STATEMENT OF POSITION ON STRUCTURE AND FINANCING OF ILLINOIS SCHOOLS

(This is arrived at from the consensus from all Leagues in Illinois after study and discussion.)

The League of Women Voters of Illinois believes basic changes should be made in the structure and financing of Illinois Schools.

The League believes that a non-political State Board of Education should be established to develop policies and set standards for the whole state. to carry on research in problems of education and to formulate long range plans. Although various preferences were expressed, the League would be satisfied with any one of several ways of achieving such a State Board of Education.

The League believes a Superintendent of Public Instruction should be appointed. He should be responsible to the State Board of Education. This appointment should be non-political and based on professional qualifications.

The office of County Superintendent of Schools should be discontinued. A regional basis of organization, based on the optimum size for providing adequate service and supervision should be established. Any new administrative structure should be consistent with a responsible State Board of Education and an appointed Superintendent. The system of local school boards should be retained.

The League of Women Voters regards the present financing of schools as unsatisfactory. Disparities in educational expenditure which are caused by disparities in local taxable resources should be reduced. It recommends:

- 1) A vastly increased foundation level.
- 2) An improved system of distribution of state aid. Suggested changes in the state aid formula include: abolish flat grants, change average daily attendance to average daily enrollment, achieve more realistic equalization among school districts by the manner of state distribution. There is a strong agreement that funds to pay for these changes should be financed by a state income tax.
- 3) A rational realignment of school districts based on plans and incentives developed at the state level. The redistricting plans should work to eliminate tax havens, to smooth out disparities among neighboring communities, and to create student bodies large enough for optimum educational results. Financial impediments to consolidation such as non-uniform assessment practices, discriminatory or inadequate bonding power, and over-reliance on property tax should be removed.

The League believes special consideration should be given to solve special problems, particularly the problems of inner city schools and schools with large numbers of disadvantaged children. There is concern for the problems brought about by segregation in the schools. The League does not want legislation which might prohibit or penalize the local school district in embarking on plans for desegregation. The League recommends extra state funds to meet special problems.