Interview: Decatur Township Supervisor - Mr. Elmore Morthland

By: Karen Jensen

Date: May 10,1976 2-4 p.m.

Where: Township Office, 253 East Wood, Decatur. Telephone: 428-3479

General Assistance - Decatur Township

General Assistance is emergency relief given to needy persons who do not qualify for "categorical aid" and who, generally, have some personal emergency. General Assistance and its associated program: Aid to the Medically Indigent, are funded in most areas with purely local township or county funds. Decatur is one of 43 townships in the state who use a combination of local and state funds. 70% state and 30% local monies.

COST

From March '75-'76, Decatur Township spent \$1,100,000 for GA nad AMI recipients; \$292,000 was Decatur's share(being raised by levy.) We average 70% state funding and 30% local funding. It costs \$190,000 to administer the program. The township supervisor's salary is not included in that amount as he is paid by the town fund. The work program for GA recipients costs \$13,710; covering administrative costs of program and transportation of workers.

The maximum GA grant for 1 person is \$167/month; \$230/month for 2 people and \$285/month for 3 people. The average grant is up 10-15% since 1970; which does not allow for a realistic cost of living increase for recipients. Mr. Morthland speculates the average person was on aid for 8 months last year: (a direct correlation with delays in UCB people recieving unemployment checks) He had no idea what the average grant was last year.

CASELOAD

In April 1975 - Decatur had 636 cases on GA and AMI. In April 1976, only 445 cases. The high-water mark was February 1975 - 786 cases!!!

60% of the caseloads are women; ranging in age from 19-26. Recipients

over all range from 18-65 of age.

Caseloads might be higher but Mr. Morthland ofter requires a potential recipient to agree to the work program (6-7 days per month working in: cemetaries, parks, roadsides for the minimum wage- not to exceed \$160.00-\$180.00 per month GA grant.) Sometimes half the young men refuse the GA grant because they resent to work program requirements. He averages 75-80 men in the work program per month. He can require they take job training and occassionally requires women to take work training.

Morthland avows about 200 of the 445 caseload are UNEMPLOYABLE.

BACKGROUND

The Decatur Township office was established and qualified for state aid in 1936. From 1936-1966; we spent \$7 million in state funds and \$6,800,000 in local funds. From 1936-1971 (35 years), Decatur spent 9 million state funds and \$6,500,000 in local funds.

REVENUE SHARING FUNDS

Mr. Morthland noted his was the only governments a office to use revenue sharing funds on something other than general operating expenses locally. Revenue sharing funds help:

Volunteer Action Force Decatur Mental Helath Boys Club

CHIC

County Helath Department - VD program and outreach program this year AARP-helped secure a downtown drop-in center (\$6,000)

30% of federal revenue sharing funds helped the above programs.

OTHER TOWNSHIP RESPONSIBLITIES

1. Responsible for 16.2 miles of roads in unincorporated areas; the maintenance is done by the county. Mr. Morthland maintains we have one of the lowest levies for roads in the entire state.

2. Responsible for 3 cemetaries of historical significance; Spangler, Greenwood and Sharon. The Hanks family and others known to Lincoln buried in these cemetaries.

Mr. Morthland contends these were in disrepair until he took them over.

3. Animal Shelter - the new addition is alrge; placed 42% of the animals - the national average is 10%; owners reclaim 10%. He was recently told a Humane Society officer that in an 8 state area - Decatur the best.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Morthland is aware of our LWV position on Township government (most of the fury is in "Cook County", he said) and he said that he encourages other township supervisors to adopt/use some uniform grant system as he does; because he feels it is more equitable.

Part of the secret to his successes here lie in his willingness and aggressive pursuit of intra-governmental cooperation. He gets a couple of governmental units and an industry, for example, to share the cost of repairing a roadway over railway tracks-(even has recieved monies from the railroads.)

INTERESTING NOTE:

Public Aid allows a GA grant to include a cooking and electric utilities budget of 18.00/month in summer and \$22.30/month in winter. Not realistic at all!! A huge part of a GA's monthly check can go for the ablove, leaves most of them with almost nothing. This angered Mr. Morthland.

THASE EACH BUNDY
COTTON CONTENT 1

REPORT ON NATIONAL L/W/V CONVENTION, 1976, NEW YORK CITY

The Convention opened with speeches by Governor Carey and Mayor Beame. Both men joined the League of Women Voters, New York City, and received "Go Register Yourself" T shirts. Governor Carey said that, while he was in Congress, his legislative assistant had been a member of the League and that she was now working for our League office in Washington.

President, Ruth Clusen, had to leave during the opening afternoon session of the Convention to fly to Chicago to chair the Presidential Forum that night. Donna Schiller, Illinois L/W/V President, had not yet arrived at the Convention because she was working on arrangements for the Forum in Chicago. Time was allowed in the schedule that evening for delegates to watch the Forum in one of the public rooms at the Hilton, or in their own rooms.

The first order of business was the roll call of State Leagues to determine whether or not they had accepted the financial pledge suggested by the National League, since this affects the projected income for the National budget. Jan Otwell, substituting for Donna Schiller, spoke for Illinois and said that the local league presidents, at President's Council, had agreed that each Illinois member would be assessed an additional 53¢ which would enable Illinois to meet the suggested pledge of \$22,407 for 1976.

The Convention then considered program items from the floor, those not recommended by the National Board. The Program adopted by the delegates on the 4th day is as follows:

Government
Campaign Financing
Citizen Rights
Congress
Congress
Action
System
Congress
And re
Presidency
Reapportionment
Constitute
Self Government and Voting
Representation for D. C.

Human Resources

Equal Access to:

Education

Employment

Housing

ERA Ratification

Income Assistance

International Relations
Development
Trade

United Nations

Action to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive to all citizens and protects individual liberties established under the Constitution.

Action to promote social justice by securing equal rights for all and by combating discrimination and poverty.

Action to promote peace in an interdependent world through cooperation with other nations and the strengthening of international erganization.

Reexamine the UN system with emphasis on relations between developed and developing countries and their implications for U. S. policy.

Natural Resources

Air Land Solid Waste Water Action to promote an environment beneficial to life through the wise use of resources. in the public interest. (Amendment to change to "through resource policies which balance human and environmental needs"-lost)

Energy

Evaluate sources of energy and the government's role in meeting future needs.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs and performance must meet these criteria:

competent personnel with clear responsibilities, coordination among agencies and levels of government, adequate financing, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

One non-recommended item was adopted by the Convention delegates for study:

CITIES/URBAN CRISIS, with the following outlook for work, Develop an urban policy by:

A. Examining present National League positions;

B. Studying new governmental programs and policies which affect urban problems.

It was planned that the United Nations study would be a one-year study with consensus in 1976-77, while the Energy study would be a two-year study. With regard to the Cities/Urban Crisis study, it was decided that the National Board would first pull together all of the positions we now have under Human Resources, Land Use, - and any other studies - and then determine what direction to take with regard to the problems of cities.

Program items proposed for consideration, but not adopted, included:

Handgun control Illinois (Dorothy O'Neill)

United Nations - retain normalization of relations with People's Republic of China, which was not fulfilled under previous positions.

Role of the Executive - continue with emphasis on executive departments and regulatory agencies.

ERA Ratification evaluation of laws, national and state, which keep women from participating fully and equally, and methods to remove barriers.

People on Earth food, energy, land equation.

Nursing Homes

Population growth and need for national policies thereon. Social security with emphasis on the treatment of women.

Non-recommended items, not adopted, continued.

Law of the Sea - emphasis on marine food, pollution, allocation of minerals.

Welfare System - focus on abuses and consensus on areas of reform

Middle East - problems and possible solutions.

Health Care

Federal Finance emphasis on accountability, priorities and citizen in-put.

National Security in relation to our national priorities and goals.

BUDGET

A per-member-payment of \$6.00 was voted down. After a proposal to consider \$5.25, and a request to the National Board to indicate what services would have to be cut if that figure was adopted, a motion was made to accept a per-member-payment of \$5.50 - that figure was accepted by the Convention!

The budget adopted for the League of Women Voters - U.S. totals \$1,348,142 for the Education Fund 981,427

A motion called the "Endangered Species" motion was adopted:

Reallocation, within budget, of \$8,000 for a committee of 12 local, 1 Inter-League Organization, and 2 state presidents, either present or immediate past, and 1 national board member. The committee shall be appointed for two years to propose alternative choices to local leagues to increase grass-roots effectiveness with the goal of eventual delegate action at the 1978 National Convention.

This motion was concerned with what the Ohio League indicated was "the vanishing volunteer, leadership overload, proliferating program and a decrease in the effectiveness of study and action". There has been a drop of 4,000 in membership, and a corresponding decrease in income from per-member-payments for the National League. For some Leagues, primarily in heavily populated states, membership is continuing to drop.

Another motion which might have affect ed the budget was proposed, but tabled with the request that it be studied by the National Board. The Maryland League suggested:

The budget be enlarged to include money to defray costs of litigation in which local and state leagues become involved as defendants because they are implementing policies of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

This resulted from a suit brought by a write-in candidate who claimed that he had ffered damages by not being included in a Voters Guide of candidate information prepared by a Maryland local league.

BY-LAW CHANGES

Article II <u>PURPOSE AND POLICY.</u> A rewording of this article, sections 1 and 2, was <u>re</u>worded by the delegates at the Convention. Final result:

Section 1. <u>Purpose</u>. The purpose of the League of Women Voters of the United States is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. <u>Political Policy</u>. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Article III MEMBERSHIP. Section 2. (a) Voting members shall be those citizens at least 18 years of age who are enrolled in recognized local or state leagues. This extends voting membership to members-at-large, who are not near a local league, but can join at the state level. A proposal to change the word "citizens" to "persons" was defeated.

New in Section 2 (d) Life Membership may be granted to any voting member of the League of Women Voters who attains 50 years as a member of the LWVUS. No further dues will be collected and all privileges will be retained as a voting member.

- Article V STATE LEAGUES. The provision requiring state pledges to national was deleted, effective date, 1978 Convention.
- Article VII OFFICERS. A proposal to combine the offices of secretary and treasurer at the national level was adopted and changes made throughout the by-laws to reflect the change.
 - Article IX <u>CONVENTION</u>. Section 6. <u>Quorum</u>. Now reads (One) <u>Four</u> hundred voting delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Convention enrolled in local leagues from at least (ten) twenty-five states.
 - Article X <u>COUNCIL</u>. Section 4. <u>Quorum</u>. (Twenty) <u>Thirty-five</u> delegates other than the Board of Directors, shall constitute a quorum at a council meeting,enrolled in local leagues from at least twenty-five states.
 - Article XI NCMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS. Added: except that if there is but one nominee for each office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election.
 - Article XIV FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION. A reference to state support for national was deleted.
 - Article XVI AMENDMENTS. All proposed amendments shall be sent by the Board (national) to the presidents of the local and state leagues at least (six) eight weeks prior to the Convention.

LOST

BY-LAWS. Proposed changes which did not carry were:

Change of name to "League of Voters of the United States". Other name changes were not considered.

Change to persons rather than citizens for voting membership.

A proposal to define members-at-large simply as members who are not enrolled in any local league rather than as members who reside outside the area of, and are not enrolled in any local league.

Adoption of non-recommended Program subjects by a 2/3 vote of the Convention rather than a majority vote, as the by-laws now provide. A 3/5 vote for non-recommended items was also suggested and did not carry.

A proposal that if two members were living at the same address, the local league would be assessed one-half the per member payment for the second member. A proposal for a minimum annual dues level.

Adoption by Convention of a two year rather than a one year budget for national.

MOTIONS TO EXPRESS THE WILL OF THE CONVENTION

Direction to the national board to eliminate percentiles in the Political Accountability Rating.

Direction to express to the International Olympic Committee our concern that Freedom of the press be allowed at the Summer Olympics in Montreal.

- Fees for visitors to the Convention should be lower to encourage more people to visit. The national board should indicate to the Congress in some appropriate way that the league supports full representation for citizens in Congress and should urge Congress to re-examine their rules. (This refers to representatives who have been convicted of felonies - they lose their vote in Congress, but not their seat.)

It was suggested that the Convention send telegrams of invitation to all candidates in the presidential race to attend the last Presidential Forum to be held in California at the end of May, and that each delegate write letters to the candidates before that time.

<u>LOST</u> - It was suggested that the Convention be located at places of more reasonable cost in the future, such as at universities during the summer.

Telegrams were sent from the Convention to Congress with regard to the following:

Urging override of President Ford's veto of the Day Care Bill.
Urging President Ford to sign the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendment.
To Senator Mondale, expressing support for Child and Family Services Act.
To Senate, opposing adoption of Moss Amendment to the Clean Air Act.

To House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, urging consideration and approval of a strong toxic substances control bill, as reported by the subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Finance.

On the last day the Convention reconsidered the \$5.50 per member payment. It was upheld. We also considered again all of the program items newly adopted as the result of motions to "reconsider". The request for reconsideration lost in all cases.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS 67 East Madison St., Chicago 60603 (312) 236-0315

May, 1976

CENTRAL ILLINOIS INFORMATION CENTER 330 S. Sixth St., Springfield 62701 (217) 522-3921

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	BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1976-1977	
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Vice President: Legislation	Gloria Craven (James C.) Rt. 6, Box 153, Springfield 62707	217- 546-6807
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Illinois VOTER Editor and Publications	Clarice Stetter (Rolf) 1040 Elmwood Ave., Wilmette 60091	312- 256-0670
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Metro Coordinating Committee Chairman	Betty Cameron (Dean) 568 Cherry St., Winnetka 60093	312- 446-6924
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Trade, Development and United Nations	Joan Neil (Herbert E., Jr.) 1495 Northwoods Cricle, Deerfield 60015	312- 945-1627
Nominating Committee Chairman	Norma Gavin (L.M.) 209 Pine St., Deerfield 60015	312- 945-4944
NATURAL RESOURCES Consultant	Louise Rome (Samuel) 1421 Forest Ave., River Forest 60305	312- 771-8313
	* * * * * *	
Lake Michigan Inter-League Group President	Mary Lee Strang (Richard) 1831 Balmoral Lane, Glenview 60025	312- 729-2364
	* * * * * *	
	OFF BOARD	
Up State Housing	Cathy Duoba (Leonard L) 582 Bristol Lane, Elk Grove Village 60007	312- 437-6956

LWV OF DECATUR - ILLINOIS
DATE MAY 20 1976

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PRESIDENT BARB BROW	17	233 M	V. WOOT	DLAWN	62522	217-	429-7
1ST V.P. Karen Jens	en	2180 5	Summit	CT	62526	217-	429-9
2ND V.P. Karla WEIN	MAN	2370	S. Tax	ylor Ro	8 62521	217-	428-1
3RD V.P. ELLEN CANT	011	1052 k	N. WILLI	AM	62522	217-	423-06
SECRETARY BETH OLDWE	EILER	2015 h	J. ELDO	RADO	62522	217-	429-13
TREASURER CHRIS LANG	ER	450	S. DEN	NIS	62522	217-	428-1
ELECTED DIRECTORS	ADDRESS			ZIP	PORTFOLIO	AREA	
BESSIE HOBBS	1939 5.	Lynnwoo	od Dr	625	21 -	CODE 42 217 =	TELEPH 685
GINNY FARRAR	410 E.	KELLAR	e LANE	625	326 E.Q.		
				CARLO LA COMPA			110- 1
WINNIE LOEWEN	1477 W	1. SUNSET	T	62522	- Wembershi	0 217.	-422-6
MILLIE PROTZMAN					VOTERS SERVICE		- 422-6 - 422-
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PAGE 2

Information from local Leagues which would be helpful to "Organization" in keeping profile sheets up to date and current.

Population of Town 91,000 Date LWV Organized 1946 Miles from State Office (or area)

Membership Jan. 1976 Dues 15.00 Budget 1975-76

RETURN BY JUNE 7, 1976 TO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS, 67 E. MADISON, CHICAGO 60603.

PART I - January 27, 1976 17 people present

- 1. The LWV supports legislation and administration of programs and facilities which will enable Illinois to fulfill its responsiblity to meet basic child welfare needs. We concur.
- 2. Family counseling, homemaker, day care and diagnostic and treatment services in particular, should be made available to serve the child who lives at home.

 We concur. It was suggested that we seek the cooperation of industries to help workers with problems.
- 3. More small residential facilities should be available to serve specfic needs, including foster care, of the child who has to live away from home.

 Answer: While we generally agreed that the small residential facility is an excellent facility concept, they have not worked out well when they have tried to operate in most residential neighborhoods. How small is small? How about the economics involved and the 24 hour supervision required, especially with older children? There was some question about supporting a "Kaleicscope" if it came to Decatur. Still, most felt that some sort of small facility should be available.
- 4. Day care should be available for all children whose families wish to use it, with priority given to those in greatest economic need.

 Answer- yes. All children, yes, if enough centers are available. Income is a factor. Transportation and location of the center is important. There seems to a waiting list for day care of the low income child which seems to indicate that their needs are not being met.

 There was some discussion about opening the public schools for care of three year olds. The Area Vocational Center Program was thought to be excellent way of training high schools students for work in day care facilities.

PART II - February 25, 1976

- 5. The LWV supports child welfare legislation and programs for the effective rehabilitation and care of young people who come before the court.

 Answer we concur. Some care should be taken that a juvenile has his legal right to an attorney during proceedings. Concur with the first point of the consensus.
- 6. The LWV supports the thrust of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act to provide the opportunities for effective rehabilitation and care of young people and to protect the legal rights of the child and his parents.

 Answer- we concur. But believe a complete diagnostic workup is necessary to determine what kinds of facility is necessary for each individual.
- 7. Smaller correctional and treatment facilities and programs should be developed to serve the varied needs of the child who has been removed from his some.

 Answer- we concur.
- 8. Effective treatment services within the community should be provided for the child returned by the court to his own home.

 Answer we concur.
- 9. Probation services for juveniles should be of high quality, responsive to the special needs of juveniles, and uniform throughout the state.

 Answer we concur.

- *10. Education, such as an opportunity for a young person to complete his high school requirements or to receive realistic voational training, should be available to youngsters who have come before the court.

 Answer: we concur. Some kind of central recording keeping or feedback between service agencies to get adequate figures in order to evaluate services.
- 11. State agencies should constantly evaluate on-going programs, upgrade staff, and search for new methods to improve the treatment of children.

 Answer: we concur. Some special provisions are necessary to work with kids with problems. Preventive measures for parental understanding and acceptance are necessary.

PART III - April 28, 1976 - 15 members and 4 guests.

- 12. The state should stimulate the provisions of increased services for the emotionally distrubed child.

 Answer- we concur. The state should stimulate the provisions of increased services for the emotionally distrubed child.
- 13. Effective deliquency prevention services should be available, and local communities should take the initiative in developing these, cooperating wherever possible with the local school system in developing a overall plan.

 Answer- we concur. The consensus of the group was that the state should, indeed, stimulate such services. We concur that effective deliquency prevention services should be available. We feel that is is the local community's responsiblity to coordinate effective delinquency prevention services.
- 14. The Juvenile Court, as a judicial institution whose primary function is the protection, treatment and rehabilitation of children in trouble, depends upon judicial leadership and court staff of appropriate qualification; effective utilization of supportin services including social case work, psychological and psychiatric services, and detention control based on national standards; adequate public financing, and community support.

 Answer; we concur.
- 15. The Juvenile Court should have original and exclusive jurisdiction over the juveniles whose cases call for a judicial determination of legal rights and issues, with clearly defined safeguards established by law for the protection of the rights of children and parents; and that responsility for dependency and truancy cases and the related administrative and supporting services should be transferred to a public administrative agency.

 Answer; we concur.
- 16. That there should be provided for children temporarily detained for whatever reason a variety of separate facilities to provide them with the different types of services and environment suited to their respective needs. That there should be provided for dependent and neglected children both protective services and shelter care separate from detention, in different types of facilities suitable to their needs, including small temporary care facilities and foster homes.

 Answer: we concur.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS

MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the Decatur LWV held a regular meeting on Wednesday- May 19, 1976. The meeting was called to order by President, Barb Brown, at 9:45 a.m. at the Decatur Community Church, 903 West Decatur St., Decatur, Ill.

Present: Mesdames: Brown, Oldweiler, Farrar, Campbell, Lowen, Cantoni, Lantz, Protzman, Meyerson, Langer, Weinman, Jensen.

Absent: Madame Hobbs.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as read.

Tresurer's Report: Chris Langer, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$645.30 in the checking account. \$80.11 in the savings account.

Finance Drive: \$595.00 has been raised to date. \$900.00 is our goal.

Chris Langer requested all contributors cards be returned to her in order that follow-up letters could be sent to those not responding to our intial request.

Board Orientation - A Review presented by President Barb Brown.

1. The purpose of LWV was reviewed.

2. Non-partisan policy was explained.

3. The Board of Directors: explanation of each of the following

a. purpose

b. authority

c. resposiblities

d. officers' roles and committee charges

4. Program Committee- description

a. function: reading and fact finding
keeping board informed
prepare membership for consensus
explore new ideas and issues
leadership for action

b. responsibilities - to present both sides of every issue they present.

-to establish monthly meeting topics

5. Membership:

a. all board members are responsible for attracting new members and making all visitors welcome to meetings.

b. the calendar should be established with the idea of attracting new members.

Interim Council:

1. The Interim Council adopted a budget for the requested pledge of LWVUS. The Illinois LWV will be dependent upon a 53¢ per member special assessment to meet this commitment. Our increase will be \$42.40.

2. The delegates to the council adopted the LOGO Committee report.

3. The Interim Council adopted a study of a biennial versus an annual budgeting for the state of Illinois.

National Convention: see enclosure

State Calendar:

Regionals are scheduled for September 14, 15, 16 of 1976. The Decatur Board agreed to hold a regional meeting in Decatur. The details are to be worked out later.

Township Supervisor:

Enclosure concerning Karen Jensen interview with Mr. Elmore Morthland on May 10,1976; discussing Decatur Township General Assistance.

Fall Program:

A possible fall program was presented by President Barb Brown, the

Longview-Torrence Park Neighborhood Plan topic being:

(A total neighborhood service for the north-east sector of Decatur)

Plan: To revitalize a dying inner city area.

A slide presentation could be available for a program.

Summer Coffee:

Karla Weinman has offered her home sometime during the month of July -open to the full membership and perspective members. Babysitting would be provided. The coffee would be primarily social, with some type of topic being included.

Membership and Calling Committee Chairperson:

Ellen Cantoni and Winnie Lowen will be co-chairpersons of the membership and calling committees. They will appoint their committee at a later date.

Child Welfare Consensus: please see enclosure .

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday - June 15,1976 Date:

9:30 a.m.

Time:

Karen Jensen's (Mrs. Charles) Place:

2180 Summit Court 62526

429-9072

IF UNABLE TO ATTEND PLEASE CONTACT BARB BROWN -429-7439

Beth Oldweiler Secretary