

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR
Decatur, Illinois

February 22, 1968

The meeting was held in the home of Mrs. W. H. Tilley, 1421 W. Riverview, with Mrs. W. H. Tilley presiding.

PRESENT: Mesdames Tilley, Protzman, Jurgens, Hamilton, Butler, Harris, McCaugh, Miller Crow, Landholt, Barber. Mee, Dakin.

ABSENT: Mesdames Green, Axon, Homan, Schade, Calhoun and Hurst.

MINUTES: Approved as mailed with the following correction: Under "Program" on page 2, change to read, "The proposed national program for 1968-70 has been received."

TREASURERS REPORT: Cash on hand 1/18/68: \$204.45. Receipts: \$418.04. Disbursements: \$333.49. Cash on hand 2/21/68: \$289.00.

REPRODUCTION MACHINE: Mrs. Hamilton reported that Allied Printing Co. had made a practically new ditto machine available to the League for the \$100.00 purchase price allowed by the Board, on a \$10.00 per month lease-purchase arrangement. It will be kept in the secretary's home and is available for League use at any convenient time.

DECATUR VOTER: Deadline for material for the March Voter is 2/26/68.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mrs. Tilley reported that Wdz had written a letter requesting League assistance for a second "Community Conversation Program" to be held May 18, 1968 for the entire broadcast day. The Board generally approved and authorized Mrs. Tilley to appoint a committee to work with Wdz.

The president asked for Board suggestions about Candidate Meetings, if one or possibly two should be planned and about television. There was general agreement that such meetings were valuable. It was suggested that one public meeting and one televised meeting be considered--one in the Spring and one in the Fall. The matter will be referred to the Voter Service chm. for further action.

NATIONAL PROGRAM: Mrs. Protzman presented the proposed national program for 1968-70. It is presented as a single list of issues, not divided into categories as follows: Human Resources, Foreign Policy, Water Resources, and Representative Government. The Board unanimously voted approval in this second round of recommendations.

LOCAL PROGRAM: After discussion the Board approved the following local program for the 1968-69 year: 1) Combine the current Civil Rights and Human Resources items into one and add the word "and housing" to the item. 2) Retain the Decatur Public Library as a support item as follows: "Support for a new main library building." 3) Retain the Decatur Public Schools item, supporting and studying improvement methods, and delete the study of Board of Education elections. 4) Delete the Council-Manager and the Macon County Nursing Home items. 5) Add: "Decatur water resources: a study of the supply, use and treatment."

RESOURCE COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mrs. Harris, chm. of the Human Resources committee reported that the committee: 1) was updating last years study and including new legislation and changes. 2) continuing a study of the unions and apprentice programs. 3) urged League members to become directly involved in a variety of local programs, to attend the next Town Meeting, and to join an "Observer's Corp." that is to be organized in the near future. The Human Resources and Civil Rights committees will present their studies in a joint report to the League membership in May, 1968.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORTS (Con't): Mrs. Miller, chm, of the Foreign Policy committee reported that at the last unit meetings the Decatur League had come to the following consensus concerning U. S. Policy in relation to communist China:

1) The U. S. should support communist China's admission to the U.N.

Of 30 members attending 3 unit meetings, 5 members dissented from the majority opinion. They believed that the People's Republic of China would have a disruptive effect on the U.N. The majority felt, however, that in the interest of universality of membership, and in the belief that communist China's participation in the U.N. would have a moderating influence on Peking, the PRC should be admitted to the U.N.

Most members were reluctant to give the PRC full power status in the U.N. by seating it in the Security Council, but some felt that this was the only realistic solution since they doubted Peking would enter under any other conditions.

2) The U.S. should recognize the P.R.C. in defacto form, if indeed, it has not already done so.

3) The U. S. should remove all travel restrictions to the P.R.C.

A minority of 1/4 to 1/3 felt that it is useless to remove all travel restrictions at this time, in view of the fact that China admits so few Americans to the mainland.

4) The U. S. should pursue a more active role in seeking cultural exchanges with China. Only one person felt that no advantage could possibly result from increased contact and communication with the PRC.

5) The Decatur League failed to reach consensus on the question of removing of U.S. embargo on non-strategic trade with communist China, the following opinions prevailed:

1) Trade could be used as an opening wedge to increase contacts and improve relations between US and PRC. 2) The US should not remove its embargo on trade with China, but should not interfere with its allies trading with China, as the trade is more necessary to them and would be inconsequential to us. 3) There was a reluctance to trade with China until relations between the two countries have been improved.

Mrs. Dakin, chm. Local Government committee, reported that her committee was actively meeting and studying their item.

Mrs. McGaugh, chm. Civil Rights committee, reported that the Decatur City Council would be considering a new Fair Housing Ordinance at the next council meeting. Since The Decatur League has made a study on a state item and come to consensus supporting equality in housing, but has not come to consensus on a local item, it was decided that the Decatur League, in compliance with League policy, could appropriately present the state consensus to the city council of Decatur. The Board unanimously approved.

MACON COUNTY BOOKLET: Mrs. Butler reported that the Decatur Public Schools had ordered 600 copies and that the Decatur Area Continuation Center had ordered 100 copies. In view of the recent defeat of the school tax referendum, the Board unanimously voted to cancel the \$390.00 bill of the Decatur Public Schools for their 600 copies.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE: Mrs. Butler recommended that two recent publications on the subject of Local government be sent out to those on subscription service. The Board unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETING: the next meeting will be the annual meeting of the Decatur League on March 13, at 12:45 PM, at the Westminister Church for luncheon. Election of the new slate of officers will take place at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Persis Hamilton

Persis Hamilton, Secretary