

February 17, 1969

Statement to Decatur City Council

The League of Women Voters of the United States has a position supporting equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing.

The legislation proposed by the Decatur Human Relations Commission calling for "Equal Participation" clauses in city contracts and for a re-appraisal of the Civil Service Testing Program is designed to increase employment opportunities for citizens of the minority group in Decatur. Therefore, the Decatur League of Women Voters urges the Council to adopt these proposals.

In May 1968, the Decatur League issued a statement calling for effective enforcement measures to insure elimination of unfair housing practices. The "Residential-Lessor" Licensing Ordinance submitted by the Human Relations Commission, as well as the proposed ordinance requiring homes for sale to meet City Housing Code standards, could greatly increase the effectiveness of the Decatur Fair Housing Ordinance. For this reason, the League feels that the City Council should adopt these proposals.

Mrs. Merlin Barber

First Vice-President  
Decatur League of Women Voters

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

February Board Meeting

Date and Time: February 20, 1969 12:45 PM

Place: Home of Mrs. John Weinman, 382 Delmar.

AGENDA

- MINUTES.....Hippler
- TREASURER'S REPORT.....Johnson
- ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Barber
- PROGRAM.....Crow
  - A. Proposed Local Program.....Crow
  - B. LOGO Consensus.....Dakin
  - C. March Units.....Heilman
- BUDGET.....Mann
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE.....Hurst
- ORGANIZATION.....Schade
  - (Plans for Annual Meeting)
- FINANCE.....Mee
- VOTERS SERVICE.....Barber

NOTE TO BOARD: VOTER Deadline, February 20.  
Be sure to bring or send annual reports to Geneva Barber on or before February 20. Keep one for your files and bring the other six to Geneva.

Chairmen: Please have a written copy of your report for the Secretary.

Next Board Meeting:

- 1. Proposed Local Program.....Crow
- 2. LOGO Consensus.....Dakin
- 3. March Units.....Heilman

NOMINATING COMMITTEE.....Hurst  
(Plans for Annual Meeting)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

February 20, 1969

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. John Weiman, 182 S. Delmar, with Mrs. Merlin Barber Presiding.

PRESENT: Mesdames Barber, Schade, Johnson, Dippler, Protzman, Weiman, Dakin, Miller, Danas, Neilman, Beck and Mee.

ABSENT: Mesdames Westenhaver, Crow, Butler, Roman.

MINUTES: Approved as corrected. Under the School Study report on the first page, the words "committee on Community Integration" should be transposed to read "Community Commission on Integration." Approved as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cash on hand, 2-1-69, \$105.30. Receipts, \$249.50. Expenditures, \$91.21. Cash on hand, 2-20-69, \$263.59.

Mrs. Johnson would like to know of any bills or income of any size to be included in her annual report.

She also explained that the present Mutual Home and Savings account will be closed out, with the money put in the Milliken checking account. A new account will be opened at Mutual Home and Savings for the 50th Anniversary Finance Drive money only.

WATER RESOURCES: Mrs. Protzman recommended several publications to be read for further information on water resources.

FINANCE: Mrs. Mee announced that membership contributions to the anniversary Fund Drive started coming in faster after Board members began follow-up calls to the explanatory letter sent previously to the membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Mrs. Barber read a letter from Convention chairman Mrs. Robert M. Bears asking for volunteers to work during the State convention. Fees would be paid for those volunteering. 2) A letter from State was read informing us that LWV will not support any constitutional amendments this session of the General Assembly because of the upcoming Constitutional Convention. 3) Mrs. Barber passed around a letter to the Leicester Tribune written by Mrs. Westenhaver protesting that paper's interpretation of a League Statement supporting the Leicester Board of Education. 4) Mrs. Barber explained that she was not allowed time to read a League statement to the Leicester City Council concerning equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing. The statement had been distributed to Board members. She will read it at next week's meeting during the 15 minute period allotted to Citizen participation. 5) The outgoing board is invited to a Sherry at the home of Janet Westenhaver March 18, from 11 a. m. to 2 p.m.

PROGRAM: Mrs. Dippler read the proposed Local Program for 1969-70. It is attached to these minutes. Mrs. Janet Beck moved we accept the Local Program as proposed. Seconded and passed.

FORWARD MARCH: Mrs. Miller announced that the Foreign Policy report meetings will be held March 25 and 26. They will focus on the U.S., China and Asia. Discussion highlights will include President Nixon's foreign policy goals, China's relations with her neighbors, Communism vs. Democracy in Asia, and the role of the U.S. in Asia.

Subject: Mrs. Mann presented the proposed budget for 1969-70, giving each board member a copy. Mrs. Mann moved that we accept the proposed budget with an amendment under section as the addition of a sentence reading, "after our fiscal obligations have been met, and if it is possible, we will send an additional gift to the State League." Seconded and passed.

AG. LIAISON COMMITTEE: Mrs. Dennis read the following nominating Committee report for Chairman Elise Hurst:

Report of the 1969 Nominating Committee

We are very happy to present the following slate of officers and directors for vote of the membership at the annual meeting. We feel very fortunate to have these enthusiastic and dedicated members accept these nominations. We were most grateful and inspired by the response we received as we carried out our assignment.

- |                                  |                          |                   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| President (1969-71)              | Mrs. Robert G. Schinde   |                   |
| First Vice President (1969-71)   | Mrs. Edward Beck         | *indicates the    |
| Second Vice President (1968-70)  | Mrs. David S. Mann*      | second year of    |
| Third Vice President (1968-1970) | Mrs. William H. Neilson* | (a two year term) |
| Secretary (1969-71)              | Mrs. J. William Oberly   |                   |
| Director (1969-71)               | Mrs. Robert E. Bowers    |                   |
| Director (1969-71)               | Mrs. M. W. Dakin         |                   |
| Director (1969-71)               | Mrs. Robert A. Ohlsen    |                   |
| Director (1968-70)               | Mrs. Frank Verbanec*     |                   |

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Nominating Committee Chairman for 1970 | Mrs. Robert M. Butler    |
| Nominating Committee member            | Mrs. Charles E. Kippeler |
| Nominating Committee member            | Mrs. Austin H. Young     |

Respectfully submitted,

- Mrs. Incess L. Hurst, Chairman
- Mrs. Gordon L. Axon
- Mrs. Robert M. Butler
- Mrs. Robert H. Dennis
- Mrs. Daniel W. Moore, Jr.

FINANCE: Mrs. Lee announced that the letter to non-member contributors to the Finance Drive will be sent February 26. Those helping with that portion of the Drive can pick up their cards at the home of Mrs. William Johnson, 444 Hackberry Drive Monday, March 10 at 10 a.m.

next meeting: A combined meeting of the <sup>coming</sup> incoming and outgoing boards at the home of Mrs. Merlin Barber, 944 W. William at 12:45 March 31.

adjournment, 11:45 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Jane Kippeler, secretary*

STATE CONSENSUS QUESTIONS ON SCHOOLS

The purpose of the League study is to examine structure and financing of the Illinois public school system, to see what changes may be needed to ensure equal opportunity for all children in Illinois to obtain quality education.

1. Do you think the present structure and financing of schools in Illinois provides equal opportunity for a quality education for all children?

No.

2. Do you regard the present structure\* of elementary and secondary education at the state, county and local levels as satisfactory? If not, please specify the changes you would recommend.

\*Structure includes state, county, and local supervision and administration, as well as unit and dual districts, local school boards, etc.

No.

It was felt that the supervision and administration would be improved by the creation of a State Board of Education, appointed by the Governor or elected on a non-partisan basis.

Qualifications should be specified for candidates for the office of State Superintendent of Schools, and such office filled by appointment by the Governor with approval of the State Board of Education, or appointment by the State Board.

Local school board elections should take place every other year in the fall of the year. Minority opinion felt the new board should take office in January after the fall election.

Patronage prerogatives should be eliminated from the administration of the state school system.

Consensus was reached to establish regional districts.

One of the three units discussed and recommended that the county school boards of trustees and the county superintendents be eliminated. Instead there would be a regional superintendent appointed by the State Board of Education. The local districts would remain under local control and these districts would be represented on a regional council.

Two of the three units discussed and recommended mandatory establishment of Junior Colleges to meet quality levels with more state aid. At one of the two units there was a minority opinion that opposed the mandatory establishment of Junior Colleges.

3. Should there be changes in the present districting of local districts? If so, please be specific. (Consider factors such as broader geographical areas, density or sparsity of population, industrial enclaves, tax havens, consolidation of present districts, etc.)

Yes.

What state action should be recommended to implement your suggestions?

A master plan for reorganization be developed by the recommended appointed state Superintendent. Such a plan would be approved by the recommended State Board of Education. After public hearings the plan would then be implemented by the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.