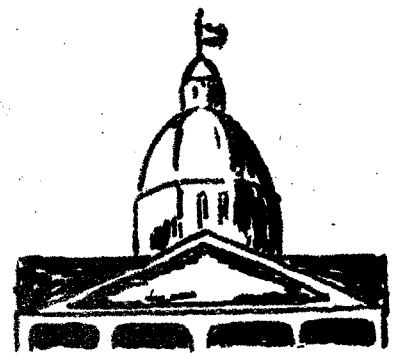




Tallahassee VOTER



League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, Florida

Purpose: To Promote Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active
Participation of Citizens in Government

President - Mrs. Harold E. Chapman
1025 Alachua Ave.

Editor - Mrs. N. E. La Seur
Rt. 9, Box 905

Vol. VII, No. 6

December-January, 1968, 1969

CALENDAR

- January 8 ---- General Membership Meeting - Local Education
Red Cross Building, 8:00 P.M.
- January 15 --- Board Meeting - home of Mrs. Sam Moorer - 8:00 P.M.
- January 22 --- General Membership Meeting - Consensus Meeting on National
Foreign Policy Item Dealing with China. See Article on
page 4 concerning this. Red Cross Building - 8:00 P.M.
- February 12 -- General Membership Meeting - State Education study - Finance
Red Cross Building - 8:00 P.M.
-

CONSENSUS ON THE STRUCTURE OF STATE EDUCATION

On October 9, at our general meeting, we reached consensus on some phases of the structure of state education in Florida. We felt that the highest education board should set general policy and minimum standards, interpret legislation, and approve, in broad outlines, budget for entire education system, including junior colleges and universities. This would help maintain balance among the three categories. It should propose and lobby for legislation affecting entire education system (which would eliminate lobbying separately by three different levels). It should not be involved in actual administration, enforcement, or curriculum development; these should be done by the State Department of Education.

We were unable to reach consensus on the exact composition of this highest board. We did agree that it should be more diverse than present, with some members appointed, some elected; it should be partly ex officio as at present, partly composed of lay people (not professional educators). Our membership was willing to have some members appointed by the governor, but not a majority of the board should be obtained that way.

In regard to the chief state school officer, it was felt that he should be head of the State Department of Education and play a leadership role in K-12, not over junior colleges and universities. As long as Florida has an elected cabinet, he should also be elected and be a member of the Cabinet. The membership felt that to change the method of obtaining this official without broad over-all changes in the executive branch would only further weaken public education in Florida.

Be sure to mark your calendar for February 12, when we will meet to discuss the financial aspects of state education, and try to reach consensus. The last one was very likely and discussing money promises to be even more fun.

WHAT GOOD DOES LEAGUE DO?

Sometimes we wonder if all the work and studying we do in League really does much good. Then one day something happens that has such far reaching effects that we KNOW it was all worth it. Mrs. Harry B. (Lois) Wood brought such a day to the Tallahassee League this fall. She has been observing at Cabinet meetings this year. In September she made a short report (just a few minutes) to the membership about what she had observed. She told us that the reporting agencies face the cabinet, but not the public, and it was very difficult to hear what was being reported on, or recommended to the cabinet. She said you would get titillating snatches such as "\$1,000,000,000, mumble, mumble, mumble," then a brisk "so moved, approved, passed" from the cabinet. The only way you could find out what had gone on was to go home and read it in the paper. She felt this was certainly not Government in the Sunshine as was provided for in Florida Statutes in the last legislature.

Lois sent a copy of what she had reported to each of the Cabinet members. The contents of this report was picked up by the Tallahassee Democrat and the Tampa Tribune. She had recommended that each reporting agency head use the lectern and microphone provided, so that everybody, who had taken the trouble and time to be there, could hear what was being said. She had very nice letters from Governor Kirk and several cabinet members, and the next cabinet meeting she attended showed the results. EVERY AGENCY HEAD WHO HAD A REPORT TO MAKE, WENT TO THE LECTERN, FACED THE AUDIENCE, AND USED THE MICROPHONE. We sincerely appreciate the work Lois did on this important phase of League activity. Maybe the example set by the Cabinet can be used to influence County Commissions, School Boards, City Commissions, and other public boards to conduct their meetings in such a way that the public can follow the proceedings. Who has a better right to know?

HUMAN RESOURCES

Margaret Garvue, Chairman

Did you know? In 1910, 91% of the negroes lived in the south. In 1966, only a little more than half of the negroes lived in the south. Twenty percent of the population in all central cities was negro. In the suburbs, 96% was white. The twelve largest cities now contain one-third of the total U.S. negro population.

Do you care to know about Tallahassee's housing? Read what a local resident, Mrs. Baker, had to say recently in the St. Petersburg Times: "Housing is terrible for black people in Tallahassee. There are nothing but slums or ghettos." She finds the negro housing in Tallahassee about the worst of any area in the state.

Florida has no laws dealing with discrimination in private housing. Tallahassee has not had a Housing Authority to find housing for persons displaced by government action until November, 1968. Local Realtors plan to abide by the Fair Housing Act, 1968.

What will the new national administration do with our housing problems?
Will Florida legislators, State or National, back the Fair Housing Act?
Do you foresee negroes moving into white Tallahassee neighborhoods?

Anybody have idea to help - discuss - argue - disclaim? Want to learn? Teach us?

Join the Human Resources Committee!!

CONSENSUS ON FAIR HOUSING CRITERION

We reached consensus on several aspects of the Fair Housing Guidelines at our meeting on Oct. 23. We agreed that the housing market should operate free of restrictions based on race, color, religion, national origin or sex. We agreed that all levels of government and the private sector have a role to play in the nationwide effort to achieve equality of opportunity in access to housing. It was felt that Federal programs should include provisions to guarantee equal rights in access to housing. However, we felt that federal funds should be withdrawn only in the housing area if guidelines were not followed. We felt it would only further handicap the disadvantaged to have funds withheld in other areas (education, for instance). We agreed that in enforcement the administrative procedures and responsibilities should be clearly defined, and that mediation and legal redress should be readily available. Funds should be made available to insure prompt enforcement. Provisions should be made to continue evaluation and procedures should be changed when indicated.

We feel there will be many problems involved in attaining these goals in Tallahassee. We have much sub-standard housing, and many disadvantaged people who can't afford better housing even if it was available. Those people who have been barred from the better neighborhoods because of race, rather than economics, have built themselves nice homes in the ghetto areas.

On September 18, several Leaguers conducted a telephone survey at the request of the Florida State University Broadcasting Services, regarding the Collins-Gurney debates on educational TV. This survey was an attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of using educational television facilities as a possible means of reducing campaign costs. The questions asked were designed to determine whether people knew about the debates, and, if so, did they take the time to watch. The information gathered here was forwarded to the University of Florida, where results from all over the state were to be tabulated and analyzed.

We have received a donation and thank you letter from the Tallahassee Junior League. They are very grateful for the booklets on city and county government which we provided for their Provisional Committee. They said, "Your organization is the only one which puts out this information on city and county government in such clear, concise form." Take a bow, girls.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Richard Burian (Linda)	678 Gamble St.	32304	224-1696
Mrs. Wayne Mattice (Jackie)	809 Lipona Road	32304	576-5530

FOREIGN POLICY
Dorothy Sidwell, Chairman

At the January 22nd meeting, we will be asked to arrive at consensus on the U.S.-China policy. The three questions we are asked to consider are:

1. What should be the objectives of U.S. policy toward the People's Republic of China?

Policy goals which could be considered are isolation, containment, coexistence, cooperation, peace, mutual development, and spheres of influence.

2. Does our League support changes in specific policies? If so, in what direction?

Examples of policies would include trade, cultural exchange, travel, recognition and representation in the United Nations (including policy toward Taiwan).

3. Should the United States take the initiative in relaxing tensions?