

LET'S LOOK AHEAD TO PLANNING AND ZONING

At the March 16 unit meeting on Planning and Zoning (new local CA this year), the study committee will attempt to summarize the content of specific city codes, and to evaluate the codes and their enforcement. Please be thinking about the following questions. The committee hopes to reach a position regarding all or some of them:

1. Is the Tallahassee Comprehensive Plan adequate for long-range planning?

2. If it is, is it being followed to a reasonable extent, e.g. in zoning changes and variances, acquisition and development of parks and other recreational facilities, expansion of utilities, traffic routing, hospitals, etc.?

3. Are the specific city ordinances governing housing standards, zoning, fire protection, building codes, etc. adequate? Outdated? Too rigid? Too permissive? Need revision? Are they enforced adequately? Too strictly? Too leniently? What about variances? Are too many granted? Too few? What should be the guidelines, if any, regarding variances?

4. What special problems need attention in Tallahassee? Drainage and ditches? Set-backs? Parks? Recreational facilities?

The next study committee meeting on this subject will be Monday, February 6, 8 p.m., at Margaret Menzel's house, 1605 Kolopakine Nene. Dr. Edward McClure, head of the Department of Regional and Urban Planning at Florida State University, will meet with the committee for an informal discussion of criteria for good city planning and for evaluating city codes. All interested League members are urged to join the discussion. Margaret will appreciate a call (877-1934 or 599-2170) if you plan to attend, so she'll know how many chairs to provide!

Several copies of each volume of the Tallahassee Comprehensive Plan are now available at the Leon County Library and may be checked out as "vertical" file material. The reference librarian also promised to look into the possibility of acquiring a copy of the Tallahassee Municipal Code right away.

FUTURE FLORIDA URBAN LEADERS

Seminars on planning and urban development issues:

February 15 ... Environment and Health

March 15 ... Governmental Aid Programs

April 5 ... Citizens and Urban Action

May 9 ... Urban Decision Making

Sponsors Florida State University Department of Urban and Regional Planning (call for additional information on time and place of meeting) in cooperation with the FSU Office of Continuing Education.

WATER RESOURCES CONSENSUS

The study committee presented arguments for and against tax benefits for industry. Members agreed that the federal government should offer financial incentives to private industries to reduce water pollution, but only after a law has been passed requiring industry to stop polluting within a given time. It was felt that until a law is passed requirements would be unenforceable. Thereafter some industries would need help in the cost of the program in order to make it economically feasible.

Federal aid in the form of low cost loans was the only type thought to be desirable. It was felt that direct grants and tax incentives would not encourage industry to find the most efficient pollution control system; that the cost was actually a cost of production and should therefore be paid for by increasing the price of the product.

Tallahassee's consensus, reached in December, 1966, agrees substantially with the League statement issued to the press January 14, 1967 by Mrs. Robert J. Stewart, national president, based on consensus of Leagues throughout the country.

STATEMENT OF POSITION ON FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports limited federal financial assistance to industry as a means of expediting abatement of water pollution.

Although the League feels that costs of pollution abatement are a responsibility of the polluter, it acknowledges that some help should be made available because of the urgency and immediacy of the problem and the immense costs involved. League members agree that:

- ... strict enforcement of anti-pollution measures should accompany financial assistance
- ... duration and scope of assistance should be limited
- ... criteria for assistance should include consideration of financial need of the company, economic base of the community, area stream standards, extent and complexity of the pollution problem of the company and region.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. D. A. Gardiner from Oak Ridge, 2302 Trescott.

Mrs. Louis F. Schneider from Sarasota,

ALL women citizens of voting age are welcome to join the League of Women Voters. The League is at work in 1214 communities throughout the country.

THE CHINA PUZZLE

Factual, concise, attractive, 75 cents, a League publication intended for every member. The Board has voted to send both it and Foreign Aid at the Crossroads to Leon County high schools and public library, and to our Congressmen. Get your copy through Jane Powell.

Also on China, a Xerox-sponsored special "China: The Roots of Madness." A 90 minute probing of reasons underlying China's mistrust of the U.S. Look for it on tv now or in early Feb.

CANDIDATES MEETING NEXT WEEK

Let's work for 100% membership turnout for the February 9 meeting Voters Service chairman Marian Buford has organized. Even more, let us urge friends, neighbors, and all townspeople to come and meet the candidates, all but one of whom plan to participate. Spurgeon Camp has a previous PTA commitment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA ANYONE???

Is there any phase of local government which you believe should receive the attention and study of the League during the coming year? Is it a problem that can be met by government? Is it timely? Is it an issue on which the League can take action if needed? If so, please submit it in writing to Dorothy Mann, 1511 Hasosaw Nene as soon as possible. Member suggestions will be considered by the Board and a proposed CA prepared for consideration at the Annual Meeting in April.

At its January meeting the Board voted (a trifle smugly, it must be admitted) to drop the Registration CR. You'll recall that it read: "Study of voter registration in Tallahassee and Leon County with a view toward simplification and accuracy." A letter will be sent to the chairmen of the City and County Commissions thanking them for their recent action in making joint registration a reality.

DO OUR DUES DO IT?

No, unfortunately, they do not. We have been asked by the State Board for a pledge of \$475 this year. Out of our pledge to state goes their pledge to national, and expenses on each level increase each year. Some of the services we receive are our Florida and National Voters, League lobbying in the State Legislature and the Congress of the United States, consultant services for local Leagues, and numbers of publications. Moreover, as our population and numbers of schools increase we have need for a continually expanding program of disseminating information on the local level.

For these reasons the Board has voted to present to the membership for their vote, at the Annual Meeting, a suggested increase in dues from \$5.00 to \$7.50.

CALL TO ACTION RECEIVES IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Dorothy Mann says she never knows when she picks up the phone who will be asking what! This time the request was in line with usual League activity, albeit rather sudden. Saturday at noon she received a request that on the following Monday morning our Senators and Representatives should have on their desks a copy of the League plan for apportionment, with particular stress placed on the need for a self-executing formula to be incorporated in the revised constitution.

Accordingly, the plan was delivered, along with a letter offering to meet with them to discuss it further. Several of the legislators wrote courteous letters in reply.