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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin 1970-1979

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**League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area Bulletin,
December, 1977**

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

V.H. Galgano
525-2696

The "Evening with the Legislature" has traditionally been one of the highlights of the League year. In fact, it is one of the few times that the majority of the membership gathers together. This year should be particularly interesting since we are meeting in conjunction with the Junior League to lobby our representatives on our mutual concerns - juvenile justice and child abuse. We also want to informally discuss water and air quality with the Cabell and Wayne delegates to the W.Va. Legislature!

As an organization, we put no minimum requirement on members, but we feel that the "Evening with the Legislature" is so vital to our basic functions that we will call you to attend and to help provide refreshments.

It should be an enlightening and exciting evening. Come and meet your legislator

!!

JOHN AMOS, WE WERE THERE!

Can you vision some fifty women --- some not so young; some not so old --- climbing up five flights of stairs to stand inside a steam cloud and then climbing down and up five more flights to see what the cone looks like without the steam?

Yeah?

Well, can you vision them liking it?

No?

Sorry, you are wrong.

Furthermore, if someone tells you that the three stacks, belching out steam, are big enough to hold five or six football stadiums with the audience included, believe it. They are huge!

LWV members from the Charleston and Huntington leagues crawled all over the plant. They started at the beginning where the coal was dumped, burned, screened, cleaned, and cooled just to make a generator go round and round to let you and me have a little light and heat. It included a ride up nineteen flights in the elevator and climbing five more flights of stairs built over the furnaces (temperature 130 degrees. *WHEN!*)

Our guide was hospitable and informative, to say the least. No question was ignored, and the coffee and hot doughnuts were plentiful.

I'm ready to go back. Don't you know a scout group or a fifth grade class I could escort back as an excuse? John Amos would be glad to see us.

Beth Bauserman

Observer

MOREMOREMORE MOREMORE MOREMOREMORE MORE MOREMOREMORE MOREMOREMORE MOREMOREMORE

Resignations:

Kay Rasemont - Voter Service

Kay and her family are moving to Tampa, Fla.

Appointments:

Judy Deutsch -- Voter Service

Susan Adams -- Assistant V.S.

ABOUT THAT SB200 JUVENILE BILL

I suppose one would have to be blind and deaf to escape hearing or reading criticisms about juvenile bill SB200. Two facts appear to be overlooked by some people when they are discussing it.

1. SB200 is an amendment to Chapter 49 of the West Virginia Code and is not a substitute for it. Much of Chapter 49 is still alive and effective as the law of the state.

2. Much reform has occurred in juvenile law during the last ten years in the forms of federal laws, United States Supreme Court decisions, and West Virginia Supreme Court decisions. SB200 adjusts our state code to include the laws and decisions.

On May, 1967, the Gault decision, made by the United States Supreme Court, declared that the child had certain rights:

1. The right to a notice of the charges.
2. The right to counsel.
3. The right to a confrontation or cross-examination of the accuser.
4. The privilege against self-incrimination.
5. The right of a transcript of the court proceedings.
6. The right to appellate review.

The Supreme Court of West Virginia has also contributed to the reform:

1. In defining "delinquent child", the court declared unconstitutionally vague such phrases as "associates with immoral persons" or "deports himself so as to wilfully injure or endanger the morals or health of himself or others".
2. The court limited the period of detention of a child before a hearing.
3. It insisted on humane treatment of the child.
4. It forbade the incarceration of status offenders with delinquents, who had committed criminal acts, in secure, jail-type facilities. However, it did permit holding status offenders with delinquents in non-secure group homes.

During the last ten years, there has grown an awareness of the need of a community service system whereby families could go and receive help before problems become serious enough to attract the attention of the court. The services would also be available to the court and to the police. Such a service could be an alternative for the court to help both family and child. Someone has said that where there is a delinquent child, there is also a troubled family.

The federal government has encouraged community services as a diversion from the juvenile justice system or as an alternative for the court in several ways:

1. The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act provides block

SB200 continued

grants to states in order to improve and strengthen law enforcement. The law, also, provides for community-based programs for the prevention, control, and reduction of juvenile delinquency.

2. The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration was created to channel federal funds into state and local efforts to improve the criminal justice system.

3. Title III, known as the Runaway Youth Act, under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, permits states, localities, or nonprofit private agencies to apply for a grant for temporary shelters and counseling services of juveniles who have left home without permission of their parents. The authority of the administration of the act was given to the secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in order to relieve the burden of police and juvenile justice authorities. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 also offers help in the form of technical assistance, training programs, research, the implementation of national standards, and programs to keep students in elementary and secondary schools.

This federal bonanza of money and services sounds like a great gift; however, there are strings attached. In order to profit from the program, West Virginia must promise the federal government that:

1. All status offenders and non-delinquents will not be housed with criminal delinquents except in small group homes.
2. Juveniles will not be housed with criminal adults.
3. A monitoring system will be established to see that these requirements are met.

The West Virginia Legislature changed the West Virginia Code to conform with the philosophy of the Supreme Court of United States, the Supreme Court of West Virginia, and the federal laws by voting in favor of Senate Bill No. 200. The bill supports detailed protection of the due process rights of both child and parent. It also permits counseling services to the family that may be used by the court. Families, also, may independently seek help from the counseling service and, thereby, circumvent the court in many instances. The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals is permitted to prescribe written policies and procedures governing the operation of all correctional, detention, and other facilities wherein juveniles may be housed. The policies include standards of cleanliness; medical and dental care; provision of food, clothing, and furnishings; supervision and procedures for enforcing rules of conduct; and visitation privileges.

Our interest in SB200 centers on the points of the LWVWV consensus. The consensus states:

"The League of Women Voters of West Virginia favors policies and procedures that meet individual needs, promote rehabilitation, and ensure equal treatment of children. To expedite the attainment of these goals, the League favors the adoption of standardized definitions, more clearly defined powers or authority regarding juvenile matters, ensurance of a child's right to "due process", and centralization of extra-legal administrative authority."

IT'S TIME TO SPEAK UP!

Are you concerned about pollution in the Ohio River, a favorite lake or stream?

Do you have to travel further these days to enjoy the outdoors?

Do you have fears about the water you drink?

Do you feel that decisions about your community's environment are always being made by someone else? Or not being made at all?

Would you like to have a say in what is done?

YOU ARE INVITED

Thursday, December 8th at 9:00 p.m.

to "speak up"

The Huntington Area League of Women Voters will present an hour program entitled FOCUS ON WATER POLLUTION, hosted by Rick Foucheux on Channel 13. This program is prepared by the League, funded by a grant from EPA, and presented with the co-operation of Channel 13 to promote a better understanding and encourage public participation in the area of water pollution control.

The television program discusses ways to curb pollution and maintain clean water in our region. This topic will be explored by a panel of experts along with a live audience of interested area citizens. The local viewing audience will be encouraged to join the discussion by calling-in their questions or comments.

What are we trying to accomplish?

To promote a greater awareness of regional water problems and to encourage participation toward their solutions.

What are the goals of a water program?

Swimmable, fishable waters by 1983 is a national goal.

For our community this means:

- a more healthful environment
- a safe supply of drinking water
- industrial and commercial development that is sound environmentally
- better use of our land
- good recreation areas

What causes pollution?

URBAN STORMWATER RUNOFF - Rain water runs off buildings and streets carrying with it oil, grease, trash, salts, lead, and other pollutants.

EARTHMOVING/CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF - Earth washes away, filling streams, rivers, and lakes with sediment causing erosion. Ex: roads, surface mining, buildings.

MINING DRAINAGE -- Acid drainage from mines washes into streams adding chemical contamination.

WHAT CAUSES POLLUTION? (cont.)

SEWAGE DISCHARGE - Raw sewage, seepage from septic plants and inadequate treatment facilities are major contributors of oxygen damaging wastewater materials.

INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE - Toxic substances are hazardous to fish and can be damaging to the health of the general public.

AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF - Rain water washes fertilizers, pesticides, and topsoil into waterways.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS:

Effluent: Liquid that flows out of treatment plants.

Mine acids: Acids from coals containing sulphur which may oxidize and when dissolved in water form sulphuric or other acid which could pollute streams and destroy aquatic life.

Nonpoint source: An unconfined area from which pollutants discharge into a body of water. Ex: urban and agricultural runoff

Point source: A confined outlet from which pollutants discharge into a body of water
Ex: industrial waste treatment plants

Primary treatment: Mechanical process which removes solids from water by settling. Leaves 60-75% organic matter water.

Secondary treatment - Biological methods in addition to settling that reduces pollution by about 85-95%.

Sediment problem: Dirt suspended in water caused by erosion.

Sludge: The solid matter removed from wastewater.

Water cycle: Endless movement of water from sea to atmosphere, to land and back to sea.

Water pollution: Contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of any waters, including changes in temperature, taste, color, odor of water or discharge of any liquid, gaseous, radioactive, solid or other substance which may create the water harmful to public health, safety, or welfare.

AREAS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What constitutes "pollution"? Are there degrees of pollution that are tolerable, some intolerable? Can reasonable standards be established? Will they vary in different bodies of water?
2. Has any careful analysis been made of pollution in our area?
3. Who should pay for upstream pollutants coming downstream?
4. Is the Ohio River cleaner now than five years ago?
5. Are you willing to pay more for clean water? How much?
6. Are recreational and aesthetic values equally essential to community welfare as economic factors? Consider a reasonable solution.

FOCUS ON WATER

After viewing the program, do you understand more about water pollution, especially
in our area and how it relates to us?

Yes _____ No _____ Comment, if any _____

What would you consider the best feature of this program?

What improvements would you suggest for any future programs?

Mail to: Janice McNearney 2965 Staunton Road Huntington, W. Va. 25702
or call 522-8150 any afternoon.

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