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## The Maine Voter vol. XVII, no. 5 (March 1970)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

*Maine League of Women Voters*

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# The MAINE VOTER

Published by The League of Women Voters of Maine  
P. O. Box 151, Orono, Maine 04473

VOL. XVII

MARCH, 1970

Number 5

## HUMAN RESOURCES WORKSHOP

The re-scheduled Human Resources Workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the South Parish Congregational Church in Augusta. The Workshop was originally planned for February 4, but had to be cancelled because of a snow storm. The same panelists and speakers have consented to take part in the April 1 Workshop. The January *Maine Voter* contains additional information about topics and participants. A registration fee of 50¢ will be charged and those attending are asked to bring a sandwich.

## SPECIAL SESSION SCOREBOARD

The League of Women Voters of Maine took an active part at legislative hearings held during the Special Session in January and part of February. Testifying for the League were Mrs. Robert Masterton, state government chairman, Mrs. Wolcott Dunham, human resources chairman, and Mrs. Frederick Whittaker, state chairman for environmental resources.

Mrs. Masterton gave testimony in support of a bill calling for annual sessions (L.D. 1622). She also testified in favor of L.D. 1769, calling for re-apportionment of the House and reducing its size. Although the committee reports for these bills recommended passage, each was defeated in the House. Even though League efforts in favor of governmental reform were not successful at this Session, we anticipate an opportunity for League support for similar bills to be brought before the 105th Legislature.

Mrs. Dunham testified in favor of L.D. 1619 which called for establishing a Human Rights Commission. At a later hearing, she testified for L.D. 1786 encouraging passage of the "Rent in Escrow" bill. Each of these bills was reported out of committee with an ought-to-pass recommendation, only to be defeated in the House.

Maine's League fared far better in its efforts to win passage of bills favoring pollution control. These bills were of great interest, both in Maine and throughout our country, to groups which favor environmental controls. Following is a resume of three bills of interest to all League members.

### L.D. 1821 An Act Relating to Waste Discharge License Provisions

When Mrs. Whittaker testified on a bill that would have required bonds to insure performance of waste discharge license provisions, she noted that "... the League specifically supports ... that the State should require evidence of fiscal responsibility for environmental protection." As finally enacted, L.D. 1821 does not require bonds but does state that in hearings on license applications, the EIC (or three members thereof) shall take evidence "... which shall include but

not be limited to the applicant's financial ability to meet the State's water pollution control standards ..."

### L.D. 1834 An Act to Regulate Site Location of Development Substantially Affecting Environment

On January 15, our environmental resources chairman testified before the Committee on Natural Resources, stating that "League members have reached the agreement to support legislation which will prevent the damaging of the environmental quality of the state. ... this bill will help to preserve the quality environment we now have." The bill, passed by the Special Session, specifically states that any person intending to construct or operate a development which may substantially affect local environment must notify the EIC. The Environmental Improvement Commission may approve the request or schedule a hearing and shall approve the proposal whenever it finds that: (1) those involved have the financial and technical capacity to meet state air and water pollution control standards and to control offensive odors; (2) there is adequate provision for proper control of traffic; (3) it does not adversely affect the natural environment, existing uses, scenic character, natural resources, or property values in the municipality(ies) involved; (4) it must be built on soil types suitable to the nature of the development. Enforcement of the law will be carried out by the Attorney General.

### L.D. 1835 An Act Relating to Coastal Conveyance of Petroleum

Also passed by the Legislature, this act is an attempt to free our coastline from the hazards of uncontrolled oil pollution. The Legislature has emphasized that the preservation of the Maine seacoast for public and private recreation and private commerce in marine life is a "matter of the highest urgency and priority." The EIC is authorized to adopt rules and regulations concerning: (1) operating and inspection requirements of oil facilities, vessels, and personnel; (2) ways to remove pollutants; (3) establishment of control districts along the coast and the rules of each district; (4) requirements for the safety and operation of equipment related to the facilities, terminals, etc.; and (5) such other rules as may reasonably be necessary.

The Governor is given the power to declare a state of emergency due to a disaster or catastrophe or imminence thereof and make the necessary rules, orders, etc., to combat it.

A license is required to operate an oil facility capable of handling more than 500 barrels. It is renewable annually, subject to satisfactory evidence of compliance with state and federal regulations for control of oil pollution. A licensee is liable to the State of Maine for all costs of clean-up or other damage. The State does not need to prove negligence—only

(Continued on page 2)

## Proposed State Budget For 1970-71

### EXPENDITURES

General Administration	
President's Expenses	\$ 50
Operating Costs	
Secretarial	350
Supplies, Printing, Repairs	250
Postage	150
Telephone	200
Audit	35
Bank charges	10
Office expenses (rent, telephone, lights)	745
Board Expenses	
Meetings	350
Training	0
Administrative Committees	
Public Relations	25
Budget and Nominating	60
Delegates, Travel, Affiliations	
State Convention or Council	200
National Convention or Council	450
Regional Meetings	0
Women's Legislative Council	10
Natural Resources Council	25
Services to Local Leagues	
Organization, New Leagues	175
Membership—old Leagues, MALS	75
Workshops	50
Finance Committee	30
Program and Activities	
Publications	
VOTER, including postage	600
National material for Board	165
National material for MALS	60
Program	
State Committees	75
National Committees	25
Legislative Action	100
Community Services	
Voters Service	200
National Pledge	2,100
	<b>\$6,565</b>

### INCOME

Local League Support	
Augusta	\$ 250
Bangor	450
Brunswick	560
Kittery-York	375
Lewiston	450
Mt. Desert	325
Orono	765
Portland	1,300
South Portland	400
Members-at-Large	150
Contributions	270
Interest on Savings	25
Unexpended balance from previous year	100
State 50th Anniversary Funds (for office expenses)	745
Balance from Rockland League	400
	<b>\$6,565</b>

The budget committee has submitted a bare-bones budget. We did not feel justified in asking local Leagues to increase their pledges substantially until they had demonstrated that they could build bigger budgets, spend more

money in their communities, justify and achieve greater financial support through their finance drives. The 50th Anniversary Campaign was designed to help us do this. If the Leagues have learned their lessons well, finance drives this Spring will exceed previous goals, and there will be more money to share with state and national services.

The state League has learned how to spend money as budgeted. Gone are the days of unexpended balances due to positions unfilled and jobs not done. The budget committee stands ready and is eager to restore cuts in the state budget if local Leagues find they can increase their pledges.

State Budget Committee: Mrs. Charles D. McEvoy, Jr., chairman; Mrs. James M. Clark, Mrs. Edward F. Snyder, State Board; Mrs. Lowell W. Zabel, ex officio; Mrs. Francis Duffy, Bangor; Mrs. Ivan N. McDaniel, Orono; Mrs. Louis R. Farley, Mrs. John J. O'Toole, Portland.

### Special Session Scoreboard

(Continued from page 1)

that a prohibited discharge or other polluting condition occurred. (This includes carriers within state waters; they are the responsibility of whichever facility they are going to or leaving.) The fines for violation are not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000 for each day of pollution, but they do not apply where a discharge is promptly reported and removed by the licensee.

To finance the enforcement of this law, a Maine Coastal Protection Fund of \$4 million must be approved by the voters in a referendum next November. A fee of one-half cent per barrel of oil will be levied and added to this fund—when \$4 million is reached, the fees will be reduced proportionately. The fund will be used for research, the salaries of personnel needs to carry out the law, the equipment to combat oil spills, and to pay third party damages settled by arbitration. The EIC is empowered to move immediately to clean up oil spills using monies from the fund. The cost will be recovered later from the polluter.

In League testimony on this bill, Mrs. Whittaker questioned whether the original figure of \$10 million was a sufficient amount. As the law was passed, this figure has been reduced to \$4 million. She also stressed the need of having the fund built up immediately—a need which will be answered if the bond issue is passed in November. This law is a progressive step, but it must be implemented to the fullest extent of its authority by the EIC, the Attorney General, and the courts to be truly effective. There is quite a difference between a \$100 fine and one of \$5,000.

### REMINDERS

Air Consensus is due May 15. Be sure to attend your League's consensus meetings.

April is Environmental Teach-In month—watch your local papers for meetings in your area.

Did you sign your D.C. petition? Help Washington get the vote.

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