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The MAINE VOTER

Published by The League of Women Voters of Maine

VOL. XX

JULY-AUGUST, 1972

Number 1



Dr. Elizabeth Russell
Senior Staff Scientist
Jackson Laboratory

LIMITS OF GROWTH

Dr. Elizabeth Russell, senior staff scientist at the Jackson Laboratory who was recently appointed to the National Academy of Scientists, discussed the findings reported in "Limits of Growth," published by a group of scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She spoke at the State Council of the League of Women Voters of Maine held in Bar Harbor on May 24 and 25th.

The "limits" study is a computerized analysis of a world model programmed for major ecological factors—population, pollution, industrial output, natural resources and agricultural production. It attempts to predict controls that must be instituted in these five areas if the human race is to survive with anything like a decent quality of life. The study has evoked widespread discussion and considerable controversy in the fields of physical and social sciences.

The findings indicate that the earth and the human race can survive for some time if certain controls are exerted among the programmed factors. The stabilized world model would require a population leveled off at the 1975 figure with 100% birth control (two children per family); leveling off of industrial output; and controls that would bring pollution to a low level. Stabilization of population would exert controls on agricultural output, and a limitation on indus-

trial output would provide safeguards against the present rate by which non-renewable resources are being exhausted.

"No one would be quite as well off as the United States is at present," Dr. Russell said, "but the world as a whole would be a great deal better off."

Using charts taken from the book, she showed that the study finds that each attempt to ease a pressure within the world system led to a new pressure. For example, technological advances that led to the elimination of pollution resulted in over-crowding of the globe, a food shortage, and the exhaustion of natural resources.

The study has been criticized for various reasons. The group of scientists known as the Club of Rome, who instituted the study, are "pow" people, she said. They recognize the serious pressures which have become evident on the human race and its finite spaceship earth and want to start corrections soon. Economists are among the most vocal critics; many of them do not like to admit that unbridled economic expansion should be controlled, she noted. There has also been criticism of the manner of publication of the report, which will make a lot of money for the publishers, as against the usual more restrained and considered manner of publishing scientific material.

"It's controversial," Dr. Russell said, "but it does get the problems talked about, and that is good."

Most all of the people in the field of biological sciences are deeply concerned over these ecological problems, she noted. She mentioned Dr. Rene Dubos, who is actively concerned with the quality of life. He points out that man has come to prevail because of his ingenuity and his adaptability. The most adaptable of animals, man must come to guard this very quality.

"Just because he can stand some things doesn't mean that he should have to."

She referred to "The Closing Circle" recently published by Dr. Barry Commoner of Washington University. He is basically concerned about pollution as the most immediate urgency. On the other hand, Dr. Paul Ehrlich is most concerned with population expansion. These two men have recently been indulging in polemics that are a waste of energy of both, Dr. Russell said.

For most undeveloped countries Erlich's contention for population control seems like genocide. Commoner points out that, where infant mortality has been lowered, population tends to level off; therefore, why push people into limiting families rather than decreasing infant mortality.

Dr. Russell showed a population chart demonstrating that in certain undeveloped countries the working population cannot support the child population. In Japan, on the other

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STATE COUNCIL CHARTS A NEW COURSE

Council Chairmen Norma Hyde and Jackie Russell accomplished nothing short of a miracle—two absolutely perfect sunny days in Bar Harbor for State Council 1972. With State President Nancy Masterton presiding, local Presidents, State Board, and two delegates from each League gathered at Bar Harbor Motor Inn, May 24 and 25, to pass a state budget and determine program direction for the next year.

A positive note was struck immediately by both state and local Presidents' enthusiastic reports on solid League accomplishments during the past year. From Houlton to South Portland there was something to crow about, beginning with last fall's priority action on saving the state income tax.

Money Problems

By far, the most urgent question before Council was financing the State League. Local delegates were ready for the task, having grappled at annual meetings with financing the \$4 per-member payment passed by the 1972 National Convention. Because of per-member payments, State-National pledges were automatically reduced—so delegates knew that the proposed state budget was going to be revised.

The changeover, however, had generated two new proposals for a more equitable pledging system from local Leagues to State and National Leagues—one from Jan Krofta, Orono President, the other from Sue Walker, former State Finance Chairman. Council was in a quandry: to juggle the proposed state budget under the standing pledge method, or to make up a new budget based on an entirely new pledging method.

With State Board's unanimous support, Emily Farley, State Treasurer, moved that a special Task Force be created to design a new state-national pledging system, taking into consideration the two proposed alternatives and any others that might come out of Task Force or local League thinking. Council supported this motion.

Silver Leamon, State Budget Chairman, presided over the budget session with high good humor and an even hand. Pledges were made by local Leagues, and the proposed budget was adjusted a trifle in a record 10 minutes! Further soul-searching on state finances was continued at a meeting after the banquet speaker.

Goals and Tools—State Program

Discussion over program agonized over the bottomless wells of League interests. At Convention, 1971, the LWV Maine undertook a study of land use. As in every other environmental field, options for study and action are so numerous that the most difficult decision is how and what to tackle first. In land use particularly, however, the situation is further complicated by overlapping into the taxation and human resources interests of the League. A determination to take advantage of this overlap of interests was evident in Council discussion of program direction for the next year.

E/R—Land Use Focus

Members of a state-wide committee representing tax and H/R interests, as well as environmental, are already at work on a **Facts and Issues** to be published this fall in time for units on land use. The aim is for establishing a framework of goals within which we can judge aspects of land use within the state, and tools for control. We will try for a consensus this fall.

Structure

iv, the property tax, in its relation to land use and
es, won the day as the focus of next year's
anned for fall and winter, hopefully with
or action in the 106th Legislature.

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onfirmed the fact the members are fuzzy on

the details of House reapportionment and districting, an issue which looms largest on the state government scene. A fall unit will be devoted to discussion of the shortcomings of the present apportionment method, and the machinery for change. Most important, a firm consensus should be reached on districting—past League attitude towards single-member districting was not clear cut enough to be useful in legislative action. Whit McEvoy, State Government Chairman, is currently serving on a House Reapportionment Committee established by the 105th Legislature.

Human Resources

LWV of Maine will be lobbying in favor of Equal Rights Amendment ratification when it comes up in the Maine Legislature. Continuation of emphasis on welfare in Maine is planned, highlighted by a February "Welfare Awareness Month", and further action in the Legislature. Meantime, local Leagues are urged to survey local welfare practices. Such areas as housing and job opportunities will be considered in the land use study, and equal educational opportunity will be tied into the property tax study.

Record Year in Voters Service

Sukey Allen, Voters Service Chairman, and her local League counterparts have chalked up an amazing record in this election year. 6,000 new voters have been registered in the past year. The League has spearheaded three statewide registration drives in high schools and colleges during the year, all of which have involved the cooperation of state and local government and school officials, and both political parties. The LWV Maine sponsored two tapes, beamed toward youth registration, which were made available to 25 selected radio stations. Council rocked and rolled to their hip messages.

The League pamphlet "How A Bill Becomes A Law in Maine" was the inspiration for a half-hour documentary film created by Maine Public Broadcasting, with the League acting as consultant both on the film and on materials to be used in high school classrooms in conjunction with the film.

"How to Register to Vote in Maine" was completely revised and distributed by local Leagues as well as by the Maine Municipal Association to local government officials. A brand new **Voters Manual** has been published. Congressional candidates' questionnaires have received good newspaper

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hand, where there is a balance, economic advances have been rapid. The United States is entering a crucial population period; according to the last census the 14 to 24 year old group increased 48%—much more than any age group of the population.

"What happens in the next ten years will have a disproportionate effect on what the population of the United State becomes," said Dr. Russell.

There has been an 80% population increase in the metropolitan areas of the United States with 60% of this increase in the suburbs. Of the total population in this country 64 million live in central city areas, 76 million in the suburbs, and 63 million outside of these.

What kind of future does this presage as the wise course for Maine? she asked. She believes that the state's role may be more important as a resource for production of food from the sea and as a recreational area providing peace of mind for people from the cities than as a resource for industrial development.

"We must not solve our short-term problems in a way that eliminates our long term role and contribution," she concluded.

La Rue Spiker

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coverage, and the League was the only voice to be heard on the pros and cons of the change in the state ballot form.

Pat Clark, ABC Election Night Reporting Coordinator, prepared local Leagues for this exciting task next November, emphasizing its relation to action on voting rights.

State Services

Council closed with pleas for More! More action at the Legislature, more face-to-face between state and local boards and members, more communications, and more consultive services to local Leagues.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution passed by the House in 1971 and the Senate in March 1972 reads as follows:

SECTION 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provision of this article.

SECTION 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

Adoption of what would then become the 27th Amendment requires ratification by $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the state's legislatures—or 38—within 7 years. The two year time period between adoption of the ERA and its effective date will allow states time in which to revise their laws to comply with its provisions. Maine's Legislature will vote on ratification in the 1973 session.

On the basis of the 14th Amendment, which provides that no state shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws" women have long and unsuccessfully sought through the courts a ruling protecting against sex discrimination. The 1971 Supreme Court decision in *Reed vs. Reed* marked the first time such a case was won, but the decision was limited to the facts and did not hold that sex discrimination is barred by the 14th Amendment. Under existing law it remains the burden of each plaintiff to prove that any instance of sex discrimination is "unreasonable."

The other alternative available for dealing with sex discrimination is that of changing individual laws in each state. This method is lengthy and can only deal with one specific area of discrimination at a time. The ERA would require that comprehensive changes be made at every governmental level consistent with its provisions. Additionally, it would shift the burden of proof to each state to show why laws and regulations which discriminate according to sex are necessary.

The overall effect of adoption would be to require government at all levels to treat persons as individuals except in those matters concerning functions unique to one or the other sex. Rape laws would not be invalidated and maternity benefits would not be lost, for both types of laws deal with characteristics unique to one sex. Those characteristics found more often in one sex than the other, or those functions more commonly performed by one sex or the other, would not form the basis of law, since individual cases would differ. The ERA would not affect private or social relationships. Those laws dealing with the separation of the sexes in such facilities as sleeping quarters and public bathrooms would not be changed, since states would retain the right to regulate cohabitation and sexual activity by unmarried persons, and the right to privacy guaranteed by the Constitution would also be maintained.

Women who meet the requirements for military service will be subject to the draft and assigned to duties compatible with their qualifications and the service's needs. Exemptions

from service would be neutral with regard to sex, but Congress could create exemptions to insure that dependent children would not lose the care of their parents. Volunteers for military service would be accepted from either sex, without requiring higher standards from women as is now the case. Women would be entitled equally with men to Veterans' Benefits such as education, medical care, home loans and life insurance policies. Qualified women may be required to serve in combat, although the overwhelming majority of service jobs do not involve combat. Many women now serve in combat zones and receive combat pay. Acceptance of the benefits of equal rights requires the acceptance of equal responsibilities as well.

So-called "protective" labor laws, originally enacted to prevent the exploitation of women, frequently have the effect of barring women from jobs and promotions for which they are otherwise qualified. Such legislation may limit the hours of work, limit the weights to be lifted, restrict night work, or bar women from employment in certain occupations. These laws would be nullified by the ERA. Other labor laws applying to women offer genuine protection—required rest periods, minimum wage benefits, or health and safety provisions—and may be expanded to protect men as well.

Admissions and scholarships to all state supported schools, as well as employment and promotions in such schools, would be decided on the basis of ability or other relevant determinants rather than on the basis of sex. State schools could not be limited to one sex, but no quotas would be required.

Those laws affecting community property, child custody, alimony and other aspects of domestic relations would become neutral as to sex, with decisions made according to individual circumstances, abilities and needs. The obligation of each spouse for support would be based on his or her earning power, current resources and non-monetary contributions to the family welfare.

Among other laws requiring revision would be:

- those laws which provide different punishments for men and women who commit the same crime.
- those laws which place special restrictions on the property rights of married women.
- those laws which excuse women from jury duty or require only women to register for such duty.
- those laws applying to both sexes but distinguishing between them as to age, i. e. marriage laws.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Leaguers,

More on money. We've spent a lot of valuable (and I use that word advisedly) time on the subject this year, time which most Leaguers would prefer to put into study or action. But the time spent in discussing League financing has been valuable, because it's going to result in some long-range planning (we like that in a consensus!) for a solid financial base for ongoing League work on all three levels. Our "shoestring syndrome" is, I think, fast disappearing, and League leaders are looking at the League in a more business-like fashion. If, for example, we suffer a League volunteer shortage, then we need money to hire help for jobs like mimeographing and collating, or to (heaven forbid!) turn over our tons of communications and publications to a professional printer. Who can blame a Leaguer who prefers to be where the action is?

LWV Maine is still on a shoestring budget, and we'll manage with it, even though State Board members and other Leaguers wish we had more to do with. It will come, and

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someday we'll look back and smile over the agonizing we all did this year on League financing. Now is the beginning of new and positive thinking on financing, and we welcome the challenge of change on the state level too. I hope you will support the recommendation of the state-wide Pledge Task Force, and the next proposed state budget.

Meantime, I want to thank every one of our members in Maine—local Leaguers and members-at-large—for responding so positively to the \$4 per-member payment plan recently initiated by National Convention. We knew you didn't want to raise dues, and we did our best to lobby against it before and at Convention. It's no fun to be in a minority, but that we were!

I'm proud of the game way in which your annual meetings made (most of them, anyway) that painful decision to raise dues and still hold the line on pledges to state and national League support. The result of that effort was that LWV Maine was able to pledge almost the entire amount suggested by National. As Mrs. Bradley, first V.P. of LWVUS, wrote to me in a personal addendum to a formal letter acknowledging Maine's pledge to National, "This pledge represents a lot coming from Maine. Thank you."

Thank you too, from all of us on State Board.

And now, Right On!

Nancy N. Masterton, President

RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES

One of the most interesting, positive and reassuring events of the State Council was the report of Presidents. Interesting, because it was an opportunity for Leaguers to share ideas—positive, because the action and projects undertaken by Leagues in Maine are the result of hard work, study and thoughtful planning—which is what the League is all about; and reassuring because it gives great hope for the future of the League in Maine.

The BANGOR League offered a "Meet the Candidates" one hour program on WABI-TV and WLBZ-TV for candidates for City Council. They participated in the Election Systems Survey. A public meeting was held to "Meet the Candidates" for Bangor's first elected school board. A public meeting on caucuses and a WABI-TV "Postscript" helped promote caucus attendance. On June 16 the Bangor Daily News published material provided by the Bangor League including candidates' answers to questionnaires and information on County Government and referendum questions. The Bangor League also registered young voters at the Brewer High School.

The BRUNSWICK League tried something new by using a bilingual flyer in successful defeat of School Board Districting measure. They worked with Girl Scouts on "Our Government" badges. They registered voters at monthly food distribution centers and three times at the High School. They held a Candidates Night which received good press coverage. Members appeared twice on a Saturday morning talk show, the second time to answer questions on Welfare.

The HOULTON League held meetings with officials on town problems and attended public hearings of Houlton Charter Commission. The new charter failed to pass but the LWV of Houlton will renew efforts at community education. Members of the League are serving on various boards: Planning Board, 4 C's, Northern Maine Regional Planning Commission, Adult Education Advisory Board, Project Help (an interchurch community service group). They are also working on publication of a Houlton Booklet this fall.

The ORONO League updated its Know Your Town. It undertook a Know Your School survey. A slide show was prepared for the local study on Recreation by the chairman. This might be expanded for community use. The Orono

League participated in the Election Systems Survey. The Survey Coordinator will be Voting Rights Chairman this coming year. They have expanded League work into neighboring Old Town. Members living there did Voters Service work and initiated an Old Town Council Observer Corps.

THE LEWISTON-AUBURN League has registered 200 new voters with two more opportunities planned. Local radio station requested LWV to register voters in studio and appear on air. This resulted in front page newspaper coverage. They reorganized their finance drive adding letters to members and past members, and sale of Voters Service pamphlets at substantial profit. Member response was excellent. Members judged debates at state tourney at Bates College with fees donated to Finance drive. A public panel meeting was held. New young members are challenging procedures: form versus substance.

The MOUNT DESERT ISLAND League has produced a Wetlands slide show which has been viewed by 400 since April 1971. They have lobbied on local and state EQ and responded to National Call to Action on federal clean water legislation. They provided driver corps service to MDI Head Start, volunteered help to MDI Housing for Elderly and responded to call to action on busing. They organized two Great Decisions discussion groups on international policies and attracted not-so-active members as well as regular leaguers. Studies of town government and school system were started and Know Your Island was reprinted. The Finance Drive reflected the wide concern for a viable environment.

The PORTLAND AREA League reached timely consensus on solid waste. It held public meetings on land use and on Welfare. The League registered 500 students as new voters; it held a Candidates Night and questionnaires were printed in the press. It published a Voters Guide, and a questions and answers fact sheet on Regional Water District. It acted on the Cumberland Charter and participated in the Gray Cracker Barrell.

The SOUTH PORTLAND League ran a successful Finance Drive, and pamphlets listing government officials at all levels were printed and given to non-member contributors. Community education included a meeting on legislative action with young-married groups of Congregational Church, a talk on League procedure (study, action) with girls of High School, a session on voter registration with the Senior History Class (result: registration of 18-year olds at High School), and cooperation with newly formed welfare group. Together in Action. City manager invited two League groups to discuss local problems. They also participated in the Election Systems Survey, and held a successful candidates night.

These are some of the highlights of the accomplishments of local Leagues this past year. They do not include all the hard work on defeating the income tax which was a cooperative State-wide effort, neither does it include the day to day work of League program—national and state. It does mean many hours of hard work and of devotion to the league. It means that the LEAGUE DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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