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THE VOTER

Vol. 5, No. 4

The League of Women Voters of Maine

July, 1988

LWV-US CONVENTION - REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Main(e) Point of View - by Patty Letcher, President MDI-LWV

I am just recovering from five days of working 6:30 am to midnight, living with nearly 1500 other women, trying to find the stairs when all 1500 want the elevators at the same time. I also had my 42nd birthday in Denver and was treated by the Maine delegation to a wonderful dinner complete with candle and cake and song--deeply touching!

The Maine delegation included Marlee Coughlan, Carol Fritz, Judy Harrison, Marion Holshouser, Julie Howison, Jane Saxl, and me. Convention was a unique experience. The seven of us will likely never forget the experience.

The keynote address by PATRICIA SCHROEDER was the highlight at the convention. She told of going upstairs to hear her two-year old's prayers on the eve of their departure for the Capital: "God bless Mommy and God bless Daddy, and good-bye, God, because tomorrow we're going to Washington." Sometimes it doesn't seem far from a God-forsaken place these days, but Schroeder reminded the League that it is our duty to put issues back in politics. She strongly endorsed the League-sponsored debates, calling for "debates, not commercials." Her enthusiasm was infectious, and many of us came away from her speech with renewed dedication to our principles.

NUCLEAR ISSUES - NATIONAL POSITION

CAROL FRITZ introduced a nonrecommended item to develop a concurrence to expand our national positions on nuclear issues to include positions developed by state and local Leagues. The concurrence was to be accomplished by a task force made up of members chosen by leagues who have studied nuclear issues and representation from the National Board. Other Leagues across the country gave us a great deal of support. Developing a budget with the help of national staff, we felt we could complete this project with minimum cost, for perhaps as little as \$2500. When the vote came, the national budget chair, SUSAN SHAER, spoke to the issue and essentially shot us out of the arena by stating her cost estimate for the proposal as being anywhere from \$20,000 to \$90,000. SHAER evidently assumed we would be using lots of staff time as well as meeting frequently and accumulating transportation expenses, whereas we had already done much of the work ourselves, planned to use a minimum of staff time and anticipated piggy-back meetings with other League business. This convention being nothing if not fiscally responsible, we lost our motion, but gained new respect for the ways of conventions as well as many new contacts nationwide. We intend to

(cont'd on page 2)

come to consensus on nuclear issues in the state this fall and continue our work to develop a more responsible national position. CAROL FRITZ and JULIE HOWISON deserve tremendous credit for a well-organized, highly informed and dedicated campaign. We had an issue to push, and we did work hard to generate support for our position. We've returned a little battle-weary, but wiser!

NATIONAL AND THE GRASS ROOTS

The convention was interesting from another standpoint also. A strong undercurrent of disapproval for the long-range plan and its implications was apparent from the outset. The Florida LWV waged a well-coordinated campaign to alter several aspects of the Long-Range Plan in an attempt to retain and strengthen the grass roots of the League. The convention voted to establish an ad hoc committee with balanced representation by all levels of the League to develop new procedures in membership recruitment, finance and communications to report to convention in 1990. We struck the plan to create new Leagues around a single issue as well as the plan to conduct pilot projects for LWV-US handling of membership renewals, dues collection, and database management. Under Effective Communications in the Long-Range Plan, the statement, "Make the League visible at all levels as a vibrant, multi-issue organization working in the public interest" was initially amended by the addition "and assure the rights of state and/or local Leagues to take action at the federal level on all national consensus positions." However, an additional amendment took the wind out of the sails by adding "with consultation and consent of the National Board."

Program Positions were passed essentially unchanged. We voted to retain all current LWV-US positions with the following addition under Social Policy: "Child Care: Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty." We also voted to include a position on agriculture which is to be determined during the fall of 1988.

PROPOSED NATIONAL PROGRAM

Priorities generated a good deal of debate. Nonrecommended items included our nuclear issue, a study on economic conversion, and action on voter turn out. The convention voted to work on the three priorities which had received the most support from program planning. Campaign for a Safer World will encompass the federal deficit, arms control, defense spending, and economic conversion. The League will be a strong voice calling for true national security. Child Care and Housing: Meeting Community Needs is the second priority. The League will support "federal legislation to increase the supply of affordable child care and housing, working with coalitions to achieve our goals."

The third priority is Tackling Toxics. "This campaign will push to prevent the contamination of ground and surface water and air by toxic and hazardous and radioactive pollutants." We managed to generate sufficient support for the insertion of "radioactive" in the position statement as well as the inclusion of the phrase, "supporting measures to encourage
(cont'd on page 3)

source reduction, recycling and detoxification of toxic and hazardous materials" under "League Education and Action will focus on."

BY-LAWS CHANGES were housekeeping in nature. I'm sorry to report to the MALs that the Maine by-laws proposals failed, though not for lack of trying. JUDY HARRISON came to the fore in your behalf.

Per-Member-Payment is going up, \$16.50 for fiscal year '88-'89 and \$18.00 for '89-'90; National needs money. They have experienced "an unexpected fourth-quarter drop in direct mail income,...upfront investment in the Presidential Debate series,... (and last, but not least) higher than anticipated expense involved in getting the League's new database management system up and running."

PENNY HARRIS, Bangor League, was elected by the Convention to be Secretary-Treasurer of the National Board.

VISIT TO MX FACILITY

Following the final session of the convention, I joined 20 other League members on a tour of the MX facilities at Warren Air Force Base, sponsored by the LWV of Laramie, Wyoming. During the two-hour bus trip to Warren AFB, we were briefed by a professor of political science. The MX is basically an extremely accurate, first-strike weapon. Each missile carries ten nuclear war heads and would take only 25-28 minutes to reach the USSR from Wyoming. It is a highly vulnerable weapon of the "use it or lose it" type. The present administration proposes a rail garrison basing of MX missiles which can then be moved around on the nation's rail system

if threatened. Opponents find this proposal costly and unrealistic. I found the tour sobering. The young men and women in the bunkers (twenty-four hours on) are extremely dedicated to the concept of peace through strength. No one at Warren AFB says "weapon" or "MX." We heard consistently, "deterrent" and "Peacekeeper." The crews in the bunkers have to pass rigorous tests, one of which is watching films of the effects of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After viewing these, they are asked, "Could you still turn the key (YES, 'KEY')?" and those who say NO are eliminated from the program. We watched a simulated launch of an MX which was obviously well-rehearsed and flawlessly executed. Those young men had answered YES, but looked as if they'd forgotten the question. I took scores of pictures with permission and was at one point out on the prairie getting a long shot when the military began to jump up and down and yell. Certain I was about to launch World War III, I came back. "We were just warning you about the rattlesnakes," they said.

The League member and peace activist, organizer of the tour, runs a large ranch where her cattle graze over three MX silos, that is over 30 nuclear warheads. If the government needs your back yard for deterrence, what can you do?



CALENDAR FOR 1988-1989

JULY	22	VOTER publication
AUGUST	22	<u>MONDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , home of MOLLY BROWN, 16 Main St. Thomaston - bring sandwiches details with agenda, Fundraising Workshop following Board meeting
SEPTEMBER	1-30	Fund Drive Month for LWV-ME, raffle winners announced
	9	Voter Registration Day - LWV-US, all Leagues
	15	VOTER deadline
SEPTEMBER	30	Nureyev ballet - Physicians for Social Responsibility
OCTOBER	1	Symposium, with LWV-ME support, ORONO
OCTOBER	1	VOTER publication
	4	<u>TUESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
		LWV-ME U.S. Senate Debate (date, time, place to follow)
		LWV-Portland, Brunswick, York - U.S. Congress Debate (date, time, place to follow)
NOVEMBER	8	ELECTION DAY - ABC reporting
	16	<u>WEDNESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
DECEMBER	1	VOTER deadline
	15	VOTER publication, first call for 1989 Convention, LWV-ME
JANUARY		Program Planning for all local Leagues for State Program
	10	<u>TUESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
	25	Keys to the Capitol, Blaine House Reception, Augusta
FEBRUARY	1	Deadline for program, by-laws proposals
	20	Consensus on Nuclear Issues (more information in VOTER)
	22	<u>WEDNESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
MARCH		Symposium - LWV-ME, (details to follow)
	15	VOTER deadline
	29	VOTER publication - second call to Convention '89
APRIL	4	<u>TUESDAY BOARD MEETING</u> , Augusta
MAY	5-7	51st LWV-ME State Convention (details to follow)
JUNE		LWV-US National Council LWV-ME Board Retreat

* * * * *

LWV-US Presidential Debates: September 8, October 6 and 23, November 1

MESSAGE FROM MARLEE

Here we go on our interesting League year! Inspired by our State Board Retreat at Kingsley Pines in Raymond and by National Convention in Denver, we are launched on a productive calendar and organizational health-promoting process in League.

The Fall! U.S. Congressional debates! LWV-ME is sponsoring debates for US Senator; Portland, Brunswick, and York Leagues are providing same for First Congressional District. LWV-ME is co-sponsoring with Physicians for Social Responsibility a Soviet program of the Nureyev Ballet in Orono.

Our ACTION AGENDA, chosen at our Retreat, helps us focus on issues key to League: .

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>
Voter Education	Jane Saxl
Tackling Toxics	Pat Cyphers
Nuclear Issues	Julie Howison
Land Use Management	LaRue Spiker
Social Issues of Child Care, Affordable Housing, Repro- ductive Rights	Judy Harrison
National Security: Campaign for a Safer World	Ethel Schwalbe

What do we need to pull off these programs and actions?????

1) YOU and a new friend to the League! Are you interested in helping with Child Care or Affordable Housing issues (or any other of these issues?) Please call the chairpersons or Marlee!

2) FUNDRAISING! Ugh, you say? Come to the Fundraising Workshop on August 22, 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Molly Brown's in Thomaston following the Board Meeting. Inspired by a great workshop at National Convention, it is titled, "HOW TO MAKE FUNDRAISING EASY AND FUN!"

You can also help by:

- buying raffle tickets and selling them!
- buying Julie's beautiful handmade jewelry (1/4 of the money goes to LWV-ME)
- buying decals of new LWV logo from Carol Fritz
- asking your dentist, hairdresser, stockbroker, travel agent, etc. to contribute to LWV
- making your own donation to LWV-ME
- taking a trip to China (see article on China Trip).

You can see we need YOU! Your ideas, your energy, your belief in League! During my recent trek in Nepal, I learned that we almost continually had to go uphill. MOTI means going uphill. JONNY HO! means, "Let's have fun doing it." Soooooooooo in League.....

MOTI, MOTI, JONNY HO!

QUAD-STATE COUNCIL

How could I possibly have thought that this was going to be a dull Council? From now on I'll trust Leaguers to come up with issues, differences of opinion, informed debate at all times and in all circumstances.

Some of my favorite memories of Council '88 are:

- The strong support from RI, VT, and NH for Maine's top agenda item for National Convention on the re-evaluation of our national position on nuclear power;
- The tangible support for that goal in the \$100 (or more?) raised for Julie and Carol's expected extra convention expenses for lobbying (caucus room rent, copying);
- The crowds always around Julie Howinson's display of her beautiful hand-made jewelry. Julie brought her work to display and sell so that she could donate a percentage of sales to, again, convention lobbying expenses;
- Two fascinating workshop reports, with slides, by VT and NH Leaguers who had visited Nicaragua and El Salvador, staying in local homes and surviving a rebel attack on their village one night;
- Learning from Ruth Moss how to sell raffle tickets (thus raise money for our Maine League): Ruth doesn't ask, "Do you want to buy a raffle ticket?", but rather, "Have you got your raffle tickets yet?"
- The sight of mounds of smelly, mixed garbage at the MERC plant in Biddeford (some of their equipment being "down" at the time of our tour) which reinforced my conviction that Maine can't start recycling programs soon enough, and that nationally we must begin to produce and use less plastic.
- Above all, the chance to share views, experiences, techniques, and successes with Leaguers from other states.

BOARD RETREAT 1988

On June 24, State Board members gathered again at Kingsley Pines, Marlee's camp in Raymond. Fortunately for us, the campers (ages 7-15) hadn't arrived yet, but the kitchen staff had!

After an outdoor lunch by the bright blue lake, we repaired to the Lodge for our afternoon session, which dealt with goals, job descriptions, and calendar. We became so engrossed that there was little time for "play" before dinner; but at least we were able to eat outdoors again.

Friday evening we completed the calendar and our program priorities. Carol had brought a sing-along book; she played, and four of us sang lustily until well past Marlee's bedtime. During the night it rained, a lovely sound on the cabin roof.

Saturday morning was overcast, but dry. We had breakfast on the porch, right on the water; and our chatter was accompanied by the gentle lapping of waves. At our morning session, we welcomed NEALA JENNINGS who has agreed to take over Wini Mott's portfolio (publications). We dealt largely with organizational matters and communication.

At a brief, post-lunch session to review the proposed questionnaire (demographics in connection with long-range planning) we adjourned and went our separate ways, somewhat reluctantly, but with a sense of satisfaction and mutual appreciation.

--N. H. D.

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, here we come (Council, 1990)!

--Ethel Schwalbe

OPPORTUNITIES

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THE BLAINE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON VOLUNTEERISM, "THE MAINE CONNECTION,"
Wednesday, September 28, 1988, Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine.

Join us for the second statewide volunteer conference, designed for volunteers, volunteer managers, Boards of Directors, and friends of the volunteer community. The conference will provide quality training through workshops; promote communication through networking; and enhance and promote the spirit of volunteerism in Maine.

--Judy Harrison

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YORK COUNTY TO HOST DEBATE BETWEEN SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL, DEMOCRAT INCUMBENT, AND JASPER WYMAN, REPUBLICAN CHALLENGER

The debate will be held in the Biddeford/Saco area with statewide coverage. One moderator and two panelists will be drawn from the news and education fields.

LWV-US has awarded us some money and we will be asking for financial sponsorship from local community individuals and companies. We will have a program playbill with background information on the candidates as well as recognition of our sponsors.

This will be an invitation gathering -- printed tickets will be distributed to the candidates, panelists, League members, local politicians, TV and press people, and the community. Questions to the candidates will span state concerns, national security, and future hopes.

We are planning a wine-and-cheese post-debate gathering for the audience to meet the candidates.

--Margaret Tragard

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THE LEAGUE AT THE UN

Any member of the League may attend the regular Thursday briefing sessions held by the United Nations in New York for Non-Governmental Organizations. Should you wish to do this, contact LINDA MOSCARELLA (914-351-2654), the official UN Observer for the LWV-US. She is most anxious that League members concern themselves with UN issues and is more than willing to discuss them. You probably have seen her article, "Women and the UN: an Insider's View," which recently appeared in the NATIONAL VOTER (June, 1988, Vol. 38, No. 1). If you wish to write Linda for information about a UN visit, you can reach her at West Lake Road, Tuxedo Park, New York 10987.

--Arthur Charpentier

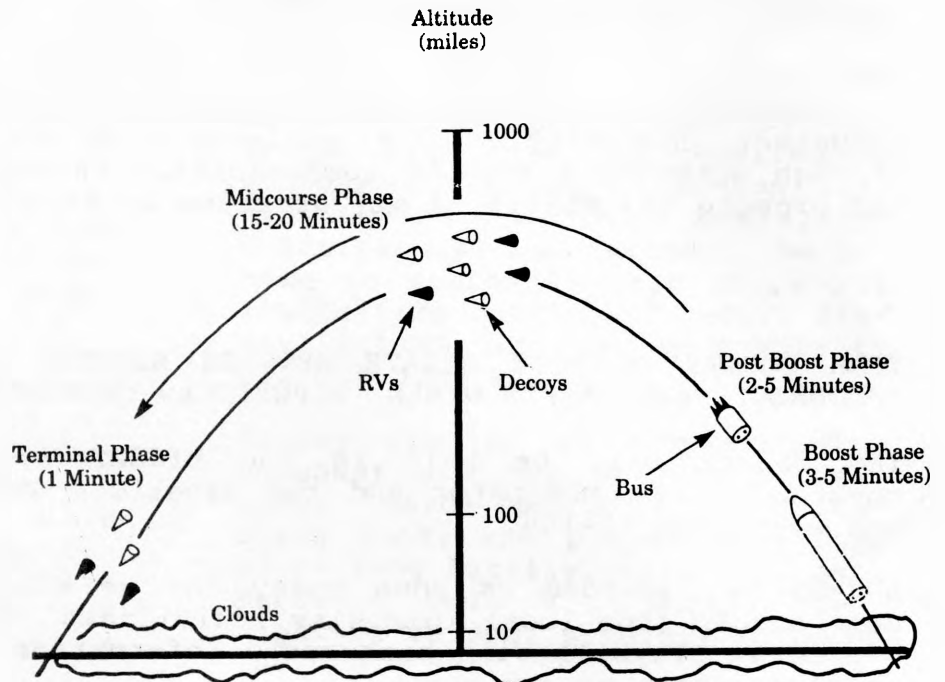
-PORTFOLIO UPDATE

ETHEL SCHWALBE,
NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR

STAR WARS IS VINCIBLE

Because the Strategic Defense Initiative program (SDI, Star Wars) continues to be a major deterrent to achieving a strategic arms control limitation or reduction treaty, it is important to keep the limitations of SDI in mind. The headline says "vincible" rather than "vulnerable" because vincible is more accurate. "Vulnerable: capable of being wounded." "Vincible: can be overcome, defeated." Unless we can persuade Congress to drop or drastically cut funding for Star Wars, we and future generations will continue to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on an unproved, visionary system that, even if developed as planned, could be defeated by fairly simple and much less expensive countermeasures. The following is not really complicated and, Don Regan to the contrary, CAN be understood by women!

Phases of a Typical Ballistic Missile



Source: Department of Defense, CDI
Chart prepared by Center for Defense Information.

SPACE-BASED INTERCEPTOR MISSILES (SBI)

The Pentagon's plans for early Star Wars deployment are centered on small homing missiles to be fired from orbiting "battle satellites" against enemy ICBMs and SLBMs during their boost and post-boost phases. Individual nuclear warheads or "re-entry vehicles" (RVs) are released during the post-boost phase (see diagram.) (NOTE: In 1982, the Air Force rejected a proposal for similar technology put forward by High Frontier, the private pro-Star Wars group, saying it had "no technical merit.")

Among feasible countermeasures to SBI are the following, described in THE DEFENSE MONITOR, Vol. 17, No. 1, Center for Defense Information (CDI).

1. The orbiting "battle satellites" could be attacked by nuclear-armed missiles just before the enemy's ICBMs and SLBMs are launched. Result: destruction of the interceptor missiles as well as their stations.
2. ICBMs with shorter boost and post-boost phases: A Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory report said that the boost and post-boost phases of even existing Soviet ICBMs (e.g., SS-24 and SS-25) could be shortened

even existing Soviet ICBMs (e.g., SS-24 and SS-25) could be shortened enough to make them "essentially invulnerable" to SBI homing missiles. And, of course, entirely new missiles with phases short enough to "negate the boost phase mission of SBI" could be developed. The post-boost phase could be shortened by having incoming missiles release their RVs (warheads) simultaneously rather than sequentially.

3. More missiles: the Air force estimated that the Soviets could double their ICBM force to 2800 missiles with about 12,500 warheads for under \$40 billion. This number could overwhelm an SDI system costing hundreds of billions.

GROUND-BASED INTERCEPTOR MISSILES

For intercepting enemy missiles in their midcourse and terminal phases, the Pentagon is developing the Exoatmospheric Reentry Interceptor System (ERIS) for midcourse interception and the High Endoatmospheric Interceptor (HEDI) systems for terminal interception. Despite their impressive titles, CDI says they would be no more effective than the space-based interceptors. ERIS would be overwhelmed because "its sensors could not effectively discriminate between RVs and decoys." HEDI's radar and infrared sensors would be "blinded" by the effects of nuclear explosions in the atmosphere as well as by the heat generated by their own high-speed travel!

In addition to countermeasures, SDI is vulnerable to errors in its own incredibly complex computer program, which cannot be fully tested before first use. These problems have been reported even in local newspapers. The NEW YORK TIMES, on May 31, 1988, reported that recently a majority of voting members of the American Mathematical Society approved a resolution which called SDI "incapable of achieving its stated goals" and which urged members not to seek research grants from the program.

➡ WHAT WE CAN DO

When you write to our Maine Congressional delegation on the subject of Star Wars (you are writing, at least when prompted, aren't you?) focus at least one letter on the question of "vincibility." SDI's dangers (it is destabilizing), astronomical costs, and use of scientific resources that could be put to better use might be subjects for other letters.

ANSWERING STAR WARS APOLOGISTS (including Congresspeople)

Do we really believe that it was the threat of SDI that "brought the Soviets back to the arms control negotiating table" as some claim? Some of us think it was citizen pressure that brought the U.S. back! Do we really believe that the Soviets are not reading U.S. newspaper reports on such pessimistic studies as (1) that of a panel of leading physicists (which concentrated on the laser and particle beam weapons of the proposed advanced system) and (2) that of the nonpartisan Office of Technology Assessment (a congressional research agency) on the early deployment version (SBI) described above. The latter study concluded that the Star Wars system would probably suffer "a catastrophic failure" at the moment it was needed. This would hardly engender fear in any potential aggressor! Both we and the Soviets have many good reasons for engaging in serious arms control; Star Wars is not needed as a potential threat.

-PORTFOLIO UPDATE

PAT CYPHERS,
NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR

The seventh annual Coastweek will run from September 17 to October 10. Since LWV-US was unable to put coastal resource management issues on the National Advocacy Agenda, it falls back on us to work on these issues. The premise behind Coastweek was to develop a core of League members to act on coastal issues under established League positions without a great deal of support from the system. The emphasis is on fostering public awareness of our nation's valuable salt and freshwater shores, the great diversity of their uses, the increasing pressure of conflicting activities and the urgent need for improved planning and management. Use your existing resources and ingenuity to get this information out to the public. A free booklet, Coastal Choices: Deciding Our Future, is available from The Maine Coastal Program, State Planning Office, State House Station 38, 184 State Street, August, ME 04333.

* * * * *

Sl894 is the Senate bill to reauthorize the Clean Air Act. The prime supporter of this bill is George Mitchell. The League endorses this bill because it would accomplish the following goals:

1. Control acid rain by requiring a 12 million ton reduction in annual sulfur dioxide emissions by the year 2000.
2. Lower dangerous levels of air pollution in U.S. cities by requiring tough control methods and providing reasonable near-term deadlines for achieving healthy air, and
3. Mandate reductions in emissions of toxic air pollutants.

The current deadline is August 31, 1988, which is an extension of last December's deadline. Please write or phone Senator Mitchell urging him to do all he can to enact Sl894 without significant weakening amendments:

The Honorable George Mitchell, U.S. Senate,
Washington, D. C. 20510-1902 (292)224-5344.

* * * * *

Ozone is a pungent, colorless, highly toxic gas. It irritates and inflames the walls of the air passages, increases the work of breathing, and creates a strain on the heart and lungs. Ozone is measured in parts per million. A level of 0.12 ppm is the highest level of ozone considered safe for the health of the general public by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ozone is not emitted directly from a source. It forms as a secondary pollutant. Its precursors are hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides which react with sunlight to form ozone. Hydrocarbons are produced by automobile exhaust, gasoline and oil storage and transfer, incomplete burning of coal or wood, and other sources. Plants also give off hydrocarbons. Nitrogen oxides are emitted by all combustion sources.

Eight northeastern states have banded together as Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM). Their purpose is to implement in each of the states a program to reduce gasoline volatility. The Maine State Board of Environmental Protection held a hearing on April 7, 1988, in Augusta, at which I testified. This Board will be meeting in late July to consider proposed regulations to decrease ozone pollution.

For five consecutive days during June, the state standard for safe ozone levels (0.08 ppm) was exceeded. The more liberal federal standard (0.12

ppm) was violated on three consecutive days during June at various monitoring sites. On June 14, a level of 0.178 ppm was recorded at Cape Elizabeth and 0.179 ppm was recorded at Acadia National Park.

LWV-ME agreed with the eight northeastern states that the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) of gasoline should be reduced to 10 pounds per square inch (psi) from 7/1/88 to 9/15/88 and reduced further to 9 psi from 5/1/89 to 9/15/89. This is the period of the highest ozone potential. Reducing gasoline volatility gives us a double advantage. It reduces unhealthy hydrocarbons in the air we breathe and it lowers the ozone levels. Before World War II, the average summer gasoline RVP was about 7 psi. A large increase occurred after 1980. By reducing RVP of gasoline to 9 psi, volatile emissions are reduced by about 3750 tons for Maine (about 1 million gallons) and about 60,000 tons, or the equivalent of about 18 million gallons for the entire northeast.

* * * * *

A June 25 public service message from the Maine Dept. of Human Services warned of lead contamination in drinking water. This was done because so many homes in Maine are not on public water systems which can be monitored. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women.

First check your home or water system for lead pipes. Check any copper pipes for lead solder. If you have soft or acidic water, or if water remains in the pipes for several hours, take precautions: use only water from the cold water faucet for drinking, cooking, or baby formulas and run the water for a while before using. For additional information, contact Public Health Lab, State House Station #12, Augusta, ME 04333.

* * * * *

The passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970 meant that our old dumps and incinerators could not meet the air quality standards. Communities turned to "sanitary landfills" as a solution, but soon this method produced its own problem, pollution of groundwater. Where do we go? There are two possible solutions:

1. Incineration that could meet the air standards with use of scrubbers, etc.

2. Resource recovery on a regional basis. Some items can be recycled and the rest, burned and the energy from the burning, converted into steam and/or electricity.

* * * * *

The LWV-US 1986-1988 National Position in regard to Natural Resources is, "Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources."

Population growth is a big factor in our environmental problems; the State, realizing this, has passed LD 2317, a comprehensive growth management bill. LD 2532 was enacted, which instructs the DEP to study the problem of household hazardous waste disposal. DEP must come up with a plan and implement a pilot program as well as educate the public on how to handle this problem by the first of next year.

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COALITION REPORT

LWV-ME is a member organization of this coalition. The slate of accomplishments of this coalition for the 1988 legislative session is commendable and consists of the following bills enacted and signed by Governor McKernan:

P.L., Ch. 661, An Act to Ensure Family and Medical Leave in the State of Maine (Fiscal Impact/General Fund: None).

P.L., Ch. 767, An Act to Provide for Child Care and Child Development Training for Student Parents (Fiscal Impact: Unknown, future costs).

P.L., Ch. 823, An Act to Correct Inequities in the Maine State Retirement System (Fiscal Impact: \$61,000).

L.D. 2571, Resolution To Make the Language of the Constitution Gender Neutral (Fiscal Impact: Cost of Referendum).

P.L., Ch. 719, An Act Concerning Medicare Assignment in the State of Maine (Fiscal Impact: None).

P.L., Ch. 847, An Act to Make Health Care More Accessible to Low-Income Elderly and Disabled Individuals, Pregnant Women, and Children (Fiscal Impact: \$2,613,408/State).

P.L., Ch. 836, An Act to Expand the Medicaid Dental Program to Include Adults (Fiscal Impact: \$215,000/State).

P.L., Ch. 738, An Act to Increase the Minimum Wage (Fiscal Impact: \$72,177).

P.L., Ch. 770, An Act to Increase the Work Incentive in the Unemployment Insurance Partial Benefit Structure (Fiscal Impact: \$298,000).

P.L., Ch. 770, An Act to Clarify the State's Antidiscrimination Laws to Include Families with Children in Mobile Home Parks (Fiscal Impact: None).

L.D. 2156, Am/S-489, An Act to Improve the Standard of living for Maine's Low-Income Families (Fiscal Impact: \$670,000).

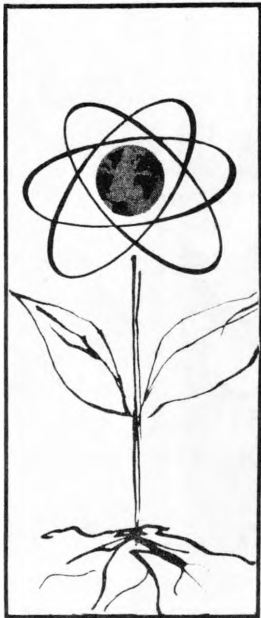
L. D., 2158, Am/S-489, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Job Reclassification Study of the University of Maine (Fiscal Impact: \$2,800,000).

Other Legislation:

L.D. 2156, Am/S-489, Support of \$3,541,000 Appropriation for Creation and Expansion of Child Care Services.

Successful challenge of "Parental Consent" referendum petitions.

MORE OPPORTUNITY



RISK AND OPPORTUNITY HEALTH & SECURITY IN THE NUCLEAR AGE OCTOBER 1, 1988

A major international symposium on health and security in the nuclear age will be held on October 1, 1988, at the Maine Center for the Arts on the campus of the University of Maine in Orono. Entitled "Risk and Opportunity: Health and Security in the Nuclear Age," the symposium will address the question of security on three levels: the individual, the nation, and the planet.

A wide variety of speakers representing different viewpoints will examine the concept of security from the political, military, ethical, medical and psychological perspectives. The symposium will be organized in such a way as to allow speakers to present their opinions and then to participate on panels with speakers of differing opinions.

The symposium is being sponsored by the Eastern Maine Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Dr. Geoffrey Gratwick, the chapter president, commented that this represents a unique opportunity for the people of Maine in that this is the first time, to his knowledge, that a group representing such a "wide spectrum of opinion" will appear on the same program.

Major speakers at the symposium will include: Dr. Boris Bondarenko, a physician from Leningrad, who will address the concept of security from a Soviet viewpoint, and Dr. Bernard Lown, winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize and a graduate of the Uni-

versity of Maine, who will deliver the keynote address, "Physicians Confront the Nuclear Dilemma."

Representing the political/military viewpoint will be Richard Perle, former Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Reagan, and Paul Warnke, former chief U.S. arms negotiator and architect of the SALT II treaty; in addition, Dr. Robert Bowman, president of the Institute for Space and Security Studies, a staunch opponent of SDI, will face off with Lt. Col. Simon Worden, commander of the Space Defense Operations Center, U.S. Space Command.

Other committed speakers include Eve Bither, Maine Commissioner of Education and Cultural Services, Dr. David London, a psychiatrist from the Yale School of Medicine, and Dr. Everett Mendelsohn, chairperson of the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University.

The symposium will provide an opportunity for the people of Maine to interact with some of the people who are actively involved in the nuclear

(cont'd on page 14)

MORE OPPORTUNITY

CHINA TRIP

To All Members of League of Women Voters!

Northern Pines Resort in Raymond, Maine, is sponsoring an unusual two-week trip to China, November 6-19, 1988. In addition to visiting the "must see" sites in China, participants will have an opportunity to focus on the spiritual and natural healing practices of the Chinese. The group will take advantage of contacts made with the Chinese Ambassador during his visit with the World Affairs Council of Maine in August. During the trip, we will visit with Chinese government officials to learn more about China's role in the world.

Marlee Coughlan, President, LWV-ME, will be hosting the trip and escorting participants throughout their stay in China. In addition, there will be a Chinese guide present at all times. The trip will balance free time with guided tours.

If you are interested in learning more about the Chinese people, this is a wonderful opportunity. The cost of the trip will be \$3298 per person double occupancy, subject to change based on exchange rate and/or changes in air fare. The price includes a \$50 donation to the LWV-ME. It also includes all accommodations, all meals in China, transfers and scheduled tours as well as air fare. People wishing to stay in China longer will be able to do so for an additional charge.

Contact Marlee, or Dan Zisk of CET Travel (800)225-4262 for more information.

(cont'd from page 13)

dilemma. During the course of this interaction, we will be better able to examine the place of nuclear weapons in our lives.

The symposium is being endorsed by a number of medical and community organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Maine, as a worthwhile educational experience.

Persons wanting further information are encouraged to contact the office of Eastern Maine PSR at 176 Mount Hope Avenue, Bangor, Maine 04401, (207)941-9805.

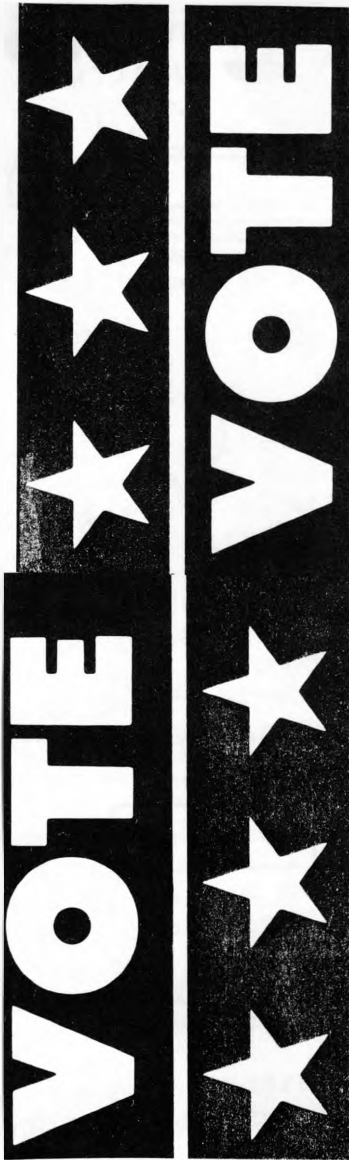
--Marie Youngs-Andersen,
Executive Director,
Eastern Maine PSR.

* * * *

The next president will have no more important responsibility than to seize the opportunity to wind down our military competition with the Soviet Union.

--Union of Concerned Scientists.

NOTES FROM LOCAL LEAGUES



THE BANGOR-BREWER AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS has published a voter information pamphlet for Bangor residents.

The red, white and blue flyer contains information on voter registration and party enrollment, absentee balloting, marking the ballot and an election dictionary. It also lists polling hours and places for Bangor.

The publication was produced in cooperation with the Bangor City Clerk's office and the Bangor Republican and Democratic Committees. It lists the telephone numbers for City Hall and the local chairpersons for both political parties.

We're very excited about this publication and the way the parties have cooperated to help produce and distribute it before the June 14 Primary. We hope the city, the parties and the League will be able to cooperate every year on such a publication.

We want the Bangor electorate to be the best informed in the state. Then we want those informed voters to exercise their rights at the polls so that Bangor has the highest voter turnout in the state.

The free pamphlet will be available at Bangor City Hall, Bangor Public Library, through the Republican and Democratic Committees and at area supermarkets.

--Judy Harrison

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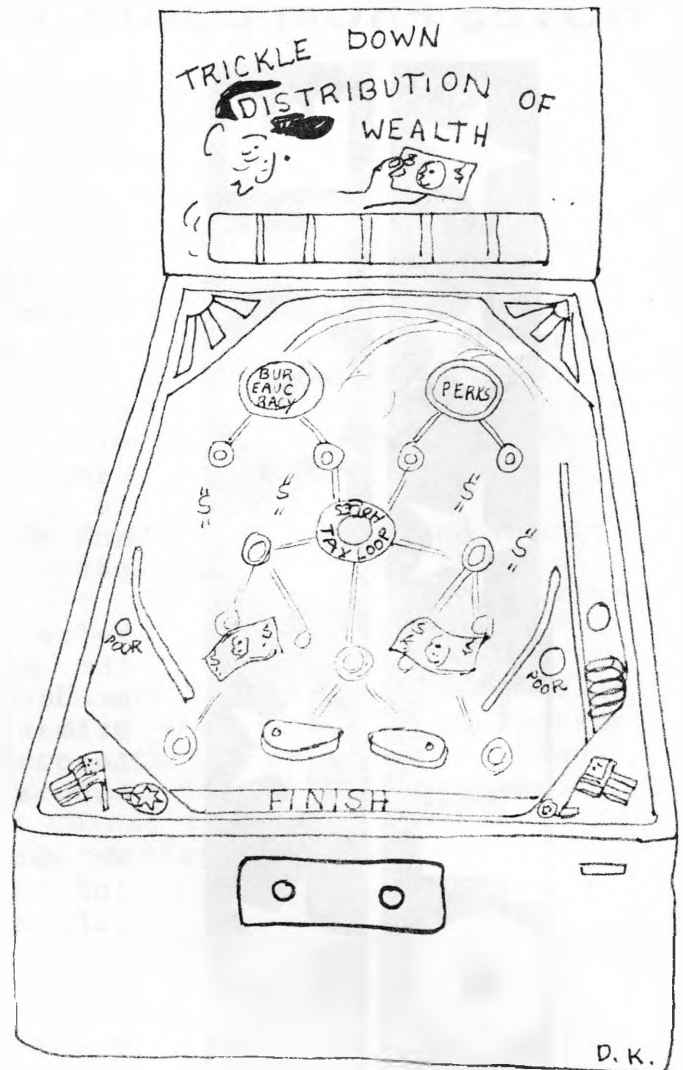
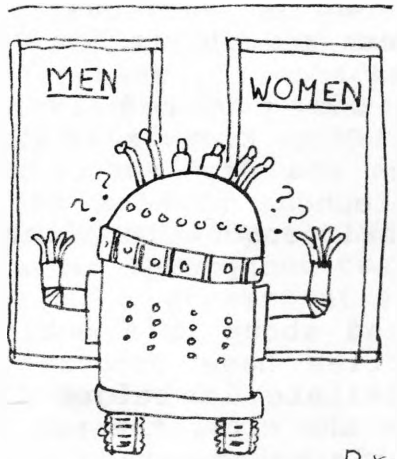
MT. DESERT ISLAND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Bring your boats or bring your shoes.
We don't care if you March or Cruise,
But BE THERE!

The MDI-LWV and the Main Street Coalition for the Prevention of Nuclear War are sponsoring a NO CRUISE CRUISE/MARCH to protest against the U.S. Navy Tomahawk cruise missile tests in Maine. This missile is a destabilizing weapon in an era of reconciliation. The CRUISE/MARCH is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., July 23, at the town dock in Bar Harbor. The boaters plan to "cruise" while marchers carry banners through town and out to Bar Island for a potluck picnic.

--Patty Letcher

T H E R E A R E P R O B L E M S



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