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League of Women Voters of Maine Staff

League of Women Voters of Maine

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League of Women Voters of Maine

January 19, 1963

Volume 4, No. 2

CALL TO ACTION - BUDGET HEARINGS

Thursday, January 24 9 a.m. Room 317 State Office Building
WATER IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 5 1:30 p.m. Room 317 State Office Building
PROBATION AND PAROLE BOYS TRAINING CENTER

The streamlined Appropriations Committee is wasting no time and has made an early start on departmental budget hearings. Heads of departments have been asked to submit their budget presentations in advance so that the committee may study them before the hearings. Things may move rather quickly so that even though the WIC may not be first on the list, we have been advised that the only safe thing to do is to be there at 9 a.m. Check your newspaper on both these hearings. There may be changes.

The most alarming cut in the Water Improvement Commission's budget request is in matching funds for municipal sewage treatment. The Governor has recommended only \$565,000 per year. The request, based on anticipated funds available to Maine under P.L. 660, was for \$1,119,040 the first year of the biennium and \$1,225,000 for the second year. There is no doubt these funds would be used. About 38 additional treatment plants are needed just to meet present classifications. It is encouraging to note that projects for 20 of these are in the planning stage.

Senator Ferguson has introduced an emergency bill (L.D. 227) calling for immediate appropriation of \$1,030,335, half a million of this to be considered an advance of funds for fiscal 1964-65. Since passage of P.L. 87-658 (Public Works Acceleration Act) some of our communities have become eligible for 20% additional federal aid. Projects are ready to go at Boothbay Harbor, Mars Hill, Saco and Old Orchard. Since work must begin 120 days after federal approval, these projects can't wait for the usual legislative appropriation. About half of this money is necessary now because of insufficient appropriations by the 100th Legislature.

State Board members will speak for the League at these hearings. We would like to have a good attendance of League members to demonstrate support. This is a good opportunity to see your Legislature in action. Plan to make a day of it, visit the House and Senate while in session, lunch in the cafeteria, perhaps with your legislators, drop in on any other hearings which might be of interest.

We are sorry the notice is so short on the WIC hearing. If your League is unable to send representatives to the hearing please send a supporting letter to Senator E. Perrin Edmunds, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee (carbon copy to Mrs. C. D. McEvoy Jr., 51 Highland St., Bangor)

This is being mailed to local League presidents only.