

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 18, 1963

The meeting was called to order and Mrs. Heller was introduced to discuss HCR 25. See remarks attached.

The Chairman stated that HJR 1 would not be considered at this time because certain information was not available to him today.

After considerable discussion on HCR 25, it was moved by Mr. Riddle and seconded by Mr. Mussemann that same be reported adversely. Motion carried unanimously.

House Bill No. 138 was then considered. Mr. Unruh moved that the bill be referred to a committee sub-committee for consideration and amendment. Motion was seconded by Mr. Riddle. Mr. Gardner discussed the Civil Rights matter of a few years ago and stated that a legislative council study had been made and felt that this would be good in this instance; and made a substitute motion that this be done. The Chair overruled the motion and vote was taken on the original motion. The vote was tied 9 to 9 and the Chair cast the tie-breaking vote "no" and the motion was declared lost. Thereupon Mr. Fribley moved that the Committee introduce a resolution directing Legislative Council Study. Motion was seconded by Mr. Doyen and carried unanimously. Thereupon, Mr. Marshall moved that HB 138 be reported adversely. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fribley and carried by a vote of 14 yes and 1 no.

The Chairman asked action on HCR 13, and Mr. Dreiling requested a vote by ballot. Mr. Unruh moved that the resolution be recommened favorably. Motion was seconded by Mr. Behee and upon vote, lost by 6 yes to 11 no. Motion was declared lost and Mr. Marshall moved that the bill be reported adversely. Motion was seconded by Mr. Dreiling and carried by a vote of 9 yes to 2 no.

The meeting was adjourned.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS



Affiliated with the
League of Women Voters
of the United States

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HCR 25

I am Mrs. Francis Heller of the League of Women Voters of Kansas. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization which deals in governmental issues that are chosen by the membership, studied for at least two years during which time certain positions applicable to the issue are reached.

Beginning in 1957 the League undertook a study on revision of the Kansas constitution. Members first considered those sections dealing with methods of revision and with apportionment. As you well know, the only means of revising the constitution is by resolution passed by 2/3 of each House and submitted to the voters of the state. Our constitution has no 'initiative' provision which the electorate could use. These factors have a direct bearing when one considers the apportionment of the Legislature because the underrepresented electorate, until recent court cases, have had no recourse in their efforts for equal representation.

In the apportionment article (Article 10) the constitution provides "that a new apportionment shall be made in the year 1866, and every five years thereafter, based upon the census of the preceding year." But there is no provision to assure that such reapportionment will in fact be carried out. The League of Women Voters believes that this constitution should be amended to introduce a mandatory requirement, with strong enforcement provisions, for automatic reapportionment. A commission should be the agency responsible for the reapportionment and its composition should be such as to prevent legislative control. We feel that HCR 25 would satisfy these positions.

Thank you.

3-18-63

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS



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of the United States

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HCR 21

I am Mrs. Francis Heller of the League of Women Voters of Kansas. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization which deals in governmental issues chosen by the membership, studied for at least two years during which time certain positions applicable to the issue are reached.

In its six years of study of the Kansas constitution, the League has concluded that the executive article is perhaps the most in need of modernization. The League believes that a 'short ballot' is now a necessary and efficient method of having a close link between the people and the policymakers. At the present time electors are faced with an overwhelming array of officials to be elected -- in many instances it is surprising that the names are recognized, let alone what programs and policies each man may stand for. With this in mind the League feels that the elective officers should be the governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general. Other officials necessary for the efficient running of the state government would be provided for by the legislature with the power of appointment vested in the governor. There are two exceptions to this, in our opinion: one is that an auditor or comptroller general should be appointed by the legislature for an extended period of time, and the other exception is that the state superintendent of public instruction should be appointed by the state board of education. To allow the voters to evaluate and assess issues within the state, the League takes the position that the election of state officials should occur in the off-presidential election years. And the League feels that these elective offices should be held for a term of four years. This type of administrative system would, we believe, clearly define responsibility and allow the electors to follow closely the policy-making function of government.

Thank you.

STATE OF KANSAS · HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A. F. "TONY" CASADO

Sixty-fifth District, Sedgwick County, 202 N. Terrace Drive, Wichita 8, Kan.

memorandum

Mr. Jess Taylor

Ref: H.B. 138

The following shows of HB 138
favor this Bill. However at
this time this Legislation may
not be quite in order. Perhaps we
should have a Legislative Council Study
now, pending the results and effects of
the ~~Federal~~ Presidential Proclamation
of 1961.

John Bower
Jack Euler
Tony Corado
E.L. Malone
Don B. Smith
Robert Harber
James P. Davis