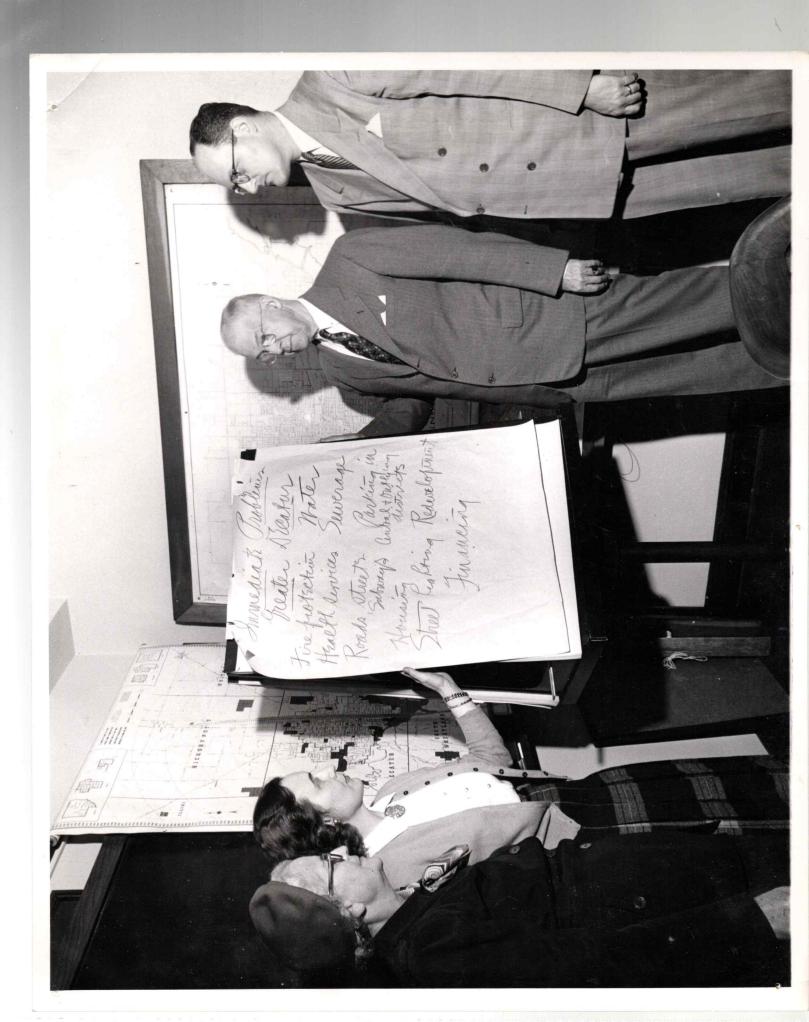


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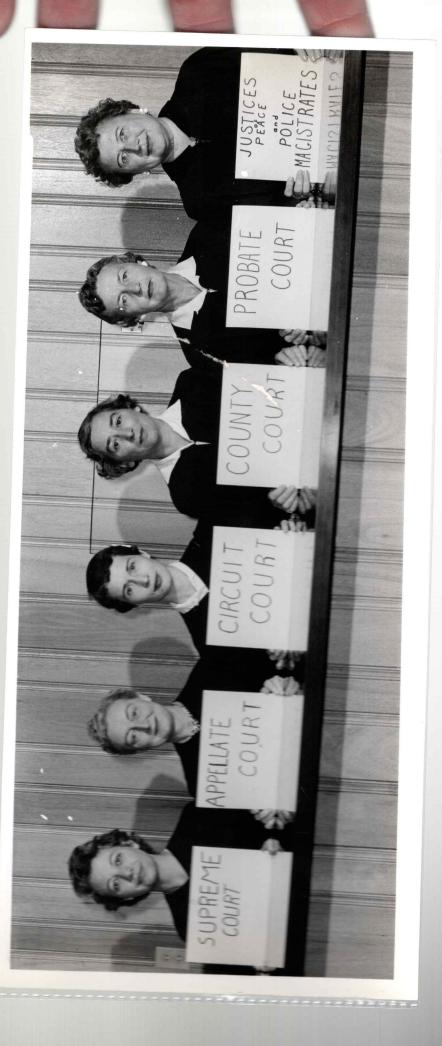
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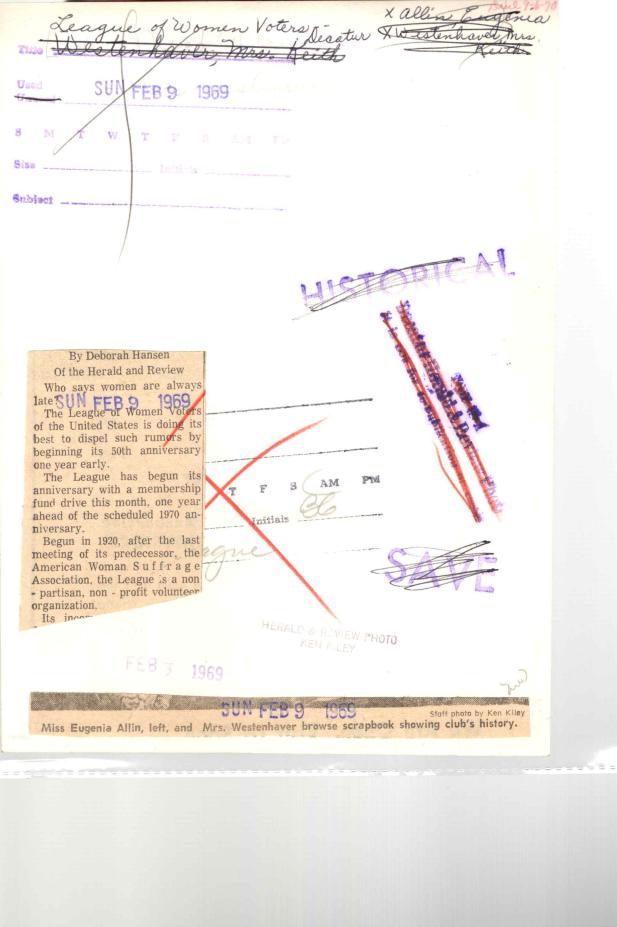
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of time to reach "consensus." They had a "built-in position" on dozens of issues. All they had lacked was the vote, and the status of an organization whose members—every one of them—could vote.

Now they had these. The energy which members had for generations concentrated upon the single issue of attaining the vote was now directed toward a great variety of issues.

At the 1919 Convention, eight standing committees of the League had been appointed, to deal with the following subjects and to report to the 1920 Convention: American Citizenship, Protection of Women in Industry, Child Welfare, Social Hygiene, Unification of Laws Concerning Civil Status of Women, Food Supply and Demand, Improvement in Election Laws and Methods, Research.

All committees except the last two made reports to the 1920 Convention, with 69 items as "statements of principle and recommendations for legislation."

Quite soberly the introductory statement said: "It is not expected that this entire program or even the major part of it will be achieved in one year's work." Well, hardly! However, it was seriously thought that five years might be enough: "Voters should enlist for a five years' service. At the end of that time account should be taken of achievements won and the importance of the unfinished program. A new determination can then be made concerning the advisability of a continuance of the League."

## The First Program

Most of the "program . . . adopted as the goal of the League's efforts and as expressing principles which the organization loyally supports" referred to "needed legislation." The League registered support of collective bargaining; wages on basis of occupation and not of sex; a Women's Bureau in the Department of Labor; a joint federal-state employment service; a child-labor law; wage-hour legislation; a minimum wage; a merit system in federal, state, and local governments; maternityinfancy protective legislation; regulation of the meat-packing industry; laws to prevent food profiteering; pure-food laws; cooperative associations; social-hygiene legislation; uniform marriage and divorce laws in the United States; independent citizenship for married women; equal interest of spouses in each other's real estate; mothers' pensions; equal guardianship by both parents of persons and property of children; jury service for women; compulsory education, including adequate training in citizenship in every state, for all children between 6 and 16, nine months of each year; education of adults by extension classes of the public schools. AND 47 other specifics.

And this covered only *legislation* the members wanted and went to work on. There were also other aspects of League work such as what today we call Voters Service, and, of course, Organization and Finance.

Some of the legislative aims of the League in 1920 were achieved in a surprisingly short time, some took longer, some are yet to be attained. The greatest challenge, it soon became obvious, was the goal of greater