

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SKOKIE

SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076

SKOKIE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION OPEN HEARING JULY 18, 1967

Civil rights and civil liberties are basic to a free democratic society.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has six principles which constitute authorization for adoption of all its study items. One of these principles reads as follows: The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in his right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

In March of 1966 after two years of intensive study the members of the League of Women Voters of the United States stated a belief that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity in education and employment for all persons in the United States. To carry this belief into action the League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education and employment and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

In March of 1967 the League of Women Voters of Illinois stated its full support of state legislation to provide equal housing opportunities for all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry. The League supports legislation in the Illinois State Legislature to prohibit housing discrimination by real estate salesmen and brokers, lending institutions, residential land developers, and owners, covering apartments, private homes, and vacant land, also state permissive legislation empowering municipalities to prohibit unfair housing practices. The latter is viewed as complementary to state housing legislation and not as a substitute.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois feels that responsibility for securing equal housing opportunity rests on all three levels of government, local, state and federal.

The League was one of the strongest groups that attempted to bring about passage of the recent fair-housing bill in the Illinois Legislature. We are all aware of the dismal failure of that legislation, however, the problem is too complex to be attacked on only one level.

The Skokie League of Women Voters has done studies and now has positions supporting the encouragement of local industry and governmental boards to actively pursue merit employment, and since 1964 we have supported the work of the Skokie Human Relations Commission and continually evaluate its policies and programs.

We have the conviction that positive efforts anytime, anywhere, have a way of rippling out and encouraging others to do likewise--possibly statewide in the next session of the Illinois Legislature.

Mrs. Harry H. Hunter, President

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