

Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage

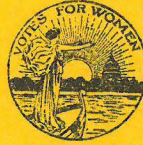
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 1420 F STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Colors—Purple, White and Gold

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Portland Headquarters,

613 Eiler's Bldg.,

Portland, Oregon,

November 26, 1914

RECEIVED
NOV 27 1914
M. R. ALBEE,
MAYOR

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Mayor Albee,

Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

We are writing to you to ask if you will not send a letter to the President of the United States calling upon him to recommend the passage of the Federal Amendment for Woman Suffrage in his coming message to Congress. You have often expressed yourself publicly as believing in the political freedom of women. Will you not help us gain this freedom? Your word of influence will carry weight as you know.

Believing in your sincere interest in our cause, I am

Respectfully,

Virginia Arnold

Mrs. W. J. Hawkins, Ore.
Mrs. L. W. Therkelsen, Ore.
Abigail Scott Duniway.

Oregon Organizer for the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage.

December 2, 1914.

Miss Virginia Arnold,
613 Biler's Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Madam:-

Replying to yours of the 26th ult. relative to making a recommendation to the President of the United States in regard to Federal legislation for woman's suffrage, I would say that while I prefer not to address the President direct upon this subject, I nevertheless feel that it is one of sufficient importance to warrant favorable action by our Congress, and I should be very much pleased should the Nation's Chief Executive see his way clear to urge upon that body such action.

As I have often said, it seems perfectly clear to me that women should enjoy the right of franchise equally with men, and I have always held to that belief. In Oregon, the newly-enfranchised citizens have used the ballot with at least as much care and judgment as have the men and it would seem to be but reasonable to presume that such would be the case all over this country were they to be granted this sacred right.

In the effort to gain for the women of this country the right to vote, I feel that every one should lend a helping hand and, if in any manner I may be of service in this connection, it will be a pleasure to me.

Very truly yours,

M A Y O R.

Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage

Executive Committee

MISS ALICE PAUL, N. J., CHAIRMAN	MRS. DONALD R. HOOKER, MD., CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE
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HEADQUARTERS

1420 F STREET N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

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RECEIVED
DEC 12 1914
H. R. ALBEE,
MAYOR

Albee
12/11/14
Oregon Headquarters,
613 Eiler's Building,
Portland, Oregon,
December 11, 1914.

Mayor H. R. Albee,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:-

We are in receipt of your communication of December 2d in answer to our letter of November 26th, desiring you to call upon the President to use his influence in behalf of the Federal Amendment for Woman Suffrage.

We regret very much that as the Mayor of the largest city of a state where women vote you did not "prefer to address the President direct upon this subject", the subject of the freedom of American women. While regretting this, we still note with interest the prominent Oregon citizens who graciously complied with our request. Among those who did so are the following: Mr. Charles J. Smith, Judge W. N. Gatens, Mr. Charles B. Moores, Representative Sinnott, Representative Walter Lafferty, Ex-Governor T. T. Geer, Hon. William Purdy, Mr. B. Lee Paget, and Mr. A. I. Moulton.

Perhaps it may yet meet with your pleasure to cast your word of influence on the side of the freedom of women.

Very respectfully,

Virginia Arnold

Oregon Organizer for the Congressional Union.

December 12, 1914.

Miss Virginia Arnold,
613 Eiler's Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Madam:-

I have your letter of the 11th inst. in reference to my letter of November 26th last, and beg to assure you that you have entirely misunderstood my ^{intention} motive in having a preference as to the manner of addressing you or the public on the question of Woman's Suffrage.

So far as I personally am concerned, I have no objection to writing a letter to the President, and if you care to drop in to the office some afternoon, I shall be pleased to take my position clear and if there seems to be no weight to my argument, possibly I can meet your preference in the matter. There certainly can be no question as to my unqualified endorsement of the Woman's Suffrage movement. ✓

Yours very truly,

IRA/C

MAYOR.

December 30, 1914.

Miss Virginia Arnold,
613 Eiler's Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Madam:-

Relative to the subject of equal suffrage, it is a pleasure to state that at no time has anyone ever brought forth what to me seems a reasonable argument as to why there should be discrimination between the sexes as to casting the ballot.

To my mind, all of the argument is on the side of equal rights for both sexes and this has long been my attitude.

As to the best means of attaining nation-wide ballot rights for women, it is my conviction that adoption of the proposed Bristow-Mondell amendment is desirable; Federal legislation such as this would, in my judgment, be at once thorough and equitable, as it would determine this important subject for the entire Union.

Very truly yours,

MAYOR.

BRISTOW-MONDELL AMENDMENT FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE

(House Resolution No. 514, formerly called the Susan B. Anthony Amendment.)

"Article Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Sec. 2. Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

PROGRESS OF THE AMENDMENT

Has been before Congress since 1875.

Discussed in the 63rd Congress for the first time since 1887.

Received favorable Committee report in the Senate for the first time since 1892.

Reported to the House of Representatives for the first time since 1896.

Is now on the calendar of the Senate.

Is now to be voted on in the House December 23rd.

STEPS NECESSARY FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT

Must be passed by two-thirds (290) of the House of Representatives and by two-thirds (64) of the Senate.

Must then be ratified by three-fourths (36) of the State Legislatures.

It is then a law-----and every woman is an American citizen.

ADVANTAGES OF FEDERAL ACTION OVER STATE ACTION.

The Federal Amendment (Bristow-Mondell Resolution No. 514.)

When once passed by both Houses of Congress, it is before the State Legislatures--forever, if necessary. That work never has to be done again.

Moreover, neither the Legislatures nor the male voters of one-fourth (12) of the states ever have to be appealed to. They accept the decision of the other thirty-six states that ratify the Amendment.

Of the thirty-six states which must ratify it, twelve (the Suffrage States) are now ready to do so. A large number more have recently passed on Suffrage Amendments to their own State Constitutions, but the Amendment was lost when referred to the male voters. The Legislatures of these states would naturally be ready to ratify a Federal Amendment. This leaves only a comparatively small number of Legislatures to work upon instead of the hordes, the millions upon millions of male voters who now form the electorate in states where women have no vote.

The Federal Amendment means a wonderful saving of time, effort, and strength,--time, effort and strength so sadly needed in constructive legislation.

THE ADVISABILITY OF CONCENTRATING NOW UPON THE FEDERAL RATHER THAN UPON STATE WORK (once so necessary)

4,000,000 women can now vote.

This gives a wonderful leverage in Congress.

With one-fourth of the Senate, nearly one-sixth of the House of Representatives, and nearly one-fifth of the electoral vote coming from suffrage states, the day of the Federal Amendment is at hand!

It is now "up" to the women of the West. It is a case of "Ladies, what is your pleasure in this matter? Speak, and no party will fail to hear you."