CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

Domenici Faircloth Inhofe Roth Santorum Jeffords Feingold Kempthorne Simon Frist Simpson Smith Kyl Gorton Lott Gramm Lugar Snowe Grams Grassley Mack McCain Stevens Thomas McConnell Gregg Thompson Hatch Murkowski Thurmond Hatfield Nickles Warner Heflin Packwood Hutchison Pressler

NAYS-45

Exon Akaka Levin Baucus Feinstein Lieberman Biden Ford Mikulski Moseley-Braun Bingaman Glenn Boxer Graham Murray Nunn Bradlev Harkin Pell Breaux Hollings Bryan Inouye Pryor Bumpers Johnston Reid Robb Byrd Kennedy Campbell Rockefeller Kerrey Conrad Kerry Sarbanes Daschle Kohl Shelby Lautenberg Specter Dorgan Leahy Wellstone

NOT VOTING-3

Helms Kassebaum Moynihan

So, the motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the motion was agreed to, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for not to exceed 15 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Thank you, Mr. President.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, the Senator from Texas and I would like to take a moment in morning business to congratulate the League of Women Voters on their 75th anniversary.

Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the League of Women Voters on their 75th anniversary. The League is a quintessentially American institution—one that has served this country very well.

The league's accomplishments are many. I am particularly proud of the leadership the league provided in the 72 year struggle to give women the right women to vote. A struggle the league finally won when the 19th amendment became a part of the U.S. Constitution.

In 1919, Carrie Chapman Catt founded the league in Chicago, at the Convention of the National American Women's Suffrage Association. While the fight for women's right to vote helped create the league, however, its mission has always been much larger. Seventy-five years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt said that "Winning the vote is only an opening wedge * * * but to learn to use it is a bigger task."

That statement is as true today as it was when the League was founded—and the league's continuing work is perhaps the best evidence of that truth. The league continues to educate and inform citizens and get people involved in their communities; it plays a critical role in helping to make government work better. League members work at the grossroots to build citizen participation in the democratic process, and to promote positive solutions to community issues through education and advocacy.

While the league can be justifiably proud of its many accomplishments, league members are not content. They know there is still much work that remains to be done. In 1995, there are still far too many Americans who are not registered to vote and who do not participate in the democratic process. This is the focus of the league's most recent "Take Back the System" campaign. Its goal is to make voter registration more accessible, to provide voters with information on candidates and issues, and to restore the voters' confidence and involvement in the system.

The campaign has been very successful. Its crowning achievement came last year, when the Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act. Motor-voter has begun to enfranchise millions of Americans who have been shut out of the political process, because it makes voter registration more uniform and more accessible. In the past month since the statute has been in force, tens of thousands of new voters have signed up to register and participate in the political process. This is very positive. I am hopeful that my State of Illinois will implement it as well.

The league has played a large role over the years in many other issues related to increasing participation in the democratic process. After the Brown versus Board of Education Supreme Court decision, local leagues began to work in the community to discuss the issue of desegregation. Their goal was to promote calm, reasonable discussions, to diffuse the tension the decision had caused, especially in the South. At that time, the leagues in the South were representative of women in the South. Local leagues held forums and talks on the issue. Their efforts at providing education and building consensus were successful. In 1956, the Atlanta league made headlines when it voted to strike the word white from its bylaws restricting membership to white women. The league has provided leadership on behalf of the enfranchisement and civil rights of all Americans.

And the league has been very involved in preserving civil liberties and

protecting the privileges written into the Bill of Rights. In 1947, President Truman initiated his Loyalty Program, whose purpose was to root out spies in the Federal Government. Anyone whose loyalty came under question was required to testify before a loyalty board, and was often denied due process. During this period, the league developed a program to educate citizens about individual rights. In 1955, League President Percy Maxim Lee, testified before the House Un-American Activi-Committee against Senator McCarthy's abuses of congressional investigative power. She emphasized that:

Tolerance and respect for the opinions of others is being jeopardized by men and women whose instincts are worthily patriotic, but whose minds are apparently unwilling to accept the necessity for dissent within a democracy.

Today, the league is working in the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe to promote grassroots political education. League members have spent time in Poland and Hungary training people about how to make local government more responsive, and how to increase citizen participation in the democratic process. They have also brought people to the United States to learn how local leagues promote positive solutions to community issues through education and advocacy.

The league's programs are always unbiased and nonpartisan. They never support or oppose candidates for office. Although the message is political—the mission is to influence public policy—the goal is to promote an open, representative, and accountable government which has the confidence of the American people.

I have been a member of the League of Women Voters' Illinois chapter and Chicago chapter for 15 years. As a member of the league, I invite all of my colleagues, as well as all the people listening at home on C-SPAN, to involve yourselves with this grassroots organization. Across the Nation, there are over 100,000 members and supporters that build the strength of the league. Our members include people of all colors, creeds, and both genders, and we embrace new members with open arms. In the words of Susan Lederman, a former president of the league, "Our energy, experience, and enthusiasm will be contagious. Our de- $\underline{\text{mocracy will be stronger and better for}}$ the effort we make.'

Mr. President, again, I wish to congratulate and commend the league and its members for their continued efforts in behalf of keeping our political and governmental institutions vital ones. Their role in protecting and promoting democracy in this country, frankly, has been unparalleled.

I know Senator HUTCHISON has a statement, as well.

I just wanted to take this moment to wish the league and its members a

happy 75th anniversary—and there will be at least 75 more years—and that I join them in this celebration for the tremendous contribution they have made to the people of this great country.

try. I would like now to yield to the Senator from Texas.

Mrs. $\operatorname{HUTCHISON}$ addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TRIBUTE TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would just like to follow my distinguished colleague from Illinois in talking just for a minute about the League of Women Voters. I think all of us agree that the League of Women Voters has made a great contribution to this country. Today, Valentine's Day, marks the 75 anniversary of the league's founding.

The league's first and most widely recognized success was its role in the 19th amendment's ratification. In the wake of this historic victory, however, the League realized that an even more formidable challenge remained ahead—the task of actually bringing the millions of newly enfranchised American women into the realm of politics.

Over the course of 75 years, the league launched ambitious programs to increase voter participation and to enhance public understanding of major policy issues. At the same time, the league continued its campaign to improve the legal status of women. In my home State of Texas, the league worked to secure secret balloting and won the battle to allow women to serve on juries in Texas.

As time has progressed, the success of league endeavors has become increasingly apparent; in government and politics today, the presence and influence of women are stronger than ever. And though the league was founded out of the struggles for women's suffrage, its vision and legislative agenda have broadened over the years to encompass much more than voting rights and women's issues. State and local leagues have pursued public policy matters ranging form the environment to international cooperation.

Most importantly, Mr. President, the league has never wavered from its commitment to nonpartisanship nor its grassroots origins. In its town hall meetings and candidate forums in thousands of local communities across the country, the league has endeavored to ensure that voters are presented with balanced information that reflects the diverse viewpoints of its membership.

It is with much admiration and gratitude, Mr. President, that I recognize this uniquely American organization and the pioneering women who founded it and strengthened it through the years. We have all benefitted tremen-

dously from their first 75 years of service to our country. I look forward to another 75 years of great league achievements.

I think it is very important that all of us realize the great contributions that the League of Women Voters has made to our country and to the awareness of our opportunity and responsibility to vote. I think the League of Women Voters should be commended today on the 75th anniversary of their founding, and I am very proud to be part of the group that is recognizing that important date.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 75th anniversary of the League of Women Voters.

For many of us, America in the early 1900's is recalled mostly through the grainy, black and white images of newsreel footage. We are too young to remember American life back then, but the old films are portholes on the past. We laugh at the clothes, marvel at the cars, and wonder about the celebrities of the times whose names have long since been forgotten. We've seen newsreels of the suffragists, too, marching and protesting for the right to vote. Yet it is easy to forget that these are more than distant, cellulose imagesthat these are real people, with deepfelt passions about the precious right

But the League of Women Voters has not forgotten. The league, in fact, grew out of the suffrage movement and the fight to ratify the 19th amendment to the Constitution. In my home State of Minnesota, the Legislature ratified the 19th amendment on September 8, 1919. The following month, on October 29, 1919, the Minnesota League of Women Voters was formed. For the three-quarters of a century since its founding, the Minnesota league—like its national partners—has balanced a dual mission of voter education and advocacy.

Even in its earliest years, the Minnesota League of Women Voters took a leading role in nonpartisan voter education services. A 1922 booklet of Minnesota election laws—"State Election Laws Clearly Stated for the First Time!"—was an early league project, and such outreach continues today with annual Voter Guides and Election Information Hotlines. The League's election-year televised debates have become a critical source of candidate information for hundreds of thousands of Minnesota voters.

I enjoy the unique perspective of having seen the League of Women Voters at work from both sides of the political fence—as a journalist asking questions on the panel of a League debate, and as a candidate answering questions during my 1994 U.S. Senate campaign. I remain impressed by the league's ability to reach out to Minnesotans on all levels, as evidenced by its 2,500 local mem-

bers in more than 100 Minnesota communities.

The League of Women Voters has earned my respect and gratitude for its 75 years of urging Americans to get involved, to vote, to take a stand on issues. A great deal has changed in this country since the newsreel days, but the league's dedication to encouraging citizen participation in their government has not. I join my Senate colleagues in saluting the League of Women Voters and its membership on their anniversary of service.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. Across the country, the League of Women Voters has presented women the opportunity to study national, State, and local issues without the spin of outside interest groups of one kind or another. A nonpartisan organization, the league has played a historic role in not only the women's suffrage movement, but in a variety of issues including child labor law, education, and environmental concerns.

As a woman from the State of Kansas, I believe it is important to recognize the league's efforts to reach out to women from rural areas. Providing a forum for honest discussions, with a concentration on the facts rather than prejudiced thought, the league has proven an inspiration and an awakening for many. The league encourages women to think analytically and independently, creating opportunities to lead discussions, present the pros and cons of an issue, and learn practical use of parliamentary principles. As a result, the league has instilled in many women the belief that their contributions and opinions can and do make a difference. More importantly, however, is the realization that world issues, no matter how complex, can be understood and discussed by ordinary people.

Our current political climate includes and welcomes the participation of women at all levels of national debate and government. This is a sharp contrast from the early days of the League of Women Voters. Today, I imagine that many young women find it difficult to comprehend that women's suffrage was even an issue at the time. And, although I believe this means we have made progress, I also feel it is important to remember our history. We owe a debt of gratitude to the League of Women Voters for encouraging women everywhere to help bring this about. Freeing women of all educational backgrounds to believe they could study significant issues is a gift the league has given to women all over America.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, February 14, 1995, marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women