

# Texas Equal Suffrage Association

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National Executive Committeeman  
Mrs. Elizabeth Herndon Potter  
229 Vine St., Tyler

Bender Hotel, March 25th, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Cunningham;

Hope you are feeling well to-night, also that you will be in fine sprits when this letter reaches you to-morrow, because I am going to immediately "tell you about the meeting" as you requested. It is six P. M. and we have been at it all day. It was "down again, up again, gone again, Finnegan" -thustly.

Mrs. Lindsey Mrs. Breaker, Mrs. Tragle and I also Mrs. Hautier held a conference this morning with Mrs. Young. At this conference these facts were brought out.

1. Harris County Suffrage Asso, have had printed petitions for the women to sign including both Prohibition and Suffrage. Meaning, in asking for the woman's signature she was told that it was both for the ratification of both amendments and so states in its heading.

2. Harris Co. Suffrage Asso, has sent out letter No. 1, enclosed, and is preparing to send out letter No. 2.

3. That Mrs. Young would resign if the above plans were stopped.

In the conference nothing was spared, and Mrs. Young was told that as the Harris CO. had voted to work under the State plans therefore the petition gotten out by her (?) could not be used, also that the letters, which no one knew anything about, must be stopped. She said that she would resign, as above stated, if this had to be done. She was asked to reconsider her decision, and she said that she would, if we would give her until 2. P. M. The meeting was to be at 3. P.M.;

When we returned at 2. P. M. for her decision, we found that she had called the directors together to reconsider or rather to rescind the action taken to work with the State. Mrs. Lindsey and myself were of course excluded from this meeting. Mrs. Hautier, Mrs. Tragle, Mrs. Breaker were there and fought hard but could not carry their point. The vote was 6 to remain with the State and 7 to rescind.

Mrs. Young, after I had the decision brought to me, asked me if I would not address the meeting anyway. I said that I could hardly do that as I had come to talk State plans and if they were not going to adopt them, why should I talk! Mrs. Ring, said, come and talk about something. I was forced into the position so I went in "with both feet"

I plainly told them what the Nat and State policy is. I asked them if they wished to seceed from the State and the National, and explained what that would mean

if they did, How serious a step it was, and especially now that action is to be taken at the Nat. convention for the organization of the women of the world, etc. Also told them plainly why we could not confuse the two issues, etc., etc. There was so lively talk with this result. The action taken to rescind could not become effective until ratified by an open meeting. Such a meeting is to be called for Wednesday A. M. So I say we were "down agin, up agin, gone agin Finnegan" and the wonder is that we are gone agin.

We are going to hold fast to our decision, namely; if this organization works with the State, their petitions and letters must be cut out. We shall not budge from that point.

If at the open meeting the action to rescind is ratified, these women are going to quietly form their own campaign committee and go to work. It is the consensus of opinion that if this is done, most every one worth while will <sup>come</sup> our way.

What I am hoping and praying is that I can keep sweet thru this. It is very, very difficult to restrain myself, but of course I must and will.

Do not worry about it, if a split comes it will not be as bad as you think. These women must retain their self respect and they cannot if they stand for Mrs. Ward's tactics, which of course we all understand.

Think of the expense of all the new petitions, and the letters, the latter going to all kinds of woman's organizations in every part of the State, to the Harris Co Asso., which expense has never been authorized, by the way.

I am not worrying, you must not, please do not.

Faithfully yours,

A. C. Hingston

*Trying to catch evening mail -  
Have you any orders to send us or  
orders, acct.*