

# THE HOUSTON DAILY POST

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## THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

It is conceded that the president's flop from woman's suffrage through State action to national woman's suffrage had the result of winning a sufficient number of votes in the house to carry the joint resolution by the necessary two-thirds majority.

The president made no argument for the national brand of suffrage, but merely announced in favor of it.

Thus it is seen that the necessary votes were obtained not as a result of conviction upon the part of some of the supporters of the joint resolution, but merely because the president had changed front.

Not only that, it had been evident for some days that quite a number of democrats wavered in face of the argument that party expediency demanded the submission of the amendment, and that the defeat of the amendment might result in the election of a republican house next fall.

We mention these influences which have been potent in bringing about the result in the house to point out how trivial are the considerations which seem to be leading to radical changes in our form of government.

The woman's suffrage issue really has not been discussed before the people of the United States—not even before the women of the United States.

And yet here we are about to see it railroaded into the constitution before it has been deliberated or comprehended.

It can be said of the prohibition amendment that it was fairly well discussed at least in its moral sense, and people did know whether they favored prohibition or not. But not so with the suffrage amendment.

A number of women without home anchorage, generally unburdened with domestic or maternal obligations, craving mannish occupations, have conducted an incessant propaganda among politicians and legislatures, but the great masses of women have not considered the proposal seriously and really do not know whether they want the ballot or not.

Thus it is that the organic law of the Republic is trifled with in a time when the people are concerned with a multitude of serious matters and confronted by emergencies of the gravest character, when they are unable, because of the greatly confused situation which the country and the world face, to determine what is best.

It is a day when opportunism and the consideration of party expediency count for much. Otherwise neither legislators nor people would so glibly tamper with constitutions without giving the most solemn and searching deliberation to every proposed change.

The people yet have a chance to save the situation, if State legislatures are considerate enough of the public will to delay action until the people can consider and act. At least such an opportunity remains in a majority of the States. The eagerness, however, manifested by several legislatures in voting down proposals to submit the prohibition amendment to the people before taking action indicates that in many of the States snap judgment will be taken.

When it is considered that it is well nigh impossible to repair blunders of this character, that constitutional mistakes must continue to annoy and distress the nation for years, if not in perpetuity, it would seem that the people ought to have ample time to hear the pro and con of every proposal to amend, especially the Federal constitution.

Surely the legislatures and their members are not so involved in the politics of the present Washington situation that they are unwilling to give the people an opportunity to consider what is pending.