

# NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

BRANCH OF INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE AND OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

HONORARY PRESIDENT  
DR. ANNA HOWARD SHAW

PRESIDENT  
MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

3RD VICE-PRESIDENT  
MISS ESTHER G. OGDEN

RECORDING SECRETARY  
MRS. THOMAS JEFFERSON SMITH  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT  
MRS. WALTER McNAB MILLER

TREASURER  
MRS. HENRY WADE ROGERS

1ST AUDITOR  
Miss HELOISE MEYER  
1626 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT  
MRS. STANLEY McCORMICK

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
MRS. FRANK J. SHULER

2ND AUDITOR  
MRS. PATTIE RUFFNER JACOBS  
ALTAMONT ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE  
PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.  
171 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
171 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN  
MRS. WALTER McNAB MILLER

PRESIDENT  
MISS ESTHER G. OGDEN

TELEPHONE, 4818 MURRAY HILL

HEADQUARTERS  
1626 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.



1626 Rhode Island Avenue,  
Washington, D. C.,  
August 17, 1917.

Dear Madam Chairman:

I am glad to tell you that Congress is about to take the next steps toward the passage of our amendment. Action on war legislation has been greatly delayed by the number of speeches and debates, but the President's war program is finally nearing completion, and the revenue bill - the last of the big war measures, will probably come to a vote in the Senate the end of next week. It will then go to a Conference Committee, and must be reported back both to the House and Senate for final action.

House: As stated in our letter of July 7, Chairman Pou of the Rules Committee promised to report to the House the rule which would create a woman suffrage committee in the House as soon as the finance bill has gone to conference. We saw Mr. Pou this morning and he reaffirmed his promise which means that the vote on the woman suffrage committee will be taken within ten days or two weeks. As you know, it will require only a majority vote to secure the creation of this committee, and our chances are exceedingly good. On the other hand, we must not be caught by over-confidence. Therefore, if you have not already had many letters sent to each representative in the House from your State, please concentrate on such letters at once. We hope also that your list of persons who will send telegrams is now complete. We cannot forecast at this writing the exact date when Chairman Pou will bring our rule up for action in the House, and we shall probably only have a couple of days advance notice, so that it will be necessary for us to wire you, and in turn for you to have your machinery in such perfect condition that you can get the telegrams to your congressmen without delay.

Senate: Chairman Jones of the Woman Suffrage Committee has promised that he will bring in the report of his committee some time during this session. Conditions in the Senate are now quite favorable with regard to this report. The one southern committee member who because of the picketing had refused



to sign a report has now agreed to sign. One other member of the committee is absent, but will return for the Senate vote on the finance measure the end of next week. Chairman Jones has promised to call a meeting when the one absentee returns, at which time we believe we will get a unanimous report from the committee.

The recent flurry in the Senate created by Senator Cummins' resolution to discharge the woman suffrage committee from further consideration of our amendment has entirely blown over. This episode, characterized chiefly by party interest, was explained at such length in the issue of The Woman Citizen of August 11, page 185, that I will not repeat here. Of course every congressional chairman reads The Woman Citizen the day she receives it!

The recent passage of the prohibition amendment in the Senate was an excellent forerunner of action on our own amendment in the next session. The reason that the prohibition amendment received consideration in this session was that it could be classed as war legislation because of its connection with the food question. Furthermore, the liquor interests, frightened by the drastic section included by the House in the Hoover food bill, wished to offset it in the Senate by using the passage of the prohibition amendment in the higher body as a reason for drawing the teeth of the section inserted by the House. Oddly enough, therefore, both the "wets" and the "drys" combined to have the vote taken. The "dry" forces do not feel quite sure of their two-thirds vote in the lower body, and so have agreed not to come to a vote in the House until next winter, thus allowing themselves time for aggressive campaigning in the "wet" states. The liquor interests feel confident that the House will kill the amendment, and feeling protected in the House were willing to let some of their representatives in the Senate even vote for the prohibition amendment.

If your senator voted for the prohibition amendment and is opposed to the federal suffrage amendment, you should make full use of his prohibition vote in urging his support of our amendment. Within a few days we will send you some suggestions on this point.

By securing the creation of a House woman suffrage committee and getting a report from the Senate committee we will be in excellent shape in Congress to proceed at the opening of the regular session in December. On account of Mrs. Park's absence on a vacation, I have been here since early in July, and my observations lead me to share the belief of our president and chairman of our Congressional Committee that we can achieve the passage of the Federal Amendment in the 65th Congress. I feel greatly encouraged by the signs of the times. While it is true that the picketing is hurting the work very much at this time, the larger issues which the nation and the world are facing are making a condition which is immensely more favorable to the Federal amendment. I therefore have very strong hope that if the states will push their petitions and carry out the other plans for the congressional drive which Mrs. Catt sent to you some time ago, we shall have such momentum by the opening of the regular session of Congress that we shall send our measure across the goal line.



While there is thus much ground for encouragement, we must not forget that in order to offset the picketing the women in the states must keep up their legitimate campaigning for the amendment, since it is your work at home that is the best answer to the present militancy.

Cordially yours,

*Julie Bradley Roessing*  
(Mrs. Frank M. Roessing)

Acting Chairman, Congressional Committee.

N. B. This letter is not for the press or the public. A copy has gone to your state president.

To State Congressional Chairmen: