

CALL ISSUED TO HALT ACTION ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Fear Expressed Legislature in Special Session Will Disobey Will of People

TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO AUSTIN

It Is Declared Solons Have No Right to Ratify An- thony Amendment

To the people of Texas:

The qualified voters of Texas have declared by their ballots that they do not desire woman suffrage in Texas. The state has declared that it is not willing for the other states of the union to force woman suffrage upon it, through the Anthony suffrage amendment.

Governor Hobby has called the legislature to convene in special session the 23rd day of June, and it is apparent that some senators and representatives are determined to disobey the will of the voters, disregard their instructions, and force federal suffrage upon our citizens when they have just proclaimed their unwillingness to invest women with the ballot even through a state constitutional amendment.

The submission of the Anthony suffrage amendment raises, perhaps, the greatest governmental principle ever submitted to the states since the foundation of the government. It involves the very life of state sovereignty, local self government, and democracy itself. If there is any merit in Thomas Jefferson's immortal doctrine that, "Acquiescence in the Decisions of the Majority is the Vital Principle of Republics," this is the supreme hour for putting it to the test. If we believe, as Jefferson stated it, in "A jealous care of the right of election by the people," we have a right to demand that our servants who are now called upon to consider this amendment shall not spurn the voice of their constituencies. If any contend that the 24,000 majority against suffrage, on May 24, does not bind them, then they should be willing to find a way to consult their constituencies and refer this important principle to the people for their verdict. It is a commanding duty of the Texas legislature and the governor to trust the people who have honored them, and not violate their judgment just expressed at the ballot box.

One Decision Enough.

It seems that one decision of the voters ought to be sufficient to guide our legislature, but if there is a desire to quibble over the election just held, then the people, the source of all power, are entitled to again deal with this great problem. It is confidently believed that the states which composed the Confederacy, and willingly gave up their sons and fortunes for the preservation of states' rights, will not ratify the federal amendment. Shall Texas be the one state of the South to dishonor, by its action, the memory of those who gave up their lives for this sacred principle, and, in so doing, desert her sister states who joined with her in upholding the tenets of Jefferson, Jackson, Davis and Lee?

We therefore call upon the qualified voters throughout this state to immediately present this question to their respective senators and representatives and charge them to obey their instructions. This can be done by mass meetings, by petitions, by letters and telegrams to their senators and representatives, and in various other ways. To this end we warn the people that the danger is imminent. There is determined effort by many, throughout the state and some in the legislature to thwart their mandate.

We further urge the voters in the various counties of Texas to send strong delegations to Austin on June 23, to express their views, and present their wishes to the governor and legislature. The time is short, and we should arouse ourselves to activity and not allow this amendment, which has been under consideration for more than 40 years, to be rushed through our legislature in defiance of our rights and will. Some have no regard for the popular view and are determined, if within their power, to put action beyond the control of those who vote and have a right to shape the affairs of this state. The time is here when we as citizens should assert our sovereignty and supremacy, which are the source of all governmental power. Some legislators voted to disfranchise the returning soldiers. They should not now go further and vote to disfranchise the people of Texas. We ought to have left at least the right to vote. Let us meet in Austin on June 23 and enter the conflict with the determination to wage it to the end and success.

Should Not Nullify Vote.

Legislators have no more moral right to nullify the will of the people on the suffrage vote than they have to set aside their expression against raising the governor's salary to \$10,000 a year, or to thwart their command that prohibition should be put into effect as indicated by 14,000 majority. Prohibition, the \$10,000 raise and woman suffrage were passed upon by the same voters and their will recorded in the same way and no reasoning can make a distinction.

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