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1626 RHODE ISLAND AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 5, 1919.

My dear President:-

I am writing to you with a feeling of desperation in my heart to urge you not only to be present yourself in St. Louis, but to send a full delegation from your state.

For some states the journey is long and expensive, but it must be remembered that this is always true for some states. The western women have not been treated fairly in the matter, since more often the convention has been held in the East. This has been necessary owing to the fact that we have tried to reach Congress. If it is expensive for your state this time, it has many times been very inexpensive so I beg of you to bear that in mind.

We are certainly in the most crucial and trying period of the entire suffrage movement. Everything, except the Senate, seems to be coming our way. Victories are ours upon every side. To a superficial observer, it would seem that the end of our movement is very nearly at hand. I hope that this is true. There are, however, signs of warning. In every state a little group of reactionary, conservative stand-patters, whether Republicans or Democrats, are fighting hard to get control of the political machines and the political conventions. The wets are now going to make their last desperate fight to secure non-enforcement laws and they will make a struggle more or less successfully to secure the elections of the 1921 legislatures. This year the Anti-Saloon League had elected those legislatures and without a question we could have secured ratification in the necessary number of states. It was partly because this was so well known that the Senate showed such determination not to let the amendment through.

Every war has been followed by an immediate period of radicalism, followed shortly by a corresponding period of conservatism. We must move with great precision and energy now lest we be caught in that slump of public sentiment. For this reason I regard the coming convention as the most imperatively necessary one in all our experience. The wisdom of the conclusions there, will certainly determine the length of time that we must continue the struggle.

I went to my first suffrage convention in 1888 and was disappointed because it was so small. I have never attended a convention since that date which has not disappointed me in point of numbers and fighting qualities. I am going to be down right broken-hearted, if this convention does not come up to the scratch. We are expected to be full of fight. We are expected to make a big, rousing protest against the conditions which have prevailed in Washington and if we do not have numbers from the states to voice that protest, it will be ineffective.

I beg of you find a way to come and to send your full delegation.

Yours cordially,

Carrie Chapman Catt

President