

4/10/1918.

Miss Rose Young
171 Madison Ave Ny.
Dear Miss Young,

In answer to your letter of March 27th to Mrs. Cunningham concerning the lack of authoritative information about the initiation of the Primary Suffrage idea, beg to report I have secured the correct information and present it herewith.

At some period of the winter of 1916 & 17 Judge W.E. Hodges Associate Justice of the Court of Civil Appeals of Texarkana, Texas wrote to Hon. O.S. Lattimore State Senator from Ft. Worth and stated that he believed a law giving women the right to vote in the Primaries would be Constitutional and that he would like to see it taken up. Senator Lattimore states that he thereupon investigated the matter and satisfied himself that it would be Constitutional and so prepared a Bill with that for its object, and introduced it in the regular session of the 35 Legislature in January 1917. This was Senate Bill 242. A favorable report was secured from the committee to which it was referred. Senator Hudspeth the leading anti in the Senate moved to recommit the Bill and it was recommitted. The Bill was brought out of this committee on a minority report but was refused consideration.

From the date of the Regular Session of the 35 Legislature in January 1917 we knew we were going to try for its passage at the next session when it would be possible to get action on it. A special session was called in the summer of 1917 to impeach the Governor but no other Legislation was considered. A special session would be called during the winter of 1917 & 18 we felt sure for many months and had made all plans to lose no time when the opportunity would be offered to secure consideration of our Primary Bill.

Mrs. Cunningham had asked Judge Ocie Speer of Ft. Worth to draft the Bill for us and he did so and rendered an able opinion on the Constitutionality of of the proposed Bill. The Bill before passage was changed and made over by friends who had "ideas" about it and amendments were added when it finally was passed, untill we scarcely recognized it: yet with all we are voters and will endeavor to secure the greatest possible showing in the July Primary elections.

Senator Lattimore states that Senator Riggs of Arkansas wired him for a copy of his original Bill, which was sent and was introduced in the Arkansas Senate and became law.

Trusting this information is satisfactory and with regress that it was so long in forthcoming.

Very truly yours,

Ist. V.P. Texas Eq. Suff. Assn.