

# League of Women Voters Does Not Want Constitution Rewrite

A convention to rewrite Alaska's 10-year-old constitution is neither necessary nor desirable at this time, according to the League of Women Voters of Alaska.

Announcement of the League's position came last week from Mrs. Duane Oliphant, state League president. She said her organization will oppose passage of the constitutional convention referendum during the November general election.

"The League supports the Constitution of the State of Alaska, relying on the amendment process for any needed change between now and 1980 when the question of whether or not there should be a constitutional convention comes before us again in referendum," a position statement declared.

Mrs. Oliphant said local Leagues in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan and Kodiak studied the matter extensively. They found that the Alaska State Constitution meets well the objective of a state constitution.

"It should provide a framework for statutory law; be flexible, concise and adaptable to changing needs; establish the basic functions of the executive, legislative and judicial branches with checks and balances and provide for the protection of group and individual rights."

"Where there are criticisms, such as there frequently are of local government, the problems are not with the constitutional provisions but with the implementation of the provisions," the League stated.

Citing its opposition to a convention at this time, the League observed that the 1955-56 convention was "noteworthy in that public interest in the constitution was widespread, but special interests and lobbies were notably absent. This would not be the case in a convention

held now."

"The many pressure groups lining up to participate in the direction of our state government in this dramatic period would participate in this convention."

Desirable features of the con-

stitution might be replaced with features we will regret when the excitement settles," the League declared.

Other reasons for opposing a convention were the possible astronomical costs and the fact that the constitution has been in

effect only 10 years, "insufficient time to judge and revise institutions still in the evolutionary stages."

"The League finds that the type and nature of proposed amendments, such as introduced in the recent legislature, are pos-

sible within the framework of the existing constitution."

The constitution study was chaired on the state level by Mrs. Howard Staley, who is also president of the Fairbanks League. Locally the study was headed by Mrs. Herman Slotnik.

## KEEP OUR HIGHWAY FLOWING!

Our Alaska Marine Highway . . . it opens our state to the whole world. It provides the vital travel link between our isolated cities in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. It opens up the magnificent Inside Passage to tens of thousands of Alaskan visitors bringing their cars and campers to drive, fly, and go by rail throughout our entire state during their Alaskan vacations. Visitors who spend dollars in virtually every Alaskan community.

Today our ferry liners are operating at full capacity, unable to meet peak demands during our tourist season. Our Marine Highway must keep pace! The proposed Marine Highway Bond Issue granting \$21 million over a four-year period should be a priority

item on your November 3rd ballot. It will provide the needed funds to commission two new Bartlett class vessels with docking facilities to connect smaller communities not now receiving service with the main line. They will also relieve the backlog of peak season passenger delay at the critical main-line segments. The Alaska Marine Highway Bond also provides for urgent lengthening of our three Malaspina class vessels and past-due renovations. Car deck capacity will be expanded by 20%.

These improvements will return an additional half million dollars per ship in revenues each year, with the entire \$21 million recovered from revenues in nine years.

Keep our Marine Highway flowing.

## VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 10 (Ferry Bond Issue) NOV. 3

### Hoonah Housing Project Done

JUNEAU—The Hoonah housing project is now completed and the homes are occupied, the office of Governor Keith H. Miller announced.

The 15 three-bedroom homes were built at a cost of \$320,000 in a cooperative venture of Federal, State, and local governments.

The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development furnished funds for building materials and tools in a contract with the Alaska State Housing Authority.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs paid administrative and supervisory costs and organized the participating Hoonah residents into work crews for construction of the homes.

The U.S. Public Health Service funded the installation of sewer and water utilities, and the City of Hoonah and the BIA extended electrical power into the project area.

Construction work started on the homes in the fall of 1968 and continued until the spring of 1969 when the operation was halted so that participants could fish through the summer.

ASHA then completed the project on a force-account basis using local residents and some imported craftsmen.

These houses are all of wood frame construction with piling foundations and composition roofing. Each house has 960 square feet of floor space.

All have the same basic plan, but vary in appearance through the use of different porch configurations, siding arrangements, and painting schemes.



*Paid for by friends of the Marine Highway Committee, Phil Zarro, Chairman.*