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Date	Place	Subject	Interviewer
Jan. 30, 1971	Engle Home	woman suffrage	M. Cutler
Feb. 6, 1971	Engle Home	abolishing 4d	P. Lesure
Feb. 12, 1971	Engle Home	woman suffrage	M. Cutler
Feb. 27, 1971	Engle Home	abolishing 4d	P. Lesure
March 13, 1971	Engle Home	abolishing 4d	P. Lesure

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WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE AND START OF LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Lavinia Engle

Suffragist
Member of the General Assembly
Civic Leader

by

Marty Cutler

January 30, 1971

for

The Marie Bennett Library of Local History

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There are five (5) interviews with Miss Engle: I January 30, 1971
II February 6, 1971
III February 12, 1971
IV February 27, 1971
V March 13, 1971

The biographical information appears in Interview I.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON LAVINIA ENGLE

BIRTHPLACE:

Forest Glen, Montgomery County, Maryland
May 23, 1892

RESIDENCE:

500 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland

EDUCATION:

B.A., Antioch College
Graduate study: Johns Hopkins University. First woman graduate student in Political Science; also studied Constitutional and administrative law, public finance and economics.

PARENTS:

Father was James Melvin Engle, first person appointed by Civil Service Commission from West Virginia (to Treasury Department)

Mother was Lavinia Hauke Engle

Grandparents: Hauke, both maternal grandparents were members of the Society of Friends

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Field Organizer for the National American Woman's Suffrage Association—1913-1921

Overseas during World War I—YWCA Canteen Service 1917-1918

Director of Maryland League of Women Voters after the 1921 Woman's Suffrage Convention when League of Women Voters was formed—1920-1936

U.S. Social Security Administration—assigned by Frank Bain, Executive Director, to assist in the organization of Social Security Field Service—1936-1964. Director of Social Security Division of Field Service—1940's to 1970

PUBLIC OFFICE:

Member of House of Delegates, Maryland General Assembly—1929-1933

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

League of Women Voters of Maryland (office in Baltimore)—organized county League (units in Baltimore City and in the state counties)—Montgomery County in 1921-22. (Miss Engle's mother was first president of Montgomery County LWV).

- Montgomery County was first to finish "Know Your County"—written by Mrs. Engle and Miss Engle

- National League of Women Voters Convention was held in Baltimore in 1922 at invitation of Maryland LWV

Montgomery County Welfare Board—Chairman, Montgomery County Public Welfare from late '20's to early '30's

Democratic Campaign Committee for Franklin Delano Roosevelt—1932
Chairman, Women Speakers Bureau

Order of Women Legislators (OWL) member
American Political Science Association

Biographical Information on Lavinia Engle (continued)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: (continued)

Maryland Commission on Reorganization of Executive Department--
Governor Ritchie--1920-1924

Chairman of the Maryland State Planning Commission--1930's

Member of the Commission on the Chesapeake and Potomac - pollution
by oil-burning ships

Association of Public Administration for this region--past chairman

Consumer's League--Board of Directors

Montgomery County Commission on Aging--

served on former Committee on Health and Medical Services for Aged

served on successor group as representative of Consumer's League

Member of the Board of the National Consumer's League

SPECIAL HONORS AND AWARDS:

"Who's Who" - Marquis--since 1950's (?) to present

"International Women of Achievement Who's Who" - 1970 (?)

Civil Service Award by the Civil Service Commission for
Administrative Service

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INTERVIEW WITH LAVINIA ENGLE

January 30, 1971

MS. CUTLER: January 30, 1971, at the home of Lavinia Engle, 500 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Let's start with the year you were born, if you don't mind, and where.

MS. ENGLE: Well, I was born May 23, 1892, here at Forest Glen in Montgomery County. Our home was a home which my father and mother bought a few years before, which was, in part, a Summer home, although while we were young children before we entered school, we frequently spent the entire year there.

My grandparents' home, after their death, was our Winter home in Washington. We came to Montgomery County in part because my grandfather had a client in Montgomery County and had been out here and visited in her place. His client was rather interesting. It was Miss Nancy Carroll, and the place we bought was adjoining Carroll Springs, the house was just being built.

The home at Carroll's where Miss Nancy had lived was the home of a member of the Carroll's family, Archbishop Carroll, and the other Carrolls of distinction in Maryland.

Miss Nancy was interesting because she was a Clerk in one of our Washington Federal offices at the time of the Civil War, and was a woman who had a great deal of interest in history. And, also in planning, she had a keen management mind, and it was she who designed the plan of the Army of the Potomac which ended the War.

When she had drawn the design of the general project, she submitted it to the officers of the Union Army and the Secretary of Defense—Secretary of War it was then. They took it and congratulated her on her achievement but said, "Miss

Carroll, it would be disastrous to the morale of the Army to know that a woman had planned this particular military advance."

And they said after the War, and President Lincoln who interviewed her told her, "After the War what you have done would be recognized, and you will be rewarded." And then Lincoln was shot, and the Department of the Army was not anxious to recognize Miss Carroll.

She was an older woman, growing older, and you don't have much from an income as one of the clerks in a public office in that day. So, she attempted to push her claim and my grandfather became her attorney.

Well, this was rather the usual thing for my grandfather because he had also represented Dr. Mary Walker. And, you may not know of her, but she was the woman physician who acted as a medical physician in the Army in the field during the War—the Union Army—and because she couldn't wear hoop skirts while she was caring for the ill in a military field hospital, she wore pants and a little coat.

Well, there was a law against women wearing men's clothes. And, also, she was one who had never received any pay for her services, and she was not a wealthy woman, so Grandfather represented her. He was able to not only get her the pay that was due to her, but also a very handsome recognition by the United States Congress and permission to wear men's clothing whenever she pleased.

She thereupon always wore—she was a little bit of a woman—very conservative clothes. But, I can remember well, at Forest Glen she always came out to my mother's home, my father's home, for the Fourth of July. She would get off the train, and later, the streetcar at the Forest Glen station attired in a little, very subdued coat and pants, and shirt and tie, and all the small boys in the neighborhood would gather around and come up to the house. We then had our individual Fourth of July.

I will never forget the day when she arrived with an American Flag of some size on a pole over her shoulder. She thought the flag that we had put out had not been large enough. She was trailed by, I would say, somewhere like 15 or 20 small boys. That was one of the events of the year!

So with that sort of an interesting Montgomery County, Grandfather had come out and looked it over, and advised the purchase of his home.

So only my oldest brothers were born in Washington. All the rest of us six Engles were born out in Forest Glen and grew up there.

When we were small we had a governess because there were no schools here. The first school in the neighborhood was a little school at Forest Glen, well it's down from St. John's Church. The building was not made into a house—I haven't been over there recently—but I think it's still there.

My mother had been a teacher. She was one of the first graduates of what is now Wilson College. I have, as a matter of fact, her records for that. It includes, they used to call it "oration" at the commencement ceremonies, and the names of all the girls, and who they were, and everything about them.

She went down and looked over the situation there. The first teacher was a medical student downtown. He was going to night school and came out and taught. She decided that wasn't exactly what she wanted for us, so we continued with her and a governess and when we reached an age when she thought it was desirable that we go into a school, we went into Washington for the winter and attended the Washington schools, with her addition of the sort of things she felt we should have.

This was a very little village. It was suburban, and yet not suburban. We had about eight acres, Dr. Wright had forty. Old St. John's is one of the historic churches. The Carroll's parents are buried up in that graveyard. There were other places. There was a little inn that was back of the church, and over where the Army Medical Complex is now located, was the old Forest Inn,

a very large hotel. People in Washington came out to the country and they built up Forest Inn and also the little Glen Manor, that was the one over back of the Catholic church.

Then, a New England school teacher and her husband came down and opened up her own school there. That was a rather well known girls' school—National Park Seminary. She had introduced it in the neighborhood where my mother and Mrs. George Wright were the only women who had gone beyond finishing school. Mother had graduated at Wilson College, it was then The Washington Normal School, and Mrs. Wright at the University of Chicago.

This finishing school was definitely a finishing school. Eventually Mrs. Cassidy and her husband went after the girls' wealthy families where money was recently made in oil or something like that, and she conducted a school that taught these girls how to entertain, how to serve, how to dress.

She made quite a point of having the young men from the Diplomatic service come out to dances and parties there. These girls, whose families, at the price they charged then, had to come from families of considerable income. And, they went into Washington to all sorts of public affairs.

So the educational level was not too high, with the result that a great many of the women in the community who wanted a better education organized clubs.

The one that my mother and Mrs. Wright helped to organize was the [Old] Home Interest Club. It ran for many years and it was their work that got Woodside School, which was the first graded public school in the area. One man gave the land, and the women there raised the first money that was spent for it, and then the County came in and established it.

So, another phase of the activities grew out of the interest of my family. My mother's people are Quakers, and Grandfather was a Hicksite, which meant that he was one of reform and a Unitarian. Grandmother was Orthodox and a Trinitarian, so we ended up in the Episcopal church.

But the Sandy Springs Group is a Friends settlement, and Friends have always worked for woman's suffrage. They believe that human life is an emanation of the spiritual life of that which we call by various names, God. And, that men and women are equally sharers of this spiritual life and beginning, and consequently, there was no reason to discriminate against them.

So they organized a very active [local] group of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, which was headed and organized by Susan B. Anthony, and headed by her until she died. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt led this Association to final victory in 1920, when the Federal Amendment was ratified.

In the period after Miss Anthony organized this National Suffrage Association, and up to the time that the Federal Amendment was ratified, seventeen states had granted state suffrage to women. So that was the political lever that finally got the Suffrage Amendment through.

So you see, this was a community of rather active men and women, a rather unusually active group of women who worked for better schools, for equal suffrage. They had nature classes and many of them were interested in parks and in developing things that made community a home place, and a livable place for children and adults.

In this particular setting, most of us of my age grew up as ardent advocates of a good many advanced things, including woman's suffrage. We had a great many interesting meetings in the County and in the State because the Maryland State Organization was a very strong one.

When I graduated from college—I had my first degree from Antioch College—I came home and expected to either teach or do something in that field. Dr. Shaw asked my mother if she would not be willing that I should go with the suffrage association as one of their field organizers.

Fresh out of college and completely sure, I suppose, that I could do anything if I put my hand and head to it, I became a field organizer and after Jeanette Rankin left the Suffrage Association position she held to run for Congress, I was field secretary of the National Suffrage Association and did that work and held that position until the amendment was ratified.

Several years before the Suffrage Amendment was ratified, when a number of states had granted state suffrage, it was quite clear that our Federal Amendment quite soon would really be adopted.

Some of those sessions in Congress were really delightful. I think it too bad in history that we always, or sometimes, stick to the factual data and you miss some of the colorful and delightful episodes that went through it.

MS. CUTLER: Tell us some of them.

MS. ENGLE: Well, one of the bitter opponents to woman's suffrage was Senator Heflin from Alabama. Heflin was famous for two things: one was his flowing oratory which was of the old school and very flowery, and the other was his capacity for bourbon.

At one of the hearings when my mother and I were present, Dr. Shaw had been speaking and giving the reasons why we believed that women should be allowed to vote in the United States, as women were people. Senator Heflin had delivered a passionate opposition to the Amendment and then had wound up with gestures and saying to the Senators, "Why, gentlemen, women are meant for the home. Women should stay in the home and care for the family. Consider the birds of the air. There is the little hornbill. Now the little male hornbill and the female hornbill, when they decide that it is nesting time, they go and look in the trees and pick out a place where a nest could be built, and they build their nest in part with twigs and with grass and then they use clay to hold it together. When it is finished, the little female goes into the nest and the little male hornbill

walls up the nest so there is nothing left but a tiny hole through which she can put her beak and breathe. She stays there while he goes out and brings cherries to feed her while she sits on the eggs. Gentlemen, this is the perfect answer to the relationship between the head of the family and the little wife."

Dr. Shaw, who was quite tiny (she's just a little over five feet tall and she had a round pink face and snow-white hair and a keen sense of humor and a way of presenting her facts without appearing to be humorous), clasped her hands and said to the presiding officer, "Oh, Senator, might I ask the Senator from Alabama a question?" "Certainly, Dr. Shaw." "Oh, Senator," she said, "what do you suppose would happen if the little male hornbill found a brandy cherry?"

Well, the entire room full of Senators went into screams of laughter. Heflin turned purple in the face. The next day the headlines in the paper were not "Senator Heflin Delivers," but "Dr. Shaw Punctures Sam."

It was, I think, the suffrage campaign, had a sense of—a profound sense of values. But at all times among that group of women with whom I worked, there was a sense of humor, of a love of life of fellow man as well as fellow woman, and a gaiety about the thing, that was very fine to remember.

It was never a dour campaign. It was never bitter. There were no attacks. Dr. Shaw said to me once when I was in my early stages giving woman's suffrage speeches throughout the country, "Lavinia, never try to convince a person that he or she should come to your point of view. Find a point on which you mutually agree and then move the point."

Well, you know that is the essence of good public relations. Well, it is that type of thing. So I started out with my career as a field organizer and field secretary going into the states when a state amendment was pending, and speaking. The first trip I made was to North Carolina.

Dr. Shaw said that we had letters from two women in North Carolina who sound as if they might be interested in organizing a State Suffrage Association. One of them is a Mrs. Henderson, the other is a Mrs. Daniels.

So I went down to North Carolina and, sure enough, Mrs. Henderson was the wife of Dr. Archibald Henderson, a very distinguished mathematician who insisted in writing theatrical reviews and eventually had been in England with his wife writing the life of Bernard Shaw. She had been very much impressed with what the English suffrages were doing. This is before they went militant.

The other one was Mrs. Josephus Daniels, the wife of the editor of the Raleigh News and Observer and later the Secretary of the Navy.

They were a very rare pair. We had local meetings throughout the state and had a statewide meeting at which Dr. Shaw was the speaker and organized a state organization, which was a very active one. Now, we did that in every state. I think we had almost universal coverage when the Suffrage Amendment was finally submitted.

In 1920 the Amendment was finally ratified by the last state needed. That last year we had a group of five of us out going into the states working for ratification. That was when I became the head of the group as Field Secretary. It was a dramatic period because you had bitter opposition and you had magnificent support from both men and women.

Several years before, I started to say, at one of our National Conventions, the question had come up as to what we will do when the Amendment was ratified, to make sure that women had the sort of background and knowledge to use their vote most effectively.

A committee was appointed who reported at the next Convention that they had decided that we should organize a League of Women Voters, whose main objective should be to teach the women—they themselves teaching their own group—the things

they needed to know to be effective citizens, and that this organization should be non-partisan, but should encourage women to go into the political parties and work, and should endorse legislation in the social and other fields, and work for various things in the state and Federal Congress.

When the Suffrage Amendment was ratified, the last Convention was held in Chicago in 1920, and the National Organization was called together, the officers made their final reports, and then they adjourned for a gala banquet at which there were many distinguished speakers. At the end of the room, it was in the Congress Hotel in Chicago—the Gold Room—was a big oval picture frame. A woman from each state that had ratified suffrage, beginning with Wyoming, as a state matter, came a woman dressed in the costume of that period; and she came and made a brief statement of the state, and how and why it had been done. It was really a beautiful picture and a very exciting evening.

MS. CUTLER: Did you have a part in the program?

MS. ENGLE: Well, I was the secretary working on what we were doing and getting the registration of the delegates. My mother was there and she was active. She had been very active, and Mrs. Charlie Ellicott, who was the first President of the State Suffrage Association—President of the State Suffrage Association there, and our first State President of the League of Women Voters.

So, the meeting had a good deal of business to carry out. They had assets and they had many things that remained to be done to close up the various things, so they adjourned and the next morning we convened to organize the League of Women Voters. The committee that had been working presented their report as to what the League should be, and a slate as to the initial officers. The Suffrage Association, the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, turned over to the League their assets, enough money to really start them and get them going, and their records.

MS. CUTLER: Do you recall about how much money?

MS. ENGLE: How's that?

MS. CUTLER: You recall about how much money?

MS. ENGLE: No, but eventually Mrs. Catt turned over to them the sum that had been left her by one of the Suffragists^{ists} which amounted, well it had been initially over a half-million dollars. There were other

assets of considerable size, legacies that had been left, and the money Mrs. Catt left from which she first held the meeting on the Cause, or several meetings, the Cause and Cure of War, which you see we were just coming out of World War I and the League was very active in that and had a very strong international committee.

These meetings discussed the social and economic problems that brought about wars. They discussed a great many of the things of that sort.

Then we had, I think, a very interesting international aspect. In 1922, when the National League of Women Voters was planning its convention...I better go back and say...the women in that meeting who were the suffrage leaders then went back to their states and organized their state Leagues of Women Voters. And, in a very short time, we had pretty well covered the United States with sometimes rather small groups, but sometimes quite large ones.

Then they met the second year, I think...I know it was in the East, but I don't remember just where. But in 1922, they had written to the states asking what would you make the theme of this convention now, and where would we hold it. Well, Maryland invited them to meet in Baltimore, and they accepted the invitation.

Then Maryland suggested that as we were now emerging from a war that had torn the world apart terrifically, that we should try something that would be a measure of bringing women together in international life. We proposed a conference of the women of all the Americas to be held as a part of the program of the National League of Women Voters Conference.

Well, we got a letter back saying that it was a grand idea; they'd love to do it. But, if we were to hold that sort of a meeting it would be almost necessary without words to help to finance the delegates from other countries, as there were not many women's organizations and we did not want just a group of wealthy women, and they were afraid they couldn't afford it.

Well, Mrs. Ellicott, who was our President and a very good organizer and financier, had very cagily organized what we called our Advisory Committee of the State League of Women Voters, and it was a committee of both men and women. They not only advised on finances, and were very generous in raising money, but also they taught programs and things of that sort.

When Mrs. Ellicott reported that the National League thought the idea was good but couldn't afford it, one of the members was Mr. George Shriver, Senior Vice President of the B & O Railroad. Another one was Dr. William Welsh, head of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Hygiene. And another one was the President of the Grace Steamship Lines.

These men put their heads together and said, "Mrs. Ellicott, you know that's a good idea. It would be good as a program or project, it would be good for better feeling between all of our American countries, and it would be good for the state, it would be good for our city."

"Now," they said, "how much do you think it would cost?" She said, "Well, they said it would mean adding \$20 to \$25 thousand more to their budget for it." And they said, "Why, we'll raise it!" And, by jinx, they did!

They not only raised it, but Grace Steamship Lines gave courtesy travel to all of the women where their ships went so that they could come without paying any fare. And the B & O Railroad issued passes to them to go anywhere in the United States.

We had women from every Central and South American country. A sort of coup de grace was when Mrs. Ellicott and Mr. Charlie Woodruff and I went down to Annapolis to invite Governor Ritchie, who was always very, very nice to the women, and very helpful. We invited him to be the speaker—one of the speakers—at one of our dinner sessions. And when we told him about the meeting, he said, "Well you know, ladies, I think that the Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes would be interested in that."

Governor Ritchie had been in Washington during the war as the General Counsel for the War Industries Board, and he knew the political group there.

Mrs. Ellicott said, "Oh, Governor, we couldn't get near him to talk to him." "Oh," he said, "I'll take you over." So with the Governor's car and the State Police, the group went over to see the Secretary of State, and he liked the idea. He said, "Well, you know, ladies, this is a wonderful idea and I will have our diplomatic representatives in the countries present your invitations." And furthermore, he had a great many things he could add as to ways of financing it.

So we really did have quite a program. And it was followed with meetings in Latin America, where people like Dr. Mary Wilhelmina Williams (who was the head of the History Department at Goucher), and a great many—Elizabeth Enochs (who was with the Children's Bureau), went to Latin America for all sorts of things, and they built up a very, very warm relationship.

And, just now, I am trying to push the National League into having the 1972 Fiftieth Anniversary—and again, they don't think they can afford it. Well, I think the Government would be interested in that, and I think at this time with our tense relations...when we went back after...to the...to go back... Secretary Hughes, after the meeting wrote congratulating us, and he had been over and attended one session, and he said that he would like to talk over the meeting with us.

When we went over he said, "Ladies, you know, we were happy to extend any courtesy to our newly enfranchised women citizens, but," he said, "we had no idea that meeting would be as effective as it was." He said, "You know, we think here at the State Department it was the most effective piece of good international relations that we have seen in the last fifty years."

"Now, how do you explain it," said he. Mrs. Ellicott said, "Well, you know, Mr. Secretary, we had no controversial points. We had programs that dealt with child welfare, with education, with placing women in their political and social structure." She said, "We dealt with interests that were of common interest." And he said, "There, you put your finger on it."

And, it was shortly after that that he sent our first woman envoy down to visit. They didn't make them ambassadors or even assistants then. He sent several women down to countries where they were experts in...the women were in educational projects or things of that sort. And, I think that type of international cooperation is something the League could very well do a great deal more with.

The meeting was truly a landmark and it had quite interesting follow-up. Many of those women came up here to study -- Dr. Berta Lutz of Brazil, who became the head of the Brazilian Museum (which was somewhat like our Smithsonian), and other women who were very very interesting. And, American women went down there. Well, the international program, I think, still is tremendously important and I don't think we have ever done enough to really talk problems of common interest.

MS. CUTLER: Are there records of that meeting?

MS. ENGLE: Oh, yes. They'd be in the National League of Records. And I think we ought to follow through on it; in fact, I'm going to go back and talk it over with the Head of the Overseas Education

League, which is the money that Mrs. Catt gave that started that.

Well, it was...the early League days, and this one thing I don't think our present women who have proposed this Federal Amendment saying there would be no distinction between men and women without trying to do a little clarification of what they are talking about. The first years the pledge of the League of Women Voters, our major problem was securing civil rights for women, and dealing with problems in which a woman was a great disadvantage because of special legislation that made it...a woman could not...a married woman in many states could not collect her own wages. Her services were her husband's and he collected the wages.

And this was not only true, it was actually done. She did not have a legal right to the control of her own children, they were his children. She...when she married her property became his, and she had only those rights that were protected where there was a marriage settlement.

Now this was true more in the states where statute law followed the common law of the country of our origin. And I think quite frequently this emphasis on a broad, over-all covering statement—there's no difference, or there shall be this—has to be spelled out in terms of the statutes of that statement, and of the court's decision.

Now when we came to face that in the years in which we had a group of women lawyers working on the problem of establishing a status for women which protected her rights, suffrage was the key, because there we had political power. But the legal statutes were not covered by that and we found that here in the Eastern states, the Eastern seaboard, our laws were based on the English laws, and many of our statutes were the English Commonlaw written into statute law.

You got up in the northern part of New England, and there you had the French influence. Our northern states spoke more French, two of them, than they did

English, and their laws were heavily emphasized by the French law. This was true in New Orleans.

You had some German effect in certain parts, not as much; and then your whole West is Spanish. And when you get into defining either the law of inheritance, or the law that affects marriage, marriage relations, you are dealing with a pattern in the United States that is not uniform, either as to statute, as to custom, or as to judicial decision.

One of our laws here in Maryland that I think is one of our humorous stories, although it had aspects that were far from humorous -- we had a statute in Maryland which derived from English Commonlaw, and the statute read that proven unchastity of the wife is grounds for divorce, and that meant he had to introduce nothing else. That law had been used as the basis of blackmail for women who had financial interest and money, and the husband either did not, or wanted what he could get of hers.

And there were several very scandalous cases in which women had been forced to just--rather than have this brought out as a charge against them in court--to really pay for it very heavily.

So, we sent down a bill to repeal this--one of the first bills we introduced--and it never got out of committee. Nor all the lobbying we could do could dislodge that bill. So the next year, we sent it down again, and we couldn't dislodge. So the third year, we put our heads together and we sent down a bill. And we were discussing with the Chairman of the committee to which these bills would go what our bills were, and the interests, and so forth; and the Clerk of the committee was leaking them through, and he lifted his head and said, "Ho-ho-ho, Miss Lavinia, here's good, old, proven unchastity again; aren't you ever going to get tired of sending that down here to sleep all during the session?"

I said, "Well, I don't know, this is a different bill, it adds, it rather..." I said, "it amends the bill." "Oh, well," he said, "now, if you're just making a minor change, we might be able to do something for you." And he took the bills and went back to his office.

Sometime thereafter, he came in with his eyes popping and said to the Chairman of the committee, "Do you know what they've done? Do you know what she's done?" pointing at me. And I looked like a cat that swallowed the cream, and said, "Why, we just struck out a few words." "Yes," he said, "and do you know what words?" "Well," I said, "you thought it was a good bill." "Yes," he said to the Chairman, "what she struck out was 'of the wife'."

(Laughter)

"Well," I said, "you know, if it's a good bill it ought to apply to both." And the Chairman and the men on the committee laughed heartily, although they weren't too pleased. And I said...this is what one of them said, "Well, you know, we have enough votes pledged in the committee to bring that to public hearing."

Shortly thereafter Governor Ritchie said to me, "You know, Miss Lavinia, I think the boys are saying, 'Don't shoot, Lavinia, we'll come down'."

(Laughter)

They were killed.

MS. CUTLER: Yes, I understand.

MS. ENGLE: But really, you know, that was. But, you know, that was the type of thing you fought. Now, there was a bunch of decent men who had, over several years, refused to even bring to a vote a bill that was an insult to the women of this city. Well, we got rid of it.

MS. CUTLER: Finally, eh? Can we go back and pick up on some things that you talked about? You mentioned in your early days in Washington and in Montgomery County travelling back and forth from Montgomery County to Washington--was there any public transportation then?

MS. ENGLE: Well, the B & O Railroad.

MS. CUTLER: Is that how people travelled back and forth?

MS. ENGLE: Yes, the B & O Railroad stopped at Forest Glen and at Silver Spring and took on all the people who went down town to work. And, otherwise, you drove your horse and buggy. Then later, and fairly early, the Transit Company came out and we had the street car, which came to Forest Glen. And...but the B & O was very good because you had a...this was before the big new station was built, and Mount Royal Station was in the central part...it wasn't Mount Royal—that's the Baltimore one...but the B & O station was down, well, where the old market used to be, and it was very convenient; you got off really in the middle of town. Then, of course, there were street cars in town, so you got along very well.

MS. CUTLER: I see.

MS. ENGLE: But it...it was several years, quite a few years before the street cars came out. And we drove and rode our horses all over Montgomery County.

MS. CUTLER: If you want to go from one point in the County to another point in the County, or from here to Baltimore, did you also use the train?

MS. ENGLE: Well, there was no other place in the County you could go. You rode your horse or you drove your buggy.

MS. CUTLER: Yes.

MS. ENGLE: But you had...the B & O...you went into Washington and took the B & O to Baltimore.

MS. CUTLER: Oh, I see. You talked about the Home Interest Club that your mother had...

MS. ENGLE: Yes.

MS. CUTLER: Could you tell me what the women did?

MS. ENGLE: Well, we were a County with a great many women's clubs by the end of that period, in the '20's and '30's, and had a Federation of

Women's Clubs that was quite strong. Now the Home Interest was organized by ^{thirty} ~~thirty~~ women in Forest Glen, Linden, Woodland, and that immediate area, and they were...they met, I think, it was once a month, and then it became once every two weeks—I am not sure of that—but they met for lunch and they took up social and civic problems. They talked about things to do for the young people in the community, they talked about school, and developed programs, and they had a luncheon to serve to these thirty women and the hostess was not permitted to spend more than \$3 for the lunch. And, at the end of the lunch she had to submit her expense account, and if she had spent more than \$3, she was fined. (Laughter) And some of the lunches served were really quite...I would say, good.

Mrs. Getty served a lunch in the Fall when she served sliced turkey, and the women all enjoyed it, and they said to her, "Now, alright, but we are going to fine you for this." "Oh, no you aren't," she said. "You only ate the breast and the family ate turkey hash for a week." (Laughter) Of course, it was around turkey...

Mrs. Cassidy, who was the wife of the Vice President of the National Park Seminary, always entertained and each...and that was really quite an event, because either the girls presented a musical program, or they had something like that. Every meeting, either a member of the club or a visiting speaker talked about something. I remember one—oh, what was the name of the teacher who developed back in the '30's and '40's a lot of the progressive education? And she made quite a hit. Oh, was it Marsha Davenport? I've forgotten.

My mother, after...following the meeting would...she usually had a good sense of humor, considered doing this...was asked to write a paper on Voltaire, who had been one of the sources of Miss Davenport's modern educational concepts. And mother began her paper by speaking of Voltaire, that strange and interesting genius who could develop such wonderful things for children, and deserted his own children...

MS. CUTLER: Oh, yes.

MS. ENGLE: ...to grow up in poverty because they were illegitimate.

(Laughter)

Well, the Club then discussed the paper and it generally related to some problem that they were interested in. Or Mrs. Cox was an artist of considerable ability, and she had done some beautiful etchings of the community. And she had mixed a bit of those.

Mrs. Wright, being a doctor's wife, would have something on the medical side, some new thing that had been developed in the field of medical care of children, or of women, or something. It was to give some area of interest outside of just your housework.

MS. CUTLER: Yes, well now, you were a youngster at this time...

MS. ENGLE: Oh, yes.

MS. CUTLER: You were allowed to participate?

MS. ENGLE: Oh, no. We didn't participate. No, the Home Interest really finally folded up because they never wanted to take in the younger women.

But we had our eyes on it. My mother and Mrs. Wilson, who was one of the members, came home...to our home at Forest Glen...her youngsters and my sisters and I had been at home and we would play on the porch. And one of the girls—that was Raye—there were three Wilsons and there were three Engles, we had six little girls around...but I think it was Raye who when they came home and they said, "What have you children been doing?" "Oh, we've organized a club." And they said, "Oh, fine, who's the chairman or who's the president?" Oh, she was the president and one of the rest was vice—two or three vice presidents—and the other was the secretary, corresponding and that, and sitting in the middle of the floor was Anna, now the wife of Dexter Bullard, the head of Chestnut Lodge, a mental institution.

Anna was about three and she was sitting solidly down there sucking her thumb and Raye pointed to her and said, "Oh, Anna is the club."

(Laughter)

So, well, those were lots of children and a community. That...one of the girls in the League [League of Women Voters] said something to me that shocked me. We were talking about some of the legislation and she was speaking of state aid and the other project was the state taking over the schools and running them as a state system that would be uniform everywhere.

Well, I said I couldn't buy that...that a uniform system would have to not only meet the needs, but set a standard that would be met in the wishes of the people that would differ from place to place. That when we had set up the first in Ritchie's administration, when our schools were at a very low ebb, there really hadn't been good public schools, he brought in Columbia University and they made a study of the schools that then existed and a recommended plan.

And we also took them on separately and made a detailed study for Montgomery County. And we were, at that time, actively working for getting a more modern approach to the business of county government.

Governor Ritchie instituted the first state program in the United States by which, when a county...by which there was established a standard program which was the minimum that a county was...could put in, that could not run schools that fell below that standard.

But when they taxed up to the amount that they could tax, on a uniform basis throughout the state, because he set up a uniform assessment basis, also, then the state paid the difference between what they could afford and what was the required standard. And that is still the state law.

And I said I think what you need to do is to raise your required standard, but not to say that no state...no county can go beyond that because then you

have...well, here in Montgomery County we have always gone far beyond that, and also, in Montgomery County when we started the reorganization of the county government and established at that time, we were establishing this higher standard of public education and also a county police force, and other county services, and the decision was made...at that time the upper end of the County was all big farms.

MS. CUTLER: Now, what year are we talking about now?

MS. ENGLE: What?

MS. CUTLER: What year are we talking about?

MS. ENGLE: This was in the '20's. And the decision was made at those meetings, which were meetings of representatives from all over the County, that all services would be uniform as it applied to the whole county. The county schools, if they were to be raised to a certain standard, would be the same up in Poolsville and up in Darnestown as they were in Silver Spring and Bethesda.

We would not have a wealthy section of the County provide better education. Now it's true that if you had a demand for more...for additional courses because more children down here were going to college than you might have in the later-to-be-developed high schools...at that time we all went downtown to high school, down to...of, there was one on the...I can't even remember the name of the place... one big high school, and then the Takoma High School was our first, and the Rockville High School.

MS. CUTLER: Which one did you attend?

MS. ENGLE: I...we went in town, I went to the city schools.

MS. CUTLER: Yes, which city high school did you attend?

MS. ENGLE: Oh, I attended Eastern.

MS. CUTLER: Eastern?

MS. ENGLE: Yes, our home, you see, was on Massachusetts Avenue, up on Capitol Hill.

So, anyway, the...how did we get off on this? What did you ask me?

MS. CUTLER: Well, we were talking about the development of the various services in the County, and education.

MS. ENGLE: Yes, it was a development that was...oh yes, it was county-wide. And I said we felt that the entire County community should share in any improvement.

And one of the girls said, "You know, I never thought of Montgomery County as a community." Well, you know, it is a community to those who have lived here for any length of time. And there is a sense of pride and of responsibility. Also, we were very sparsely settled then and we knew people all over the County a great deal more than you do now; and any of our special events were pretty well county-wide. So that you had...

MS. CUTLER: What sort of special event?

MS. ENGLE: Well, if there was to be a big Fourth of July party--in those days you celebrated with a Fourth of July party with an orator, ice cream (laughter), picnic lunch, and all that sort of thing.

We had community dances. There were two houses in this part of the County that had ballrooms. One of them was Mrs. Wilson's, whose home eventually was the base for a private school. The other one was Mrs. -- it starts with a "D", I'll think of it in a minute -- whose home was over in Bethesda. And her son was one of the boys in the community who -- and her grandson was the one who was on the -- with the march when in World War II, when they had to evacuate the -- it was in the Philippines -- in a minute I'll think of it -- and the parties over at the National Park.

There were two boys in the Testy family who were of the age of my two brothers (two, my older two of my three brothers), and during the summer we had

the run of the tennis courts, and later the gymnasium, and also of the little theater, (the Odeon), And we produced remarkable plays (laughter). A play—we gave Romeo and Juliet, with Brush Leggett as Romeo—I'm sure that John Barrymore could have learned from his presentation. (Laughter)

We gave Mid-Summer Night's Dream out on the lawn at Carroll Springs (Dr. Wright's home), and children participated from all over the county, and people came down and attended it.

As you grow, of course, as communities...now one of our oldest communities is Sandy Springs..and Sandy Springs had, and I think still has, the oldest women's club as such in the United States. And it was...it was called the Neighbors, and they met from house to house and they told of what they had developed in the way of new household methods, or a new dish that they were doing, or the men would come in with a new...they were the first place in this area to grow potatoes with artificial fertilizer. And things like that, you see.

The County has an interesting history in the Sandy Springs area, in the Forest Glen-Linden area, and a very interesting one in the upper end of the County, where our county there adjoins Jefferson County, West Virginia, which was one of the Virginia counties which would not secede, and stayed with the Union. My father's people are from there, so he knew. His family had a Fairfax Grant in that county and only in my lifetime was it finally...certain members of the family own part of the land now, but the big farm was sold.

In fact, B & O Railroad had it condemned because they were going to put a spur up the ~~river~~—and my father's land there was on the river—called Potomac View. And they fought it, but...they...it was thought the railroad was more important.

And then after they had torn down the house and everything, why, they decided to go elsewhere. But the...this was the first house built (the brick house is

still standing, is still owned by the family), but it's...you...that is, I suppose that sense of community to that extent is watered down when you have a very large group, and much more so when you have a large group, many of whom go into Washington to work, or are not local in their interests in many ways.

And as we have more things that come out in the County where people work here, we have now many Federal establishments that come out here, I think there'll be more of a sense of community grow up.

Well, our clubs were county-wide--County Federation of Women's Clubs, the County Grange, or other of the men's clubs, and...

MS. CUTLER: What...what was the relationship between the black community and the white community? Was it typically Southern? Was it...

MS. ENGLE: It was, of course, when you say "typically," some Southern was very different. I think ours was conditioned by the fact that the Quakers were always abolitionists. And the Quakers had a very, very liberal attitude toward all things that were racial.

And then there was also the fact that they were families you knew. My father's people were slave owners although my...his father was opposed to slavery, and he and his brother who went with the Union Army, had said to their slaves, Now this is a part of an economy where you are developing new land, and it's...it's past that. And their slaves...were freed, and some of them long before that.

It was considered a disgrace to sell a slave you had--or to buy one, unless it was some reason to get a person out of trouble. And I can remember when my father--when my mother was having Wright (she had, you see, seven children, six of whom lived; it was a handful, and my father's mother had died during the Civil War largely from malnutrition, due to the fact that Jefferson County was raided by all armies, and the Union Army had practically wiped out their food supplies.)

And she had a maid—her own personal maid, who was a colored girl, was born the same year that she was, had been her playmate as a child, had grown up with her and been her personal maid, and the nurse in the family. And when she was dying, she said, "Oh, Lou, Lou, my little boy..." (she had five sons). And Aunt Lou said, "Miss Ann Margaret, I'll always be with them and I'll do what I can."

And Grandmother died and Aunt Lou raised my father and his brothers. So, when we were youngsters, when Aunt Lou's boys (she had two), had reached an age of...that they should be educated, in gratitude to her for what she had done (she had married a man, one of the slaves of the family, and of course, they were free), my grandfather sent the two boys up to the Quaker North to be educated, and they had very good positions for that day in New York. And they wrote and wanted their mother (their father had died) to come up and live with them. So she had gone up to them.

And my father got a letter from one of them saying, "Mr. Jim, Mother is not happy here, she doesn't like the city, she doesn't like being away from people she knows, and she is very unhappy. Would you have any interest, or any room, and having her come to live with you?" And together was a note from Aunt Lou saying, "Mr. Jim, I do not like it here; come and get me." (Laughter)

We said, "Daddy, are you going?" He said, "She's the only person ever spanked me; what do you think I'd dare to do?" (Laughter)

Well, we told our rather dignified father we couldn't see that, we thought that was awful funny. So then he went up and got her and she was little, and very black, and very given to laying down the law. But she was great fun, she could tell more stories and she took over the nursery, and my mother's great... really...

And when she was dying, she said to my father, "Mr. Jim, I don't want to be here alone after I die. Can't you take me back and bury me somewhere near Miss Ann Margaret?" So my father took her back to West Virginia and buried her side-by-side with my grandmother; and there she lies, in the family cemetery.

But it was...we played with the colored children. I think...my maid now, who works with me part-time now, has worked for me off and on for fifty years, and...she grew up on Wheaton, and when I was travelling, when my brothers and sisters were not at home, I wanted someone who lived in the house, not (by that time most of your servants came in by the day)—so that mother would not be alone during the day or at night.

And Mallie came and took over, and periodically all during the year she has worked, when my mother was living, full-time with us, and always. And we were saying the other day, we played with the colored children, the Gassaway children, and the Wrights and the Engle children all played together.

It was not the stratified type of thing you have now. My mother had a very good Quaker rule that anybody who worked in our household had to learn to read and write and have basic arithmetic. And any of our either white or colored who came to work for us or lived on the place or were coming every day, had classes with her. And after we got older, we took a hand in the classes.

And I was amused during World War I, when one of the sons of one of the men—colored men—who had lived in the neighborhood came up to see me to tell me about his adventures in the War, because he had been overseas, and he had worked for us and learned to read and write and all that, and he said, "You know, because I could read and write and do enough arithmetic, I got to be a sergeant."
(Laughter) He was so pleased.

Well, you know, it was a...of course, it was a home relationship because the bulk of the County was farms. People like my father was an accountant in

the Treasury, and Dr. Wright's family, of course, they were professional people that came in at that time, but the...this was not the...the South that had the worst part of slavery was the big plantations where they were...they were separated.

The house servants, who were slaves, were very...a very different...they didn't do any...it was...it was still slavery, but it was not the type of thing that existed, and it was not the type of attitude toward Negroes that I saw when I was down working in the far Southern states. Not all people, at all, but when you got out and realized the extent of exploitation, and of course, that was due to a developing of a raw land, and then of the exploiting of farm labor. You see, farm labor and cheap labor were the basis of the American economy, really, up to World War I.

And it was the automobile and automated farm machinery. I was coming through Chicago once in the '20's and the Chicago paper had a picture of flat cars with reapers and binders latched down. And then there was a picture of one of the cars that the section hands used to live in when they were out on the road, and a dining car on that. And the headlines said, "Mechanics Leave Chicago to Reap the Wheat of the Middle West." And I sat there and wondered what happened to the farm boys, because those big reapers and binders couldn't be handled by an illiterate person. They couldn't be handled by anyone but a mechanic who knew how to handle the machinery because those things cost an awful lot of money.

Now when my father was in college, he used to tell us that he and his brothers always came home for the harvest and that they had a system by which... you reap...you reap the wheat by...with a scythe—a cradle, they called it—and he said they knew how to stand far enough apart so the sharp pins didn't endanger them and come in four or five of them across the line down the field, you know, and just lay it flat.

This thing, you know, you could take one of those big binders or reapers and all of that into a county and reap all the wheat in a county.

It's a...we have moved into a mechanical world where we have never been this conscious, until recently, of the social adjustments that brought. Of course, they came, perhaps, more slowly. But we have no room for illiterates in our present economy, white or colored, and there is more white poverty in this country than there is colored. There is more white poverty in Maryland than there is colored—of course, the population is greater.

And a friend of mine who is a negro, who is a teacher of sociology down at Howard, Dr. Edmonia Davidson, came out to one of our meetings, (statewide meeting), and gave a paper on poverty in Maryland, and I think—I wish we had everybody in this county here, because it was a very good analysis of the price you pay, as a community, for poverty; and it's something we have to learn.

Well, I'll say it's a very different county from the one I grew up in.

MS. CUTLER: Yes.

MS. ENGLE: Fifty thousand people in Montgomery County in the '20's; 530,000 now.

MS. CUTLER: Yes.

MS. ENGLE: And we have to learn how to live with that sort of a population. And one thing we have to learn is we don't wreck our streams and our forests and our open land. Why people can't understand that if we don't have green trees and green things, you don't have air. They're the ones that create the breathable air for us.

MS. CUTLER: Yes.

MS. ENGLE: And go down and look at Sligo Creek, what pouring all that concrete over Wheaton Plaza did. It's a national tragedy that has to be turned back. And I'm glad the League is taking up a good strong stand on the ecological problems.

MS. CUTLER: Yes. We'll want to get to all of that information next time, and perhaps some more about your growing-up period in Montgomery County, and when you became Secretary of the Maryland League, and on through the '30's.

MS. ENGLE: Oh, yes, that was in the '20's. We...when we came back up to that meeting in 1920 to Maryland, Mrs. Ellicott had told me and the other women who were there from the Maryland group, and said to me, "Why won't you come, now that the suffrage work is over, and be the first.." (I forgot whether they called me Executive Secretary or Manager—I think it was Manager) "and help us—and organize the League and start our programs." And that's when I came back to work here.

MS. CUTLER: Oh, I see. I see.

MS. ENGLE: And my mother was the first President of our Montgomery County League.

MS. CUTLER: Were your sisters—you had two sisters...

MS. ENGLE: Yes.

MS. CUTLER: Were they also active in the suffrage movement?

MS. ENGLE: No, they were...you see, I went in awfully young. I graduated from college the week after I was 20, so my two sisters—one of them, Rose, was a newspaper woman, and Elizabeth was in the Treasury Department, and they were always interested, of course. And Elizabeth was very active; she married a doctor, and was president of the state organization of the doctors' wives for some years. And they did a great many things in the social welfare field.

Rose was always a writer and not interested in the activities that went on as much as in the writing end of it. She lives in Florida now; she had bad asthma when we were in childhood and the climate down there does not have the pollens here. And her two sons are down there, so—Peter is in the University of Miami, and her older boy—they lived with me after my mother died; my sister

and her husband were divorced. Rose came back and lived in Forest Glen with me so that the boys grew up there.

MS. CUTLER: Oh, I see.

MS. ENGLE: Bob is a Marine Biologist, and Peter, who got his Bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina and then got his Masters in the School of Asiatic Studies at Columbia, came back from World War II where he was in Korea, and decided that there were enough Asiatics in this country who were born and brought up in Asia and that he would elect a new field. So he is getting his doctorate in biology with a basis of ecological problems, and gets his PhD, or his Doctor of Science I think it is, this next year.

MS. CUTLER: What college did you go to, Lavinia? Can you tell us?

MS. ENGLE: Well, I did my undergraduate work at Antioch, and then I did my graduate work at Johns Hopkins in political science and economics.

While I was with the League I realized, and I went to the morning classes if they were early, and then to the night classes at 5:00, while I was working at the League, I realized that we needed a great deal more in political science than just a knowledge of our local government.

Although we started those years, that know your County was one of the first things we brought out. So I went back to Johns Hopkins—I was the first woman that Dr. Willoughby ever admitted to the Graduate School of Political Science, and he didn't want me first, but I had been doing some work at a night school class in history with Dr. Latteny and Dr. Turner and we had — they said to me, "You ought to get political science with Willoughby with what you're doing," and they didn't tell me he had never accepted a woman student.

So they nicely took me up and introduced me and departed, leaving me to be — (laughter) — and I came back downstairs and told them that I had been admitted,

they were astounded. But then, Dr. Willoughby said, "Miss Engle, your undergraduate work is satisfactory and your credentials, now what do you want?" He said, "I agree that women are going to need more intensive knowledge," and he said, "now, I'm going to ask you to start by having — with me, you'll have Administrative Law, with Dr. — you'll get —" no, no, he said, "with me you'll get Constitutional Law and with Goodnow you'll get Administrative Law."

Then he said, "I want you to go into the Department of Philosophy with Dr. Lovejoy and you'll get Political Philosophy." And later he said, "You'll go into Economics and get Public Finance and Basic Economics." And really, I wouldn't take anything for those years; it gave me the basis upon which to build our League program, and it gave us contact with the University that brought many of their professors in.

And then we had a Junior League of Women Voters in every college in the state that admitted women. And they were lots of fun—the girls were wonderful. And some of the girls who are now older women are on the League Board—Virginia Williamson was one of our — Mrs. Wilson, whose husband is the head of Asbury Methodist Home, Gaithersburg, was the president of the — for a couple of years — of the University of Maryland League. And I had a letter from a girl who was running for office in New Jersey this year. She had seen something in the papers on where — my name, and gotten my address, and she said, "I'm one of the girls that was in your University of Maryland League of Women Voters and I'm just writing to tell you that I have served in the City Council and I am now running for the State Legislature.

I think we ought — I do not know when they dropped that. I think it was a wonderful asset. Dr. Eleanor Pancoast, who is up at — she isn't active in the League — she was Professor of Economics at Goucher Goucher College, Baltimore and I was talking with her about that.

I talked to several of these Scout groups, Girl Scout groups, you know —

MS. CUTLER: Yes.

MS. ENGLE: Our young people are tremendously interested in the basic—well, philosophy underlying democracy and government, and less interested, at present, in the machinery of it. And I think with this taking 18-year olds into the League of Women Voters, I wish we could develop discussion groups in which we talked a great deal more about what do we want from government, what is government, how does the structure established by our founding fathers meet the problems of today.

Actually, it seems to meet it better than almost any other structure of government that has been adopted. And I — they're really interested in that.

MS. CUTLER: Yes.

MS. ENGLE: The last group was a group that I think I — I don't know just who it was — but a woman took me to it and back, (I must keep in touch with her) — is a professional social worker and was on the staff of Children's Hospital for many years before she married, and is back down there now in charge of the social workers at Children's Hospital, and is keenly interested in the high school group of Scouts.

MS. CUTLER: Yes, I've had to, you see, we're off — well I suppose we have a little tape left. Could you talk for a moment about how you went about organizing college Leagues?

MS. ENGLE: Well, we started out by having, of course, women on the faculty interested, and I would be speaking, for instance, in Chestertown on the Eastern Shore or in Salisbury where we had an old school, and Goucher was near, and of course, the University of Maryland. And you talked to the women in the community and then they'd bring in some of the teachers and we would discuss it. And then we'd go to the school and they would get together with a group of girls. In several of the schools we reached a point where the

professors of government and of any of the allied subjects would say to the girls, "Well, if you want to do a paper, or take a course, that we could give you credit for some of the work you do with your League group, we'd do that."

MS. CUTLER: Really?

MS. ENGLE: And that was very good.

MS. CUTLER: I see. Well how did they actually work? Did they have consensus the way we do now?

MS. ENGLE: No consensus—it wasn't that. The groups met and discussed as club meetings the problems that we worked out with them. We sent them a pretty steady — I found it very interesting phases of the work — we would send them papers that would carry out some of the things that we were doing in the over-all League. All of the legislation we were going to introduce; we would send them the work on "Know Your County" or "What in the State."

^{Kent}
Frank ~~Tent~~ has a series of lectures for the League of Women Voters, did the book he later published as the "Great Game of Politics" and Ella Lawn wrote the book on the government of Maryland that had never been before written in that form.

We used chapters of that. Then we had chapters on social problems when we backed and won the bill for the maternity program which put a Federal-State grant in to building up our work. We had one of the highest infant-maternal mortalities of any civilized nation in the world.

And that was one of our early 20 programs. And the girls would discuss this. Sometimes the teacher would say, "Well, write a paper on that for class." They would have regular meetings. Then when the elections came, they followed that.

The girls over at the University of Maryland staged a torchlight parade and the boys came over and said, "Now look, this is too much fun; you've got to go co-educational." But, it was teaching. They taught themselves. But we tied in the teachers to it, you see.

MS. CUTLER: Who developed the program initially?

MS. ENGLE: Well I did.

MS. CUTLER: You did this yourself, as this was one of your duties as executive secretary?

MS. ENGLE: Oh yes. Yes, and I worked with all our committee chairmen. For instance, we have a Mrs. Muegrove, who is a lawyer in Prince George's and when we were working on the status of women, we would send out materials on that.

I did more of picking the work that we gave to the adult group and putting it into the sort of form that would be useful, you see. And I got a lot of that out of my work at Hopkins, you see.

And the girls were keen. Oh, they developed a lot of things.

MS. CUTLER: I see. And what kind of assistance did you get from the National office?

MS. ENGLE: We got a lot of materials. The National office was new and developing. They had excellent chairmen of their various committees, and those women were in and out of the state.

At first the headquarters was in New York; but after it was in Washington, we got a lot more, of course, because we were nearby. And they published a lot of material.

There's a good deal of the — I hope they have kept a lot of that material. Some of them, we have some of you who are interested; there is a lot of material of the early League over at the University of Maryland—drawers full of it. And it's never been properly filed. It was apparently just dumped in file boxes, and I have talked to the librarian and promised her I would try to get a group to go over so that we could really file that stuff properly at least. And get it in such form you could really write a story of the — because it was a smaller organization, of course, in those days; 175,000 now requires a lot more form in what you're doing and sending out.

You know, you have to -- well, for one thing you have a wider -- NOW that women have been in the suffrage for a great many years, you have a wider knowledge of all the various aspects of it. And it has to be, I suspect, much more professional. But they were a stimulating group.

MS. CUTLER: I remember reading on one of the programs for, I think it was the 1924 Maryland State Convention, that Drew Pearson was one of your speakers, and you had about five speakers at one convention. Tell me how you -- was he a Maryland person at that time?

MS. ENGLE: Yes. Oh well, Drew's a Quaker, you know, so we knew him [from] Pennsylvania, and he was on the Sun and the Sun [Baltimore Sun] had been one of the papers that bitterly opposed women suffrage.

So when we had our fifth anniversary we decided that we would invite the Sun staff, and Henry ^{Mencken} Menkin was one of them, to dinner to celebrate it. And we got out a bunch of the old papers and we clipped all the headlines that they had had in the years gone by as to how the country would go to ruin, family life go to the dogs, and all that. And we put those on slides.

And I hope the State League has them, because what we did was to -- we had a sort of a little theme song that went in between and then we threw these on the -- you know, and didn't exactly point the finger at the man who wrote it or drew the picture or did it.

But anyway, we called it to his attention. And they began making hilarious comments, you know, as the rest -- and we had Frank ^{Kent} ~~Tent~~ and Henry... ^{Mencken} Henry Menkin was at that dinner and...Drew might have been at that too. I guess he was.

MS. CUTLER: He was at several of your conventions.

MS. ENGLE: Oh yes. Well, of course, many of us knew him through the Quaker group and his father was the first Governor of the Virgin Islands who started the -- really doing something about the people in the Virgin Islands.

Drew is a delightful person. He had many, what you might say original approaches to things. He had married Sissy Patterson's daughter. They were both out in Colorado where she was out there, after a fuss with her mother working on a paper. And he met her and had no idea that she was the daughter of a family of such wealth. And they went off and got married. Well, Sissy Patterson deliberately broke up that marriage. There was one child, and Drew and his wife were divorced and Sissy took the mother and the child. I will say when the child reached her teen ages, she departed from that household and went to live with her father.

Well, then, he married the widow of one of the men on the Sun, and she had three children and they were fond of Drew but they were a little dubious about this marriage, and they were a little disturbed about the wedding and the wedding trip. So Drew and his wife decided the thing to do was to get one of these then quite new camping caravans and take the three children on their wedding trip with them and (laughter). He was really quite a character and, like his father and like a lot of Quakers, a reformer. And his pen was always the pen that was pointed toward correcting some of the...

MS. CUTLER: I'm just beginning to realize the connection between the Quakers and the League of Women Voters and the suffrage movement.

MS. ENGLE: Oh yes, they were strong. Well, my grandfather, Grandfather Hauke, who I told you was a Quaker, introduced the first woman lawyer before admission to the Supreme Court Bar. Her name was Belva Lockwood. And she was thoroughly equipped for it but none of the other lawyers would agree; they didn't want her. So Grandfather introduced her, although his fellow lawyers thought they would hang him afterwards.

And it was a tradition of the Quakers that women deserved fair play. Now there's another interesting factor about women that my friend Edmonia Davidson

emphasized. But you know, the first colleges to admit women for college education and degrees in the South, in many states, were the colleges established by the northern and Quaker groups in many instances, but mostly the Protestant groups of all of the churches for the Negroes.

And the first woman to practice law in Washington was a white woman, graduate of Howard University. When Edmonia Davidson went to — she was getting her degree at Columbia and she came down here. She had seen some things that in Social Security we had printed in regard to the extension of Social Security to foreign labor and the need to extend it to the migrant laborers. And she came down to Social Security and Mr. Altmeyer sent her in to talk to me. I had made a study of migrant laborers for the League of Women Voters when we were after them here in Maryland. And I made a study of the Maryland group who came from Florida and went North. And Ritchie put in a very emphatic program of cleaning up the situation and I made it under the direction of our Commissioner of Labor, labor statistics, they call him.

And I took along a photographer and we got pictures and they were pretty filthy places that these people had to live, and most of them Negroes. They came in trucks and cars. They started in Florida and moved North. And young children and everything, the whole family worked. And Edmonia said, "You know (she thought, she's sociology), that would be a good sociological dissertation" for her graduate thesis.

So we jumped at the idea and said, "Well, you have a lot of facts that we could use in building up the support for expanding the Social Security to the migrant group." So we gave her introduction to our Field Office Managers down in Florida and wrote them, and they located one of the labor leaders who would be bringing a group North (and) who was willing for her to travel with the group.

She got herself a station wagon, loaded it with things she could use in entertaining and teaching children with some simple medicine and we gave her a lot of material on Social Security and whatnot.

Then we wrote to the men, and some women, in the District Offices on her trip North and gave her their names so if she had any problems, they could help out. And she made that trip of several months North and wrote a stunning dissertation and gave us a lot of material to use in our campaign up on the Hill to expand the program.

Well, Edmonia then, after she graduated, she was offered a job in Social Security in the research division. She came down and worked there. A couple of years later she came into the office one day and said, "You know, Lavinia, I am primarily interested in people, and here..." she said, "now, don't misunderstand, I have loved my work here and I have had a good time and I thoroughly enjoy it, and I made a lot of friends." But she said, "I have an offer to go to Louisiana State, which is the largest Negro college in the South, and organize an extension service." And she said, "I want to work with people." So we said, "Well, OK. We'll put you on leave of absence and then if you decide that you don't want it, and you're going South to a racial situation which you are not accustomed to and you're going to have to..."

"Well," she said, "I saw it and I did my other studies and I think I want to try it." So she did a marvelous job, organized a big extension, but the real thing that was interesting—when she had been there a couple of years, they had this [inaudible] 100th year anniversary and they were going to have a big affair with distinguished speakers and a big dinner and all of this. And Edmonia said to the president, "Now look here, I'm not about to go to all of this work and get all of this business just to have the women who are graduates of this school come in here for a big dinner." She said, "I'm going to run a two-week seminar beforehand and it's going to be on 'What can we, as college-trained women do for our

state?" Well, when she set it out, she discovered what we knew was true but had no idea of its scope. How many white women had gotten their degrees from the Negro, from Louisiana State, because it was the only — and that was true throughout the South. In many cases, that was the only college where an ambitious girl who could not be sent North to Vassar or Bryn Mawr or a place like that, could get a college training.

So she had a tremendous number of women reply and a great many white women, and they all came and they had a wonderful two weeks of how they, as women, working together and working in their respective groups as well as on a joint program, could do things for Louisiana that would forward the advancement of social and educational programs.

And that's a part of the Women's Movement that I think is not always known. There were excellent — Mary Church Terrell was one of our suffrage leaders, was a Negro woman lawyer here in Washington and a very able woman.

And you found — and of course your Quaker groups in the North and everywhere were open to both races and both sexes. So, this business of prejudice, which is what underlies, I think, most discriminatory practices, is a thing to describe in many ways.

You will find men who otherwise are charming, educated, gracious people—and some of the cracks they will make. It used to be, you know this much now, make about women, sort of curdle your blood.

I had to howl like everything once when I was watching at the polls on a suffrage amendment and throwing out the votes that could be thrown out for any question. And one person, I knew it was a man, of course, had written on his ballot (whether it was yes or no), "No, no, no, to hell with women" and I said, "Throw it out!" And they said, "Well, his intent is obvious." "Well," I said, "O.K., I'll stand right here until you throw that ballot out," which I did. It

was, you know, the antagonism between some people, based on sex or based on race is a common phenomena.

It has somewhat the same characteristics of mind. Just like people who hate the Irish or hate the Jews or hate the this or hate the that. Well, it's ignorant. When you know people and understand them, of any race or any nationality, you begin to — I have a collection of foster children. My younger nephew, Peter, who as I say, came to live with me when he was four, was that he and his mother, that we all lived together in Forest Glen. And Peter is the type who, if he goes out and finds an animal that he thinks needs attention because a bird's wing is broken, why we had to have a flight cage over the back porch where he kept it. And a turtle who has been turned over on his back—he rights him. You know, all that sort of thing. Well, it gets older. He finds a boy in school who's in trouble and he brings him home and the children, occasionally — I'll never forget one, this was a family. His father was an artist, the mother was a soprano—no, the father was a musician, yes, and the mother was the artist. And he later was the head of the Pennsylvania-Philadelphia Art School. And Peter brought this youngster home, and he had been with us most of the summer and the mother hadn't, had always had a sort of a raft of kids around, and this was after her death. And I said, "Jane, what's the matter that Peter's clothes don't seem to last as long? I'll get him some more little prints and things. She said, "Both those boys are wearing those clothes; that other child didn't bring but a baseball mitt." And actually he spent most of the summer there. He had told his parents he was going to stay out with Lavinia Engle.

But anyway, Peter brought home a collection, it included several Chinese boys and two of them were brothers and another, the first one, was a boy who was in high school with him. They all were school friends. And the boys came to spend most of their vacation....

(End of Side 1, End of Interview)