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Letter: Vicki Wengrow-Hans Tanzler

Vicki L. Wengrow

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March 21, 1972

The Honorable Hans Tanzler
Mayor, City of Jacksonville
City Hall
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Mayor Tanzler:

The Board of N.O.W. (National Organization for Women) Jacksonville, wishes to remind you of the part many Jacksonville women played in defeating the Bond Issues. We hope our message has come across to you clearly: the Bond Issues and the governmental action surrounding them reflect a poor sense of what the priorities for our city should be.

Our opposition to the Bond Issues did not jell into action, admittedly, until the week before the vote. Until then, isolated people simply agreed the Bond Issues reflected distorted priorities--expanded parking spaces before mass transit; recreation areas for the rich before necessities, let alone recreation areas for the poor; increased incentives for industry and business downtown before funds to clean up their pollution to-date, and more and more.

But, of course, people tend not to act until a problem hits home. It was not until you ignored the Duval County Women's Political Caucus' resolution regarding women in government and not until your aid excused the insult by saying the Bond Issue was the reason it was ignored that we knew it was time to act. To be ignored in favor of something of dubious benefit, to, indeed, experience "taxation without representation" is something women can no longer accept. We hope you will begin to feel the same way.

Of the people who participated in lobbying and distributing literature against the Bond Issues, some are members of N.O.W.; some are members of the Duval County Women's Political Caucus; and some are unaffiliated women who simply agree that women should have a greater say, a representative distribution in local government and that this should be one of your priorities.

continued.....

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

We are not pleased that our first public entry into local politics had to be negative action. We will much prefer constructively working with you for your ends and ours. We hope that you will begin thinking in terms of many women in important positions in government, of a funded Jacksonville Commission on the Status of Women, of city-sponsored Child Care, of job training for women for jobs that exist and that are not dead-end jobs, and of many more matters. We hope, in the future, that you will seriously consult with Jacksonville women and with Jacksonville feminists on the needs of Jacksonville.

Respectfully,

Vicki Wengrow
Nancy Bandez, Board Representatives

N.O.W. Jacksonville
P. O. Box 8590
Jacksonville 32211

Copies to: Lynwood Roberts
Walter Williams
Duval County Women's Political Caucus
National Organization for Women (Chicago)
League of Women Voters
Ashley Verlander
John Bowden
Don MacLean
Donald G. Ingram
John Buchanan
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Florida Times-Union
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