

WASHINGTON REPORT

THE 18-YEAR OLD VOTE

Last week saw the climax of the long debate about whether 18 year olds should be granted the right to vote in all elections. Action by the House of Representatives created the way for each of the 50 State Legislatures to work their will on whether we should add a new amendment to the Constitution standardizing the minimum age requirement for voting.

In 1970, the Congress passed a bill to lower the voting age to 18 in Federal, State, and local elections. By this action, the Congress undoubtedly hastened final consideration of this national issue. However, I had serious reservations about the Constitutionality of this legislation. In my view, such Federal action needed to be accomplished by an amendment to the Constitution. I had joined as a co-sponsor of an amendment of this kind and developments after the hasty action by the Congress last year bore out the fact that the Constitutional amendment route was, indeed, the correct one.

lenged and argued before the Supreme Court. In its decision, the Court ruled favorably on that part of the law which would permit 18 year olds to vote in Federal elections. On the other hand, the Court struck down that part of the law which would have extended the vote to these young people in State and local elections. It pointed out that this kind of authority rested entirely with the 50 States. The Congressional action and the Court decision added up to a confusing situation which, in my opinion, required immediate consideration of the Constitutional amendment. No other choice remained and this fact prodded the Congress into action. Only in this way could reasonable uniformity be achieved.

Had the Congress failed to adopt the resolution or if the required 3/4 of the 50 State Legislatures in the future fail to approve it, we will see some strange contortions in the elections of 1972.

As things now stand, an 18 year old citizen may vote for the candidate for President of his choice in 1971, but he may not cast his ballot in the contest for local sheriff. This same person, in most States, can vote for United States Senator, but he has no voice in the selection of the governor of his State. Clearly, this is an absurd situation and must be corrected. If this situation prevails, we add to the confusion and questions of fairness a significant question of cost.

States will be required to maintain two lists of registered voters—one qualified to vote only in elections for Federal offices and one list for older citizens qualified to vote for all candidates on the ballot. Separate ballots would be necessary. Voting machines would have to be overhauled and re-designed. Additional election officials would be essential.

All these separate procedures would cost considerable amounts of money. The city of New York,

alone, estimates that the change would cost \$3 million. St. Louis would need to add \$2.5 million while the State of New Jersey would require an additional \$1.5 million to conduct elections.

Most Americans have concluded that our 18 year olds today have the maturity and judgement required to participate in election radio and television, they are processes. With the advent of very much aware of the fast moving events in the world and they are called upon to serve in the nation's armed services both voluntarily and involuntarily. It follows logically that they also should have the right to make their views felt at the ballot box—the heart of our representative system. The vote of 400-19 in the House of Representatives left little doubt about the broad public support this issue has.

Most State Legislatures are in session now and the Congressional action at this time means that immediate attention can be given to this resolution in the 50 State Capitols. A number of the Legislatures began acting without delay and within several days the proposed amendment had

Work Surface Should "Fit"

WOMBLE states. For most activities at kitchen counters, a homemaker needs a work surface three inches below her elbow height. But for motions that call for the exertion of force or holding a mixer or beater, the homemaker needs a work surface six or seven inches below her elbow height. Therefore, for comfortable work in the kitchen, more than one height work surface may be desirable, the specialist says.

To find elbow height, stand against a wall and bend the arm usually used for food work at a right angle. Have someone hold a finger where your elbow touches and measure that distance from the floor.

Many persons live in houses that have commercially built cabinets of standard height; yet, people don't come in a standard height, says Womble. In fact, the standard 36 inch counter suits only a small proportion of homemakers—and then only for certain jobs. Inexpensive adjustments can be made.

Height can be added to the counter by putting blocks under the cabinet or adding a platform on top. Although counters cannot be lowered easily, a homemaker can find a convenient height elsewhere.

The bottom of a sink is one

Jenkins Assigned To Sheppard AFB

SAN ANTONIO — Airman Jack M. Jenkins, son of Mrs. Opal H. Jenkins of 2313 Milton St., Gastonia, N. C., has completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex. He has been assigned to Sheppard AFB, Tex., for training in the wire maintenance field. Airman Jenkins attended Hunter Huss High School. His father, Jack T. Jenkins, resides on Rt. 1, Sparrow Springs Road, Kings Mountain, N. C.

Larry Wright Top Officer

SAN ANTONIO — Staff Sergeant Larry B. Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Wright of 115 Summit St., Spencer, W. Va., has been named Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter in his unit at Kelly AFB, Tex.

Sergeant Wright, a communications specialist, was selected for his leadership, exemplary conduct and duty performance.

The sergeant, a 1965 graduate of Spencer High School, attended West Virginia Institute of Technology and San Antonio College.

His wife, Shelia, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman K. Greathouse of Kings Mountain, N. C.

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The new law was quickly challenged and argued before the Supreme Court. In its decision, the Court ruled favorably on that part of the law which would permit 18 year olds to vote in Federal elections. On the other hand, the Court struck down that part of the law which would have extended the vote to these young people in State and local elections. It pointed out that this kind of authority rested entirely with the 50 States. The Congressional action and the Court decision added up to a confusing situation which, in my opinion, required immediate consideration of the Constitutional amendment. No other choice remained and this fact prodded the Congress into action. Only in this way could reasonable uniformity be achieved.

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