

May 10, 1971

Mrs. Lucy Wilson Benson
League of Women Voters of the U. S.
1730 M Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Lucy,

I am giving you today my resignation from the Board of the League of Women Voters of the United States and its Education Fund.

It isn't possible for me to remain working in this job while realizing, as I now do, the unwillingness of the LWVUS to move on the major issues of this day. The Council this past Mayday week evidenced clearly a desire on the part of League ladies to remain clean and talkative while others fight the serious "spring offensive against war, oppression and poverty."

This was made plain by the Council and its leadership through its budgetary process, singling out Human Resources for LWV's ~~and~~ economy cuts, and through its inability to transcend the ever-hardening League procedures in order to speak out on the issue of the war. Institutional devotion over human life!

Although repeatedly some Council members tried to offer the organization a variety of ways for expressing itself on the war and the peace, they were consistently put down. The wish of the Council was simply business-as-usual - even within hearing distance of the Mayday torment of our children on the streets of Washington.

That was unbelievable to me, and deeply disturbing.

The League as an organization appears to me, therefore, in a ladylike way to be part of the problem, to be reflecting rather than opposing the malaise of this time. We are gentle on poverty and racism and war, but we are strong on tradition and efficiency. We are dull, paper-oriented, procedure-bound, our leadership locked into itself by its position and the machinery which supports it.

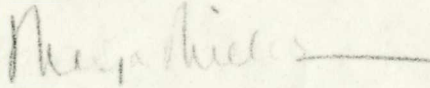
My own view is that if we proceed with business-as-usual and if America cannot shut down the war machine now while it continues to kill people in Southeast Asia in that racist war, if we let the machine simply ease itself out of Vietnam comfortably, then that colonial war machine will remain untouched and intact, strong to fight another war another place, and strong to fight on the side of the oppression which everywhere now is coming down on poor

people, young people, non-white people here at home.

I think that women are badly needed to stem that oppression. I think that women's organizations therefore must be exceptionally bold, very brave, and very tuned in.

Please communicate my reasoning to the board and the members. I appreciate the fine things that League people are doing on many fronts, and I wish them all well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Maya Miller', followed by a horizontal line.

Maya Miller

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