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Decatur High School last night. Left to right are County Treasurer John W. Alsup, State Rep. Robert W. McCarthy, Lincoln

Ferguson and John R. Muehlebach, Millikin University student. Two of the four will be nominated.

(Herald and Review Photo)

Candidates Discuss Constitution

Judicial, Tax Revisions Most Urgent

By John R. Harpster
Of The Herald Staff

Support for proposed changes in the state judiciary system and revisions in state tax laws were expressed last night at the League of Women Voters meeting of primary election candidates.

About 250 voters, attending the meeting in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium, heard tax revisions described as the most urgently needed constitutional change, after judicial reform.

A judicial reform amendment to the state constitution will be voted on this fall.

Candidates generally agreed the

judicial amendment leaves something to be desired, but said they will support it because they believe it is an improvement over the present system.

Four of the six candidates for representative in the general assembly stressed the need for tax changes and revision of the constitution's revenue article.

They are County Treasurer John W. Alsup, Attorney Paul H. Ferguson, State Rep. George H. Grandfield and State Rep. Barrett F. Rogers. Alsup and Ferguson are Democrats, Grandfield and Rogers Republicans.

Scholarships Proposed

State Rep. Robert W. McCarthy, Lincoln Democrat, advocated a system of state scholarships for able and needy students, permitting them to study at either public or private colleges and universities.

"This would," he said, "provide an unlimited range of educational opportunity."

John R. Muehlebach, Millikin University student and Democratic candidate for state representative, said he favors more state aid for schools, plus changes in the primary election laws.

Present primary laws, he said, force a voter to declare his party preference, denying him a secret ballot. And they do not give independent voters a full choice, only a half-choice, he said.

Two Democratic candidates for representative in Congress proposed changes in the present farm

torney, proposed a return to "supply and demand" farming, but with government price supports to guard against disastrous price declines.

Borchers said the only way to solve the farm problem is "hard-fisted regimentation," which he said is not democratic and which he does not favor.

Charles H. Kelly, Monticello farm manager, proposed 100 per cent parity prices, "at the farm gate," provided farmers agree to freeze 1958-59 crop year production at 1957 levels.

"I want to get farm buying power back before it is gone," he said.

Dr. Carlton H. Myers, Gifford veterinarian who is the third Democratic candidate for U. S. representative, attacked U. S. foreign policy, calling it inadequate.

"We need people who will make changes," he said. "Americans hate change, but it must be made."

Rep. William L. Springer (R-Champaign), the incumbent who seeks re-election, was unable to be present, but a statement from him was read by Robert L. Shade, moderator.

Springer Backs Trade

In it Springer praised the U. S. policy of trying to contain communism within its present boundaries, and said he believes reciprocal trade is not only important in developing the U. S. economy but in promoting international understanding.



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In answer to a question from the audience, seven of the nine candidates for sheriff said they believe gambling can be controlled in Macon County.

An eighth sheriff candidate, Republican Pledger L. Hensley, said "there has been gambling since before the Bible was written and I don't believe it can be controlled too well."

The ninth candidate, Democrat Joe Peters, did not attend the meeting.