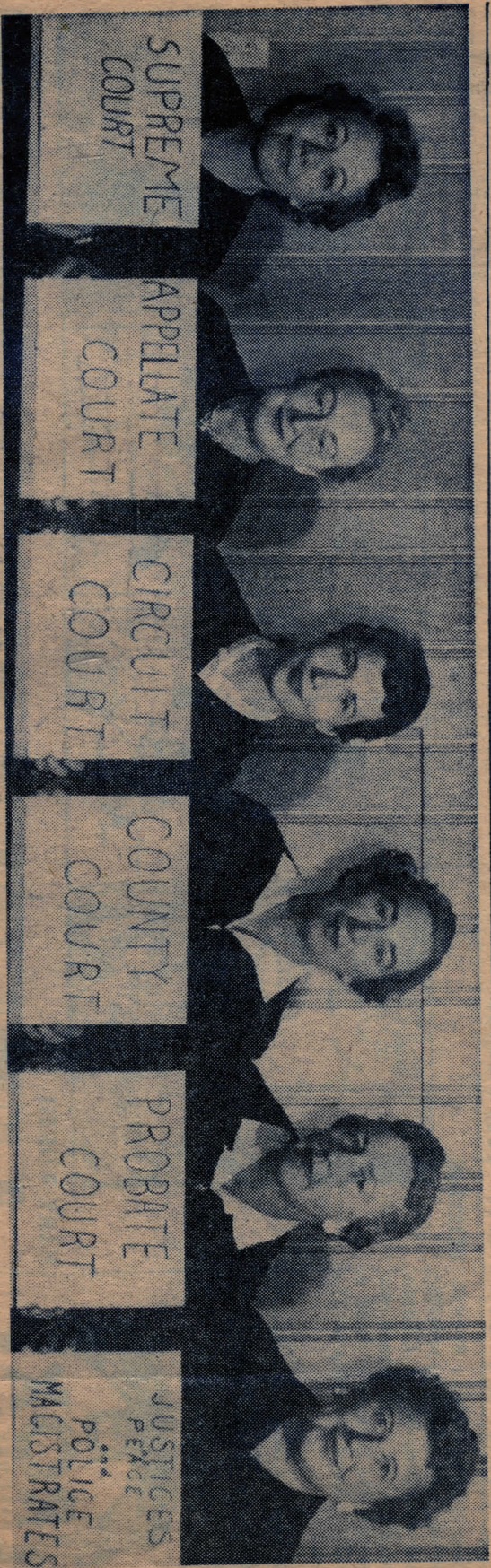




Opening the League of Women Voters' skit explaining the

present Illinois court system are, from left, Mrs. Gershon

Cohn, Mrs. Clifford Smith, Mrs. Edward Booth, Mrs. E. J.

Crestwell, Mrs. James Leigh and Mrs. Walker Mills. The League

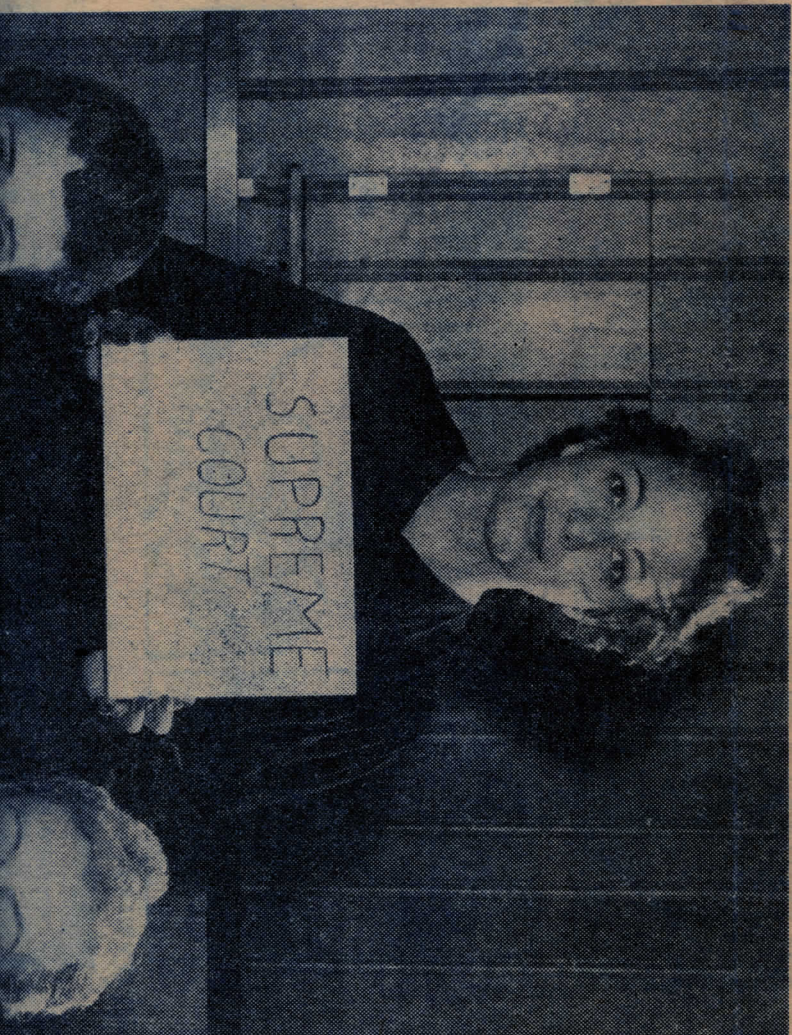
met in the home of Mrs. Arthur Adelman, 66 Eastmoreland Pl.

Women Voters' Skit Explains Proposed Court Changes

A skit presented at the League of Women Voters meeting Thursday morning in the home of Mrs. Arthur Adelman, 66 Eastmoreland Pl., clarified for members the court system of Illinois as it now exists. In the second half of the program, the women showed how the courts would be consolidated if the proposed judicial amendment is passed in the Nov. 4 election.

The present court system is substantially the same as it was in 1848-1870, they explained. It was then organized to meet the needs of about 500,000 people, most of whom lived on farms and in small towns. Due to poor communication and transportation facilities, the many independent courts, each a kingdom unto itself, seemed to be the solution.

Illinois now has nine million people with the large majority living in cities. With today's swift communication and transportation, the antiquated complex system of courts with every judge his own master, no longer makes sense, the



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because while some judges are busy and others are not, no one has all the facts and no one has the authority to do anything about it."

Delay in Jury Cases

Because of the enormous growth of cities and the tremendous volume of litigation arising from modern transportation, there has been a growing congestion in the courts so that jury cases are delayed from an average of two years in Decatur to six years in the Superior Court of Cook County.

The proposed judicial amendment will provide three major improvements, according to the League's presentation:

1. An integrated court structure
2. Administrative authority vested in the Supreme Court over all other courts in the state with a staff to assist in this work
3. Improvement of standards of qualifications for judges, procedure for removal or suspension of judges and a liberalization of the procedure for changing the method of electing judges.

Women and the courts they represented to explain the current court system are:

- Mrs. Gershom Cohn, Supreme Court
- Mrs. Clifford Smith, Appellate Court
- Mrs. Edward Booth, Circuit Court
- Mrs. E. J. Crestwell, County Court
- Mrs. James Leigh, Probate Court
- Mrs. Walker Mills, justices of the peace and police magistrates

System Explained

The women explained how the consolidation will work if the amendment passed.

Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Leigh and Mrs. Crestwell told of the operations of their respective courts as they would be absorbed into the Circuit Court:

The justices would be appointed by the chief judge and hold office as long as their services were satisfactory. They would be salaried and not need to depend on fees as they do today.

If a probate judge were elected, he would become a justice in the



Showing how the courts would be consolidated if the proposed judicial amendment is

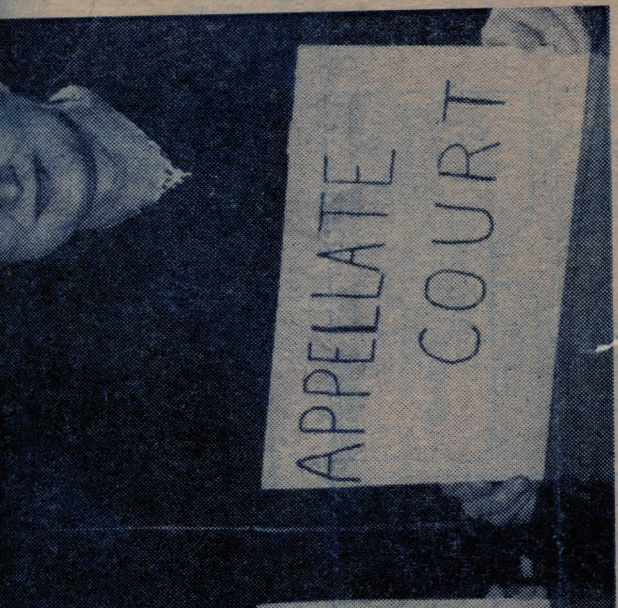
come a justice in the Circuit Court and hear cases similar to those heard in the past. However, he would have directions from the chief judge and can ask him for help when needed.

Mrs. Booth told of the three classifications of judicial officers planned for the Circuit Court if it consolidates the ones mentioned above. There would be three classifications of judicial officers—chief judge (elected by his associates), associate judges and magistrates. The number of associate judges would be determined by the work load and be prescribed by law.

Appellate Court

Representing the Appellate Court, Mrs. Smith pointed out that the amendment would make possible the selection of judges especially for that court in four judicial districts, one in Cook County and three downstate. And the Supreme Court would have the authority to assign additional judges to the four as the business of the court requires it.

If the amendment passes, Mrs. Cohn explained the administrative authority of the Supreme Court to the chief



passed in the November election are, from left, Mrs. Edward

administrative director and staff who would collect and analyze the necessary statistics on the flow of statewide judicial business. The Supreme Court will have jurisdiction of all final appeals from the Appellate and trial Courts. The Supreme Court would also be able to hear cases that the members deem important, not those the people of 1870 felt important such as boundary disputes.

The women's program was arranged after the League members had made a study of the proposed amendment. Mrs. Robert Cole was chairman.

TEEN-AGE PARTY

Booth, Mrs. Gershom Cohn and Mrs. Clifford Smith.
(Herald and Review Photos)

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