

CITIZENS LEAGUE REPORT

No. 101

**State of Minnesota  
Daylight Saving Time**

**February 1959**

Citizens League  
601 Syndicate Building  
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota  
January 20, 1959

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: City and County Parks Committees  
subject; Proposed legislation concerning daylight saving time

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee urges extension of the statewide law establishing daylight saving time for Minnesota.
2. That, as an alternative -- if, and only if, it is not possible to extend daylight saving time on a statewide basis -- we urge retention of the law granting local option for the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan area.

#### BACKGROUND

Nearly all states east of Minnesota have had daylight saving time for years. There is almost no agitation for its repeal. The Minnesota legislature in 1957 passed two bills dealing with this issue. The first was a county option bill allowing counties having in excess of 300,000 population and counties contiguous to them to establish daylight saving time. A few days later in the session a statewide bill was passed establishing daylight saving time for Minnesota and giving the governor the authority to set the dates. The statewide act superseded the county option law and the latter has not been used. But the statewide act contains an expiration date of July 1, 1959 and must be re-enacted at the 1959 session if it is to continue. The county option law has no expiration date and will continue in effect unless it is affirmatively repealed.

#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Major farm organizations and several outstate groups have announced their intention to oppose re-enactment of the statewide daylight saving act. They have even inferred they will insist on repeal of the local county option law. A recent Minnesota Poll on this subject showed that a substantial majority of Minnesota residents favor daylight saving time. A Citizens League straw poll showed unusually strong interest in this issue and, likewise, resulted in an overwhelmingly favorable reaction to daylight saving time.

#### PRINCIPAL ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

The principal arguments favoring daylight saving time include the following:

1. That if any state needs daylight saving time, it is Minnesota with its northernmost location and relatively short daylight hours and warm season.

2. The promotion of the family relationship which comes from the additional hour of daylight, particularly during the week.
3. The important aid to commercial businesses in this area which must deal daily with other parts of the nation.
4. The advantage that accrues from daylight saving time to a state so heavily engaged in the tourist business and one particularly promoting the great outdoors.

PRINCIPAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

1. Farmers find it inconvenient in that they cannot readily adjust to a time change.
2. The obvious hardship it imposes on a number of legitimate businesses which are placed in a disadvantageous competitive position because of darkness coming an hour later.
3. The added problem, particularly to mothers, in getting their children to bed at night.

THE ARGUMENTS FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME APPEAR TO BE PERSUASIVE

The committee finds the arguments in favor of daylight saving time far outweighing those against, particularly if the time change is imposed on a state-wide basis. We recognize that having a different time for the principal metropolitan areas of the state under any local option law will result in a certain amount of inconvenience and confusion. But, weighing the advantages against the disadvantages, we are convinced that on balance the local option law should be continued.