

SUGGESTED PROPOSAL

FOR
STUDY AND ACTION

WINSTON-SALEM BRANCH A A U W

February 10, 1969

JUSTIFICATION

The Justification of this Action Project will be taken from the September, 1968, G.D.L. Where Dr. Francena L. Miller talked to the AAUW Presidents conference in Washington, D. C., June, 1968.

Quoting parts of the talk for emphasis -- We need reaffirmation for recommitment to those goals which have long been a part of AAUW. We need to come together to gain a sense of the whole, to restore our confidence in moving ahead to the future, and to recognize the strength which a dedicated group of educated women possess and can bring to bear on the task of creating a better society -- it is time for dreaming dreams and enlarging our own concept of the possible.

The problems which we have successfully managed to ignore for well over a century now stand in bold relief. The poor exist amidst increasing affluence. Large segments of society are isolated, physically, socially, and economically from the Mainstream. The young are alienated and those in positions of power seem to have lost touch with the needs of people. The communication between groups is garbled by a steady flow of talk to which no one listens. The alienated, the deprived, the forgotten have lost hope, grow in resentment and hostility, and eventually take the only avenue which seems open -- violence.

Into this setting, you come -- AAUW Women -- the educated middle class, representatives of the establishment, of the bulwark of American society and the last underutilized resource available to solve the problems facing us -- Women Power. Will we in the Winston-Salem Branch of AAUW recognized our potential, dedicated our resources, open our minds to learning and our hearts to caring? The decision is ours? Change must come in every community in the land.

The greatest obstacle in accomplishing change lies in the attitudes of the people, in our next-door neighbors and in ourselves. Until those in power open their hearts to the powerless, the hostility and alienation will continue to divide us.

I. Problem For Study and Action

1. To recognize the need for and become involved in assisting parents in securing and using inexpensive educational material for their children enrolled in two third or fourth grade experimental classes, located in two different public schools in low-income neighborhoods, for the purpose of boosting their performance in the class room.

II. Method

1. Select a committee from the Winston-Salem Branch of AAUW to work with two principals suggested (Mr. Reid Lawrence, Mr. Salmon Easton School) along with teachers and a committee of parents representing the classes.
2. This committee with the principal and teachers at each school will make a study of characteristics of students who have a paucity of educational material at home for supplementary use in the classroom.
3. Select two classes from each of the two schools with normal children performing at a low educational level.
4. The coordinated committee would study the problem as it relates to the local situation. Secure findings from other studies similar to this, which might suggest possible ways for assisting parents, in low-income neighborhoods, in securing and using inexpensive educational material for their children.
5. The project would continue for approximately three to five yrs.

111. Implementation

The Winston Salem branch of AAUW would assume the responsibility of seeking ways of implementing the results of the study, in one of, or all of the following ways:

(a) Continue with the book sale and use the proceeds to finance the project.

(b) Solicit the cooperation of other organizations interested in the findings of the committee.

(c) Ask for help from a church or church club or a Sunday School Class

(d) Involve other parents of children in the two schools

Possible Findings From The Study:

1. Between fifty and seventy five per cent of the homes without a dictionary.
2. Between fifty and seventy five per cent of the homes with a scarcity of relevant reading material.
3. Over fifty per cent of the children do not frequent the library nor do the parents know what the Library offers.
4. Less than ten per cent of the homes have children's magazines or classical comics or any other type of accepted magazines.
5. Over fifty per cent of the students have a poor self-image.