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The number of conflicting labels pasted on the local League of Women Voters seems to indicate that it is “something new under the sun.” When Democrats call us a Republican organization and the Republicans call us a Democratic organization, one is led to suspect that we are neither.

The men, you see, are used to thinking of governmental affairs mainly as they offer opportunity to put one party in and the other party out. And when the ladies come along in their innocent enthusiasm, with the suggestion that government and the public welfare be considered as of primary importance, and the parties (i.e. groups with divergent ideas on these matters) as of secondary importance, we are told that it can't be done.

But we believe that it can. We believe in parties. That is, we believe in them in their original aspect – groups of citizens drawn together by a common belief in a certain ideal of government, or in a special way of attaining an ideal desired by everybody. And we believe that individuals can serve this country by working in parties to put such ideals into effect. But in addition, we have a very definite idea as to what are and what are not the functions of parties in government. It is at this point that we part company with the person or group commonly described as “partisan” and become irritating to the type of mind characteristic of such persons and groups.

Any organization which sets out to inspire self-determination in the voter, no matter how peaceful and well-intentioned it may be, will surely collide with the parties. It will be called a “menace” and on the whole, a misguided group; the louder the cries against it, the more apparent the need of its existence.

The organization has a very definite platform of social legislation, especially that type which is of benefit to women and children, in no sense arises from a feeling of sex-antagonism. The idea of a woman's party, setting women apart politically from man, is unsound. The government welfare of women and that of men is an organic whole as is their social welfare. But just as men have always worked first for the things that interest them most, so women will do the same, and in the end, we'll all get more.

The local organization not only teaches citizenship and works for good laws, but also often takes part in local politics because they are interested in securing good public officials, regardless of party affiliation.