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I recommend acceptance of this seminar paper to the Graduate College in partial fulfillment of this candidate's requirements for the degree Master of Science in Teaching (Elementary). The candidate has completed his oral seminar report.

August 6, 1969
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August 7, 1969
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CITIZENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN
1961-1968
by
Ruth Bires Kritchman

ABSTRACT

Statement of the problem. The purpose of this paper was to describe the activities and accomplishments of the Citizens Education Committee of La Crosse, Wisconsin from its origin in 1961 to 1968 and establish its influence on the educational policies of the La Crosse Public Schools.

Method and procedure used. The primary source of information for this paper was the records kept by the secretaries of the Citizens Education Committee. Newspaper articles relating to the subject were checked on microfilmed copies of the La Crosse Tribune at the La Crosse Public Library. Books used in the preparation of this paper were obtained from the Murphy Library at Wisconsin State University-La Crosse and La Crosse Public Library. Telephone calls were made to ten members of the Citizens
Education Committee who had been consistently active in the organization to seek their cooperation in answering questionnaires. Information secured from the questionnaires was used directly or indirectly in the preparation of this paper.

**Summary of the findings.** The Citizens Education Committee began as a study group concerned about public education in La Crosse. The members invested much time and study into identifying educational problems in the schools and working toward solutions. Due to their public relations work, the community became more aware of the school situation. Political pressures by the Citizens Education Committee helped provide qualified candidates for the Common Council as well as the school board. The change from a school board selected by the Common Council to one elected by the voters is the single contribution of the Citizens Education Committee which establishes their influence on the policies of the La Crosse Public Schools.
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CITIZENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN
1961-1968

A Seminar Paper
Presented to
the Faculty of the Graduate College
Wisconsin State University at La Crosse

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in Teaching
(Elementary)

by
Ruth Bires Kritchman
August 1969
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. THE PROBLEM AND EXPLANATION OF THE TERMS USED</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Problem</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of the problem</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of the study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of the Terms Used</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Crosse Tribune</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens Education Committee</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CITIZENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CITIZENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE IN THE BUILDING PROGRAM OF LA CROSSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CITIZENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. CONCLUSIONS</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND EXPLANATION OF THE TERMS USED

The interest that Americans traditionally have had in their public schools is well known.\(^1\) Whether the interest is on a national or local level, it can have a bearing on school policies.\(^2\) Pressure groups have come into existence because of textbooks, budgets, segregation, federal aid, and numerous other reasons.\(^3\) The Citizens Education Committee of La Crosse, Wisconsin is one group which has worked to bring about changes needed in their school system.

THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. The purpose of this paper was to describe the activities and accomplishments of the Citizens Education Committee of La Crosse, Wisconsin from its origin in 1961 to 1968 and establish its influence on


\(^2\) Ibid., p. xv.

\(^3\) Ibid.
the educational policies of the La Crosse Public Schools.

**Importance of the study.** There is no other organized history of the work of the Citizens Education Committee. It is hoped that this study will provide information about citizen action which contributed to the educational system in La Crosse.

**Limitations of this study.** This study was limited by the failure of the organization to keep records of all activities and by the incomplete data in some records. Its validity will depend on the researcher's ability to interpret the available material. This writer acknowledges a respect for the work and accomplishments of the committee.

**EXPLANATION OF THE TERMS USED**

*La Crosse.* La Crosse is a city of approximately fifty thousand population located on the Mississippi River in west central Wisconsin.

*La Crosse Tribune.* The *La Crosse Tribune* is the only local daily newspaper published in La Crosse.

*Citizens Education Committee.* A committee of citizens in La Crosse organized for the purpose of improving educa-
THE RESEARCH DESIGN

The primary source of information for this paper was the records kept by the secretaries of the Citizens Education Committee. Newspaper articles relating to the subject were checked on microfilmed copies of The La Crosse Tribune at the main branch of the La Crosse Public Library. Books used in the preparation of this paper were obtained from the Murphy Library at Wisconsin State University-La Crosse and La Crosse Public Library. Telephone calls were made to ten members of the Citizens Education Committee who had been consistently active in the organization to seek their cooperation in answering questionnaires. Information secured from the questionnaires was used directly or indirectly in the preparation of this paper.
CHAPTER II

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE

On February 9, 1961, a group of ten people gathered at the Campus School in La Crosse for the purpose of combining two study groups into an action committee on education. The study groups, the Stature Committee and the Evaluation Committee, had begun as a combination of teachers and non-educators representing various organizations. The La Crosse Education Association had organized them for the purpose of studying the educational situation in La Crosse. During this period of study, when the school budget had become an issue needing citizen support, the two committees joined forces to endorse the proposed budget of the Board of Education.

After conducting a postal card survey to determine interest in continued meetings, an organizational meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kenneth Fish. The major

1Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, February 9, 1961.
2Ibid., March 9, 1961
3Ibid.
decision stemming from this meeting was to continue as a single organization.  

At the second meeting in March, Mrs. Fish explained to new members:

Now these committees have agreed to remain united under the name of the Citizens Committee on Education with this change in membership—teachers are not regular members but may be drawn in as consultants...

Although the budget issue had provided the initial ingredient to cement the study groups together, the unifying force was the rising concern for a lagging school system. The following summarization depicts the general condition of La Crosse schools in 1961:

The school system had fallen behind. The physical plants were crowded and obsolete. Its teachers were among the lowest paid in the state. Their morale was low. The turnover was high.

Mr. Richard C. Bradford, a former president of the Citizens Education Committee, wrote this about conditions:


5The committee called itself the Citizens Committee on Education until April, 1962 when it changed to Citizens Education Committee.

6Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, March 9, 1961.

7Jim Conway, All America City Presentation, April, 1966.
which precipitated the formation of the committee:

It was obvious, especially to those moving to La Crosse from other communities, the Board of Education was responding to directions from City Hall rather than being responsible to the citizens of the school district on all school matters. With a twenty-one man council and a part-time mayor the direction from this group was not the best for a good educational climate. With a minimum of understanding of school operation, the appointment of qualified personnel to the school board was not a consideration. Consequently practically every effort on the part of the school board and school administration became a political issue of which the common denominator was to get by as cheaply as possible. The general public was aware of the squabbles between the school board and city hall and became disillusioned as to the future of education in the school district. With the exodus of good teachers and potentially good administrators and the inability to attract equally as good personnel because of the continuous overriding of long range plans and lack of an adequate salary policy further pointed out the need for a change. 8

Mayor Milo Knutson represented well the community's concern for low taxes. His commentary on local television and radio criticised the educational views of the National Education Association as being unnecessarily expensive. He used the simulcast to persuade citizens to elect aldermen who would "promote efficiency and economy in all city functions." 9

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8Questionnaire answer from Richard C. Bradford.

The influence of the mayor was expressed in a

*La Crosse Tribune* editorial:

> Probably not within memory of municipal elections here has a mayor attained the individual power that Mayor Knutson has achieved during successive terms of office, climaxed now by dramatic control of the government complex in city hall more than ever before.\(^{10}\)

The mayor's influence on city aldermen was especially important because school board members were elected by the *La Crosse Common Council*.\(^{11}\) The effect was an appointed school board with little real commitment to the total citizenry.

After reorganizing, the Citizens Education Committee immediately concerned itself with two problems: recruiting members and outlining ideas for study and action.\(^{12}\)

A list of recommendations for membership recruitment included:

1. Names submitted by members.
2. Representatives of organizations, but not to be identified with that organization.

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\(^{11}\)La *Crosse Tribune*, March 26, 1967.

\(^{12}\)Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, February 9, 1961.
3. Representatives of P.T.A.s, (preferably parent of a high school sophomore).
5. General invitation.
6. From education committees of fraternal orders.
7. Board of Education representative.
8. City Council representative.
9. Educators to be chosen by a calculated system providing a number proportionate to the number of citizens-at-large. 13

Public relations was high on the list of possible action. This was stated in the minutes of the first meeting:

Bettering public relations by interpretation of the performance and needs of the schools was regarded as the basic function of this committee. 14

Before the second meeting in March, 1961, the committee had formulated six proposals for study and action.

1. A committee to work with the department of education on publications and to assist in the inauguration of a public relations program. This committee could meet with an N.E.A. public relations expert who will be in La Crosse to talk with educators and the Board of Education.
2. A committee to study redistricting and school integration problems.
3. A committee to study school districting in relation to the Board of Education--fiscal independence and election of school board members.
4. A committee to study Unified School Districts where they could have their own taxing power, independent of city council appropriation.

5. A committee to study school curriculum—strengths and weaknesses.
6. Have a group of people who are in key positions in radio, television, and newspapers who would take charge of the technical arrangements for interpreting facts about the schools to the general public.\textsuperscript{15}

Although it was suggested that working on too many projects might make the group ineffective, the majority thought that all members should have responsibilities in the organization to make their participation more meaningful. With different studies being conducted simultaneously, the group could be prepared for a variety of projects that might arise.\textsuperscript{16}

\textbf{CHAPTER SUMMARY}

The Citizens Education Committee was the outgrowth of study groups formed by the La Crosse Education Association to investigate the educational situation in La Crosse. The school system was declining because of political interference in school planning and lack of appropriated funds. The Citizens Education Committee made plans to study issues and seek members to work to solve some of the problems.

\textsuperscript{15}Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, March 9, 1961.

\textsuperscript{16}Ibid.
CHAPTER III

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CITIZENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE IN THE BUILDING PROGRAM OF LA CROSSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In February 1962, the Citizens Education Committee voted to make a study of long range plans for high school education in La Crosse.\(^1\) The study became focused on needed buildings to accommodate a growing school population.\(^2\) The group gathered data on building plans from the Board of Education and from the Master Plan of La Crosse as prepared by Candeub, Fleissig and Associates. Representatives attended and reported on all meetings of the La Crosse City Council, La Crosse Plan Commission, and Board of Education.\(^3\) In order to get a total picture of available city classrooms, representatives of Catholic and Lutheran

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\(^1\)Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, February 28, 1962.

\(^2\)Ibid., March 28, 1962.

\(^3\)From a summation of a report to the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee by Richard C. Bradford, President of the Citizens Education Committee.
as well as public school boards were invited to discuss their building needs and plans. A meeting was held with the Lutheran Ministerial Association concerning Lutheran school population. Repeated attempts to secure information from the office of education of the La Crosse Diocese, however, brought little cooperation. The committee heard Mr. Conan Edwards, Superintendent of La Crosse Public Schools, and Carl Mathusen, Director of Census and Attendance, speak about building problems and population projections. In a committee report it was stated:

The search for facts led the Citizens Education Committee to observe that the building plans of the Board of Education are the result of intimate knowledge and continuing study of the needs of teachers and children in the schools. These plans are made as far in advance as possible in order to give the city a chance to be ready for specific projects by the time the need is present.


5Ibid., May 23, 1962

6Questionnaire answer from Robert J. Kuechmann.


8Committee report by Mrs. Robert Ramlow in February, 1963.
Although a new southside high school was being discussed, the need for additional classrooms at Logan Junior High appeared most critical. The Citizens Education Committee arranged for a tour of Logan facilities during school hours. Members and other interested citizens got first-hand knowledge of the problems of overcrowding.

The group went on record to "support the motion of the Board of Education to proceed at once with the addition of Logan Junior High School and the planning immediately for the expansion of high school facilities on the south side."

In August 1962, the City Plan Commission outlined their goals for the school building program which abandoned any effort to complete Logan Junior High. The mayor vetoed the proposed addition three times before it was finally overridden by the council.

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13La Crosse Tribune, September 13, 1963.
The City Plan Commission supported a new southside high school large enough to accommodate all southside students. This was in direct conflict with the Board of Education and Citizens Education Committee proposal. They advocated a smaller new high school and to continue operation of Central High School on the southside. This would give La Crosse three public high schools.

The Citizens Education Committee gave these reasons in support of their three high school plan:

1. It is the least expensive plan, there are no higher operational costs and debt service to the taxpayer is less.
2. It retains the idea that the public school is the center of the neighborhood unit.
3. Three high schools are most flexible in serving future enrollments.
4. Central High School represents considerable value and the best value is as a high school unit.

The mayor favored a policy of building new high schools and converting the replaced buildings into junior high facilities. He stated that if the three high school system

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14Ibid., October 27, 1963.
15Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, April 1, 1964.
were accepted, two-thirds of the La Crosse high school population would be in out-dated buildings in ten years.16

In an attempt to lend public support to the Board of Education, the Citizens Education Committee placed an ad in the La Crosse Tribune comparing the building program of the board and Mayor Knutson. Their cost estimates showed the mayor's proposal to be more expensive by over three million dollars.17

A speakers bureau was formed by the Citizens Education Committee in order to make public the results of their studies. Twenty service clubs, business groups, and Parent-Teacher Associations heard either a panel discussion or a speaker discuss, "School Needs for La Crosse."18

Following the proposal of the Plan Commission and the mayor, the Common Council approved the fifteen-hundred student expandable high school in October 1962. Sixteen months later, however, the question of whether to operate

17Ibid., September 10, 1963.
one or two southside high schools was still being debated. Consequently the problems of size and location were still unresolved.19

In an attempt to overcome the impasse, the Citizens Education Committee urged the Common Council "to establish direct communication with the Board of Education to end delay in the 1964 school capital improvement program."20

Mayor Knutson charged the school board with deliberate delay in approving plans for the new high school.21

The dispute ended in May 1964 when the Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution for a southside high school "the size and budget recommendations which were established by the Common Council."22 Board members said "expediency and public apathy" were the reasons for their change in stand.23 The decision came after the board

19La Crosse Tribune, February 24, 1964.
21Ibid., March 9, 1964
22Ibid., March 12, 1964.
23Ibid.
The president had read a letter from the Citizens Education Committee urging a firm stand for the three high school plan. The board did attach an amendment to the resolution restating their view that the three high school system would be best for La Crosse.

Following the decision of the Board of Education to accept reluctantly the high school plan of the Common Council, the Citizens Education Committee discussed ways of encouraging the board to communicate directly to the citizens to whom they were responsible. An initial step in this direction was taken when the board was invited to appear on a television information program sponsored and planned by the Citizens Education Committee.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The Citizens Education Committee found the lack of adequate school buildings to be one of the most critical problems. Their study revealed that the school board

\[\text{\textsuperscript{24}}\text{Ibid.}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{25}}\text{Ibid.}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{26}}\text{Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, May 26, 1964.}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{27}}\text{Ibid.}\]
accurately predicted building needs but were not empowered to proceed without council authorization. The Citizens Education Committee called public attention to the building needs and was influential in gaining the addition at Logan Junior High.
CHAPTER IV

THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE
CITIZENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

From its beginning, the Citizens Education Committee was concerned with political interference in the operation of La Crosse Public Schools. A discussion of educational views of aldermanic candidates and a possible write-in candidate for mayor was recorded in the minutes of the first meeting.1

The system of having the city council elect the members of the school board, which had been in effect since 1867, was unique in the state.2 The school board was not only appointed by the common council but was financially dependent, thereby placing the school board in a high dependency position. The council repeatedly had refused reappointment to experienced board members who gave support to the long range plans of the Board of Education, replacing

1Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, February 9, 1961.

2La Crosse Tribune, March 26, 1967.
them with men of no board experience. Mrs. Robert Ramlow discussed some of the problems in dealing with the council:

In the early days of our committee, the Council contained many Catholics, and at times there was no one on the Council with a child in a public school. One alderman stated he was opposed to public education. The education level of the members of the Council was generally low and they exhibited little if any understanding of educational goals in a modern world.

In April 1963, Mr. Conan Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, spoke to the group about the status of education in La Crosse, "particularly relating to the attitude of some members of the city government who influence the Council decisions on school finances." At this meeting, it was decided to make a study of the advantages of a school board elected by the voters. Procedural changes necessary for direct election would also be investigated.

A more immediate concern was for the upcoming school board appointments. In order to stimulate qualified people to apply for appointment, the Citizens Education Committee

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3Committee report by Mrs. Robert Ramlow in February, 1963.

4Questionnaire answer from Mrs. Robert Ramlow.

5Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, April 25, 1962.

6Ibid.
decided to publish a list of qualifications of good board members. A questionnaire was also prepared for applicants from which information was submitted to the newspaper for publication.

When aldermanic elections came up, information about incumbent aldermen dealing specifically with their voting record on school matters was prepared. As a result of this study, the Citizens Education Committee voted to "act to stimulate candidacy of persons in the 11th, 12th, 13th, 17th, and 19th wards who will, if elected, give more consistent support to the Board of Education than the incumbents in these wards." A Tribune editorial January 11, 1963 stated:

Thus the citizen group had little alternative on getting into the spring election if it wants to change school policies in La Crosse.

This is a step it must have taken with some reluctance. A political campaign isn't always the best place to sort out issues factually and calmly.

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7Ibid., October 24, 1962
8Ibid., November 27, 1962.
In the April election, four of the five aldermen censured by the Citizens Education Committee were defeated at the polls. The fifth had had no opponent.\textsuperscript{11}

Political pressure had proved so successful for the Citizens Education Committee that it was used in the next school board contest. After questionnaires were sent to the eleven persons who had filed for a position on the board, the Citizens Education Committee listed nine of the eleven as qualified.\textsuperscript{12} All four of the appointments by the council were from those approved by the Citizens Education Committee.\textsuperscript{13}

As part of the school board election study, three representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction spoke to the group about an organizational plan known as the Unified School District.\textsuperscript{14} Legal power to determine the school budget, levy the local school tax, and

\footnotesize{
\textsuperscript{11}\textit{La Crosse Tribune}, April 3, 1963.

\textsuperscript{12}\textit{Ibid.}, November 23, 1963.

\textsuperscript{13}\textit{Ibid.}, December 6, 1963.

\textsuperscript{14}\textit{Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee}, March 28, 1963.
}
school operation included in this plan, lies with the school board. Referendums, however, are needed for long term borrowing for construction purposes.\textsuperscript{15}

After continued study, the Citizens Education Committee authorized its executive committee to seek to introduce an ordinance to amend the city charter to provide for direct election of the school board.\textsuperscript{16} This effort was defeated because the ordinance as proposed called for a phasing out of the old system over a two year period. A special school law said the board must be elected within thirty days after the referendum and take office soon thereafter.\textsuperscript{17}

Another situation, the school attachment case, was watched with interest by the Citizens Education Committee since it would affect many areas of the school system.\textsuperscript{18}

\textsuperscript{15}\textit{La Crosse Tribune}, March 28, 1963.
\textsuperscript{16}Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, April 30, 1963.
\textsuperscript{17}\textit{La Crosse Tribune}, August 2, 1963.
\textsuperscript{18}Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, June 26, 1963.
A Wisconsin law of 1959 required that all areas in the state be part of a high school district by mid-1962.\textsuperscript{19} La Crosse had fought the attachment of eight surrounding school districts over a period of two-and-a-half years.\textsuperscript{20} It was the contention of the city that the attachment law was unconstitutional because city residents did not have a legal right to resist it.\textsuperscript{21} When the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled the law constitutional, plans were made by the city to take the matter to the United States Supreme Court.\textsuperscript{22} The Citizens Education Committee questioned the advisability of the city continuing action in view of the previous court decisions and the general consolidation trends throughout the state and nation.\textsuperscript{23} They proceeded to investigate the intent of the Common Council's original resolution protesting attachment, financial expenditures, and the approximate costs of challenging the case further.\textsuperscript{24}

\textsuperscript{19}\textit{La Crosse Tribune}, November 8, 1964.
\textsuperscript{20}Ibid. \hspace{1cm} \textsuperscript{21}Ibid. \hspace{1cm} \textsuperscript{22}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{23}Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, October 28, 1964.
\textsuperscript{24}Ibid.
The information was made known to the public.25

The school districts in question were ordered attached to the La Crosse Public Schools in January 1965 by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.26 Since representation in school matters was needed for the new districts, the school attachment order became a vital factor in the move for an elected school board.27

Bolstered by the school attachment case, the Citizens Education Committee voted in January 1965 to authorize the executive committee to pursue the matter of direct election of the school board. The State Department of Public Instruction provided the necessary procedural information.28

The committee concerned itself with interpreting the advantages of an elected school board to the community. Over nine thousand pieces of literature were distributed. Television and radio programs also helped get the issue

27Minutes of the Citizens Education Committee, September 27, 1965.
Distribution of petitions began in November 1966. The goal was placing a referendum on the April 1967 ballot requesting the necessary city charter change permitting direct election of Board of Education members.

The committee presented these reasons for having a direct election:

1. A school board elected by all the people of the school district will talk to the people, will represent the wishes of the people, and will seek public support for its plans and programs.

2. Direct election of the board will put La Crosse in step with the rest of the school districts in Wisconsin. It points out that aldermen select members only in La Crosse and the mayor appoints members only in Green Bay.

3. Direct election of the board by citizens of the district gives people outside the city limits a voice in the election of board members.

4. The present La Crosse Board of Education is illegally constituted with an even number of members and without proper vote from the areas outside the city.

The problem of proportionate representation was the primary reason given by aldermen opposing the referendum.

29 Ibid., March 28, 1966. 30 Ibid.

31 Newsletter to members of the Citizens Education Committee, October 26, 1966.

32 La Crosse Tribune, March 26, 1967.

33 Ibid.
Victory came at the polls on April 4, 1967. Voters decided by a two-to-three margin for direct election of school board members. 34

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Political interference was a factor in the school problem since the school board was dependent on the Common Council for appointment and financial support. The Citizens Education Committee published the voting records of those on the school board and council who voted consistently against school needs. They also publicly supported candidates for school board and aldermanic posts. After studying the possibility of an elected school board, the Citizens Education Committee informed the public of its advantages and successfully managed to place on the ballot a referendum which accomplished this.

34Ibid., April 5, 1967.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this paper was to describe the activities of the Citizens Education Committee in a manner that would establish their influence on the policies of the La Crosse Public Schools.

Even in its most active period, the Citizens Education Committee was not a large group.\(^1\) The nucleus of the organization was committed to their avowed purpose of providing better education for La Crosse children.\(^2\) This purpose was personal as well as community-minded. They operated on a low financial budget but with a high investment of time, effort and study.\(^3\)

Many community conditions made the work of the Citizens Education Committee difficult. Although notices of their meeting usually contained an invitation to the public to attend, there was suspicion of their motives by

\(^1\)Questionnaire answer from Truman D. Hayes.

\(^2\)By Laws of the Citizens Education Committee.

\(^3\)Ibid.
many citizens and outright ridicule by Mayor Knutson. 4
Fear of controversy kept people who agreed in principle
from joining the group. 5 Teachers, particularly, were
fearful of involvement in political action. 6 The attendance
at all public meetings by representatives of the Citizens
Education Committee irritated some councilmen who were not
accustomed to so much surveillance. 7 The City Plan
Commission avoided their presence by meeting in unconventional
places. 8 The mayor, who was also chairman of the City Plan
Commission and news director of a local radio station,
became a powerful adversary of the Citizens Education
Committee. 9 He used the term "educationists" to refer to
them in a scathing way. 10 Lack of cooperation from the

4 Questionnaire answer from Truman D. Hayes.
5 Questionnaire answer from Mrs. Robert Ramlow.
6 Questionnaire answer from Mrs. David Levenstein.
7 Questionnaire answer from Mrs. Robert Ramlow.
8 Questionnaire answer from Mrs. William Zielke.
9 Questionnaire answer from Robert J. Kuechmann.
10 Questionnaire answer from Mrs. Robert Ramlow.
Catholic schools in sharing information about enrollments and building plans, left unanswered questions because of the high percentage of parochial population.\textsuperscript{11} The public apathy about schools encountered by the Citizens Education Committee was not a new situation. Lack of parental concern about poor school conditions is recorded in a superintendent's report in 1865.\textsuperscript{12}

The influence of the actions of the Citizens Education Committee is not always easily evaluated. Nevertheless, their work focused public attention on crucial school problems. Teachers and administrators were given new support by the knowledge that a group of citizens was actively trying to improve the school conditions within the community.\textsuperscript{13} The influence of the Citizens Education Committee was also evidenced by the results of their open support or censure of candidates for school board or aldermanic positions. Although change by the election

\textsuperscript{11}Questionnaire answer from Robert J. Kuechmann.


\textsuperscript{13}Questionnaire answer from Mrs. William Zielke.
process was slow, those who remained in office seemed to develop more sensitivity to public opinion.\(^{14}\)

The one most outstanding contribution of the Citizens Education Committee was enacting the change from an appointed school board to an elected one. This single accomplishment has come to symbolize their success.\(^{15}\)

Since the successful referendum, the Citizens Education Committee has been inactive as a group.\(^{16}\) Although members do not think that all educational problems have been solved, they believe the elected school board should be allowed to develop as an educational force competent to cope with these problems.\(^{17}\) Members believe that the Citizens Education Committee would become active again if the need arose or that another group would rise to the occasion.\(^{18}\)

\(^{14}\)Questionnaire answer from Richard C. Bradford.

\(^{15}\)La Crosse Tribune, February 4, 1969.

\(^{16}\)Questionnaire answer from Truman D. Hayes.

\(^{17}\)Ibid.

\(^{18}\)Questionnaire answers from Dr. Sigurd Gunderson, Jr. and Mrs. Robert Ramlow.
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C. NEWSPAPERS

APPENDIX
APPENDIX A

CITIZENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF LA CROSSE

BY LAWS

Article I

Name The name of this organization shall be the Citizens Education Committee of La Crosse.

Article II

Purpose Sec. 1 It shall be the purpose of the Citizens Education Committee to promote better education in La Crosse.
Sec. 2 It shall be a part of this purpose to investigate specific problems of education which have been approved by the committee of the whole.
Sec. 3 The Citizens Education Committee shall endeavor to increase community understanding and cooperation toward the goal of better education.

Article III

Membership Members shall be any interested citizens within the La Crosse School District.

Article IV

Officers Sec. 1 There shall be a president, 1st vice-president, secretary and treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Executive Board.
Sec. 2. Duties of officers
   a. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings, to receive
APPENDIX A

and submit all reports to the membership, to call meetings of the committee of the whole and of the executive board whenever indicated.

b. It shall be the duty of the 1st vice-president to preside at meetings and to assume other duties of the president when the president is absent.

c. The 2nd vice-president will serve when the 1st vice-president is not available.

d. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Committee of the whole and of the Executive Board and shall transmit the minutes of the Committee of the whole to the membership along with notice of the next meeting.

e. The treasurer will collect dues and keep records of receipts and expenditures.

Officers Sec. 3 Election of officers shall be by nomination at the March meeting with election at the April meeting. Replacement of officers during the year by executive action.

Sec. 4 Term of Office shall be for one year.

Article V

Meetings Sec. 1 Meetings of the Committee of the whole shall be called by the president.

Sec. 2 Notice of meetings shall be sent out a week in advance.
APPENDIX A

Article VI

Committees  Sec. 1 There shall be an Executive Board consisting of the five officers which shall meet prior to the regular meetings of the Committee of the whole. The president of the Citizens Education Committee shall be presiding officer.

Sec. 2 The chairman of a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the president. The chairman will select a committee of three members.

Sec. 3 A Membership Committee shall be appointed by the President. Its duties shall be to seek out good membership for the committee of the whole, and it shall have the power to recommend limitation of membership as it sees fit.

Sec. 4 Other committees shall be established as needed by action of the committee of the whole with appointment of chairmen by the president.

Article VII

Dues  Dues of $1.00 shall be paid annually.

Article VIII

Changes in By-Laws  Amendments to the By-laws may be adopted by majority vote of those present at a meeting of the committee of the whole, providing that notice of the proposed change has been sent to each member at least a week prior to the meeting.
APPENDIX B

112 South 27th Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin
July 2, 1969

Dear Member of the Citizens Education Committee:

Thank you for agreeing to fill in the enclosed questionnaire. Since my paper will be concerned with some quite recent history, I feel the comments of those directly involved will be a valuable addition to it. Please use the back of the papers to add other information which you think may be helpful. The enclosed stamped envelope is for your convenience. I would be very grateful to receive your reply within a week.

Very truly yours,

Ruth B. Kritchman
APPENDIX C

QUESTIONNAIRE

Name ________________________________

1. What conditions existed in La Crosse which created the need for the Citizens Education Committee?

2. What problems of organization and purpose were encountered in the early days of the committee?

3. What sources were consulted for information to assist the work of the committee? (published materials, local groups)
APPENDIX C

4. What obstacles within the community did the Citizens Education Committee encounter? (individuals, groups, mass communication)

5. How did the committee work to overcome these obstacles?

6. What do you feel were the accomplishments of the Citizens Education Committee?
APPENDIX C

7. Identify some of the present educational needs of the community.

8. What suggestions would you give other groups interested in bringing about educational improvements?

9. What will be the future of the Citizens Education Committee?

10. Do you agree to the direct or indirect use of your answers to these questions in my paper on the Citizens Education Committee?