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USE YOUR VOTE

The Executive Committee of the American Liberty League meeting in New York Thursday, May 14, approved an open letter addressed to the entire membership of the League, to be published in the Bulletin, which reads as follows:

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LIBERTY LEAGUE:

There can be no question of the importance of the elections to be held this year. The fate of constitutional self-government in the United States may be at stake.

In such circumstances every citizen owes a duty to himself, to his family and to his Nation. His duty is the free and intelligent exercise of his right of franchise---his vote. The ballot which a free citizen casts may be compared with the payment of a premium upon his insurance policy. If the premium is not paid, the policy lapses and he and his family lose the protection for which he has labored and saved for years. The exercise of your right to vote constitutes the premium you pay to protect the most valuable insurance policy ever written---the Constitution of the United States.

The American Liberty League believes that the people of the United States do not wish to abandon their Constitution or to permit it to be nullified. The League believes that the people are well aware of the fact that the Constitution, and the Constitution alone, protects them in such rights as religious freedom, free speech, a free press, trial by jury and safeguard of lives and property against the whims and caprices of an autocratic bureaucracy. The League believes that the people know full well that in many of the other major Nations of the world today such rights are non-existent because of the absence of a definite constitution made effective by a government in which legislative, executive and judicial powers are properly separated.

But even if some American citizens do wish to change the form of their government, the League is certain that the people are not willing to allow such change to be made without their express consent and approval. The people themselves, and they alone, have the power and the right to change the Constitution.

In the last four Presidential elections, an average of only 53% of all potential voters actually cast their ballots. The men and women who fail to vote have no right to complain of the character of government thrust upon them. If they are too lazy or too indifferent to go to the polls they must accept the result. It must be remembered that those who have a selfish interest in the outcome of an election are always very careful to vote.

Because of the unusual importance attaching to the elections this year and because the right of franchise is the most sacred privilege of every citizen, the Executive Committee of the League feels called upon to urge that all of its members in each state of the Union pledge themselves to exercise the right of franchise in November. The Committee also urges that each member of the League constitute himself, or herself, a committee of one to obtain similar pledges from as many fellow-citizens as possible.

To make this program effective, it is important that it be started