



“The Lady and the Tiger”

November 7, 1917

In this cartoon Berryman presents the two big winners on Election Day 1917 in New York. Voters in New York adopted a woman suffrage amendment to the state constitution, a measure backed by Tammany Hall, New York City's Democratic political machine. On the same day, Democrat John F. Hylan defeated both the Republican mayor of New York City John Purroy Mitchel, and Socialist candidate Morris Hillquit. The victory was a major triumph for Tammany Hall, here represented by the proud Tammany Tiger.

*U.S. Senate Collection
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April 10, 1917.

Hon. Champ Clark,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

On behalf of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, I write to ask that a Committee on Woman Suffrage be appointed in the House of Representatives as in the Senate of the Congress of the United States. We make this request because the Judiciary Committee, to which constitutional amendments are referred, is and always has been so occupied with other important questions, that it has never been able to give the consideration due to this measure, supported by so large a portion of our people.

May I remind you that the national governments of Great Britain, France and Russia have promised woman suffrage in the near future; and that the greater part of Canada has already established it within a few months. The leaders of these governments have announced that the vote has been or will be given to their women in recognition of the devotion, sacrifice, skill and endurance of women in their varied service to their country under the strain of war. Our Republic stands upon the threshold of what may prove the severest test of loyalty and endurance our country has ever had. It needs its women; and they are ready -- as fearless, as willing, as able, as loyal as any women of the world.

You have had a long and successful political career and that means that you know men and women. You know that both work better when their hearts bear no sense

Letter from Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, to Champ Clark, Speaker of the House, April 10, 1917 (Page 1 of 2)

In this letter suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt urges the House of Representatives to create a committee devoted exclusively to woman suffrage. The Senate created such a committee in 1882, but no comparable committee existed in the House. The committee was ultimately created, and in 1919 it proposed a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote nationwide. This amendment, ratified in 1920, became the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
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of being wronged. You will realize that our women will feel a less exalted patriotism, a less unselfish spirit of devotion, a less spontaneous desire to serve, if they are forced to carry a conviction that the monarchies of the world have been more just to their women citizens than this Republic has been to us.

Mr. Speaker, the women of our country appreciate the fact that you are yourself an advocate of our cause, but we do not presume upon your interest when we ask for a House Suffrage Committee. We ask it because the world is calling to the Congress of the United States to make better time if it would hold its place as Leader in the march of world democracy.

As a small concession to this world-wide movement, we beg you to recommend to the House the establishment of a Woman Suffrage Committee.

Very truly,

Carrie Chapman Catt
President.

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Letter from Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, to Champ Clark, Speaker of the House, April 10, 1917 (Page 2 of 2)

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