

September 20, 1920.

Dear Sir:

Your letter and telegraph, both dated the 16th inst[ant]. are received. I did refuse to call a special session of the General Assembly to ratify the Nineteen Amendment because the majority of the women of this State do not desire it. However, when Tennessee ratified, as it was shown by Secretary Colby's certification, I called a special session to permit legislation to be passed which would enable the women to enjoy the rights which had been given them. Then came the further action by the Tennessee Legislature, assuming to re-consider and turn down their act of ratification. If the November election should occur and be thrown into doubt because of the women voting, and it should appear by a decision of the Supreme Court that they were not entitled to vote because Tennessee had not ratified, there would be a condition created which would be a great deal more serious than the woman suffrage question.

The Legislature of this State was unanimous in desiring to ratify the Amendment and they did pass a resolution ratifying it at a special session. I called for the purpose of enabling women to be made voters. This I claimed to be unwarranted because they were not called for that purpose. I think practically every-one in this Sate now is desirous that the Nineteenth Amendment shall be ratified to avoid possible much greater evil from the uncertainty surrounding the November election, in case of a reversal of the act of ratification by the Tennessee Legislature by a decision of the Supreme Court. I have called another special session

which meets to-morrow to consider the Nineteenth Amendment, and I presume that they will ratify it again.

I regret very much the fiasco in Tennessee. If they desired to turn ratification down they should have found it out without creating this dangerous uncertainty.

Very truly yours.

[sent to]

William H. Williamson, President

States' Rights Defense League of North Carolina,

Raleigh, North Caroline.