

HOUSE No. 5129

By Mr. Bartley of Holyoke, petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John F.X. Davoren, David M. Bartley and Kevin B. Harrington for legislation to regulate voting registration in the Commonwealth. Election Laws.

Massachusetts

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Recorded
Ass'n
In
Favor*

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-One.

AN ACT REGULATING REGISTRATION FOR VOTING IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is, in part, to provide forthwith for
3 registration and voting for citizens nineteen years of age and
4 older at all elections, therefore it is hereby declared to be an
5 emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the
6 public convenience.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as
follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by chapter 160 of the acts of 1963,
3 is hereby further amended by striking out the first paragraph
4 and inserting in place thereof the following two paragraphs: —
5 Except as otherwise provided in section one A, every citizen
6 nineteen years of age or older, not being a pauper or person
7 under guardianship and not being temporarily or permanently
8 disqualified by law because of corrupt practices in respect to
9 elections, who has resided in the city or town where he claims
10 the right to vote six months last preceding a state, city or town
11 election, and who has complied with the requirements of this
12 chapter, may have his name entered on the list of voters in
13 such city or town, and may vote therein in any such election,
14 or except insofar as restricted in any town in which a represen-
15 tative town meeting form of government has been established,

16 in any meeting held for the transaction of town affairs. No
17 person otherwise qualified to vote for national or state officers
18 shall, by reason of a change of residence within the common-
19 wealth, be disqualified from voting for such officers in the city
20 or town from which he has removed his residence until the
21 expiration of six months from such removal. A married woman
22 shall be eligible to vote and to register for the purpose of
23 voting in the city or town where she resides.

24 Any citizen eighteen years of age, but less than nineteen
25 years of age, to whom the remainder of the above qualifica-
26 tions apply, and who has complied with the provisions of this
27 chapter, may have his name entered upon a list of voters
28 qualified to vote for the offices of presidential elector, United
29 States Senator and United States Congressman, and upon
30 reaching the age of nineteen years shall have his name trans-
31 ferred by the board of registrars from said list to the list of
32 voters provided for in the above paragraph, and shall thereafter
33 be deemed a registered voter of the city or town.

1 SECTION 2. Section 26 of chapter 51 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by section 212 of the acts of 1968,
3 is hereby further amended by striking out the second sentence
4 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence: - No
5 application under section one A to qualify for voting for
6 electors of president and vice-president shall be received be-
7 tween ten o'clock in the evening on the twenty-ninth day
8 preceding, and the day following, an election at which such
9 electors are to be chosen.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1A of chapter 51 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in section 1 of chapter 367 of the acts of 1966, is
3 hereby amended by inserting in place of the word "thirty-one"
4 each time it appears, the word "twenty-nine".

1 SECTION 4. Section 28 of chapter 51 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by chapter 34 of the acts of 1947, is
3 hereby further amended by inserting at the end the
4 following: - They shall hold a continuous session from twelve
5 o'clock noon until seven o'clock in the evening on the twenty-

6 ninth day preceding an election at which electors of president
7 and vice-president are to be elected, for the purpose of qual-
8 ifying persons who have resided in the commonwealth at least
9 twenty-nine days preceding such election, but less than six
10 months preceding such election and who are eligible to qualify
11 for voting for presidential electors under the provisions of
12 section one A.

1 SECTION 5. Section 42 of chapter 51 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by chapter 477 of the acts of 1965,
3 is hereby further amended by striking out the first sentence of
4 the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the fol-
5 lowing: - Registrars, assistant registrars and absent registration
6 officers shall verbally inform each person of the age of nine-
7 teen or over being registered as a voter that he may, at the
8 same time and place, establish his enrolment in a political party
9 by signing an appropriate form provided by the registrars of
10 voters.

1 SECTION 6. Section 44 of chapter 51 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by section 20 of chapter 437 of the
3 acts of 1962, is hereby further amended by striking out said
4 section and inserting in place thereof the following section: -
5 *Section 44.* The registrars, or absent registration officers, as
6 the case may be, shall examine on oath each applicant for
7 registration and each applicant under section one A to qualify
8 for voting for electors of president and vice-president relative
9 to his qualifications for voting, and shall, unless such applicant
10 is prevented by physical disability, afford him the opportunity
11 to write his name in the general register or on the application
12 form prescribed by said section one A, as the case may be. If
13 such applicant is unable to sign his name, otherwise than from
14 physical disability, he shall make his mark, which shall be
15 witnessed by the registrar or assistant registrar. Inability to sign
16 his name shall in no way bar the applicant from becoming a
17 registered voter, or from qualifying for voting for presidential
18 elector in accordance with section one A.

1 SECTION 7. Section 4 of chapter 51 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by section 4 of chapter 160 of the

3 acts of 1963, is hereby further amended by inserting in place
4 of the word "twenty", the word "seventeen".

1 SECTION 8. Section 10A of chapter 51 of the General
2 Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 176 of the acts of
3 1955, is hereby further amended by inserting in place of the
4 word "twenty" the word: – seventeen.



A Hour of Peace

Let's have A Hour of Peace.

Meetings, protests, speeches, rallies
All show our desire for peace.

So let's have A Hour of Peace.

Talking, shouting, singing, crying
All speak our desire for peace.

So let's have A Hour of Peace.

Without drivin' 'n' typin'.
Without sellin' 'n' stealin'.
Without fussin' 'n' fightin'.

With our voices lowerin'.
With quiet harmony growin'.
With tranquility flowin'.

Then we'll have A Hour of Peace.

7/1/71.

2:00 p.m. local time.

Wherever you may be.

Let's have A Hour of Peace.

Pass the word and help it grow.
A wave of peace rollin' round the world.

Peace starts with you. Do your part.

1- Make at least 5 copies of this letter now and
mail them to friends, relatives and strangers.

2- On July first at 2:00 p.m., stop what you're doing
for one hour of peace, quiet, prayer and meditation.

Jan Lewis and Steve Nelson, Box 505, Cambridge MA 02139

The Boston Globe

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 21, 1971

Just one hour of peace: Can it stop the world?

By Otile McManus
Globe Staff

Steve Nelson and Jan Lewis don't want to stop the world — they just want to take a break for an hour.

"A Hour of Peace, 7-1-71, 2 p.m., local time. Wherever you may be."

That's what it says on the press releases that Steve and Jan are cranking out in Cambridge.

As they visualize it, all activity would stop for one hour and people would see what peace was like instead of "pursuing it in more strident ways."

"A non-demonstration, a non-strike, a non-protest, a non-activity. You know, you would just drop out an hour. But then you go back to what you were doing. Can you imagine an hour in the city with everything quiet and calm and it's not Sunday morning but the middle of the week?"

Steve Nelson, 30 minus two weeks, and Jan Lewis, 23, sat in a corner of the patisserie in Harvard Square with dog, "B. B. King" and friend. Talking about a book called "The Miracle at Philadelphia" and how the leaders of the American Revolution — with the exception of George Washington — were in their 20s.

Steve Nelson, a red, white, and blue ribbon in his pony tail, registering amazement. Jan Lewis, her red sneakers balanced on the ledge, patting B.B. King's head.

"A Hour of Peace, they tell you, is the logical extension of a book they collaborated on last summer — a book of poetic frag-

ments called "Sunsets Are Red White and Blue."

They were living on a farm near Greenfield and "wanted to produce something together" and were watching a sunset one evening.

"The book says something positive about America," says Steve. "It makes a political statement but in a larger sense."

"Cosmopolitical," says Jan.

Steve again: "We tried to isolate common elements, the lowest common denominator."

After unsuccessfully taking the book around to several publishers, they scraped together a \$500 loan, bound it with ribbon and a provocative red seal, and decided to sell it themselves on the streets of Cambridge.

"Everything was so negative last spring after Cambodia," Steve continues. But then I got this feeling that the choice is up to you. I choose to see things more positively."

And according to Steve and Jan, that's what "A Hour of Peace" is all about.

Steve quickly catalogues his life: Cornell, Harvard Law, Kennedy School of Government, NASA lawyer, sandal-maker, Boston Tea Party, WBCN, rock club in south Deerfield, 15th place out of 26 in the 1969 Cambridge City Council elections, and contender again in November.

And Jan Hers: Irish-American descendant of Pocahontas, B.U., a semester at Radcliffe, Phi Beta Kappa from U. of Michigan, junior high teaching, and Masters credits at UMass.

Sunsets and now "A Hour of Peace."

Why July 1st?

"Because it's the first day of the fiscal year. A good day to understand what it is we're producing. What about the Gross National Product?"

"And it's right before the Fourth of July weekend. If last year was any indication, the Fourth of July has become a divisive event. It's politicized. Bitter, With everyone claiming the day."

Steve, who characterized his political stance as "heresy around Harvard Square, believes that the government should leave a citizen's private life alone and that citizens have to take more responsibility for themselves, their lives and their world.

Will people buy "A Hour of Peace?"

"If everyone would just stop for an hour all over the world. Imagine it. A hush moving from one time zone to the next. London. Boston. The West Coast. It could really be beautiful. Sort of environmental art."

"I just hope it isn't 95 degrees."



Jan Lewis, Steve Nelson, "Sunsets are Red, White and Blue." (Paul Connell photo)

Cambridge Girl Plans 'Rally'

Can You Spare 1 Hour for Peace?

Record American, Boston, Monday, May 31, 1971

Meet the newest organizer of a peace demonstration.

She's a svelte redhead from Cambridge, a former school teacher and an elegant dresser.

And if you want to participate in her rally July 1, don't picket the White House, sit-in at a city hall or stall traffic.

Jan Lewis, 23, is asking you to be peaceful about peace. Just stop whatever you are doing between 2 and 3 p.m. that day and think about peace, or talk about it with the people around you.

"I got the idea after the April demonstrations in Washington—everyone seemed so frustrated," she said. "For once we should have a non-political observation of peace by all persons, be they hard hats or radicals. We want people all over the world to observe it."

Here are some of her suggestions.

If you're a truck driver, pull over to the side of the road for an hour.

If you're a secretary, push back from your typewriter and talk seriously about peace with your officemates.

When Jan, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from the Univ. of Michigan, and Steve Nelson, 30, a Harvard Law School graduate, got the idea of the hour for peace they had about \$100 to use to spread their message worldwide.

Now they claim people in England, Latin America and numerous states across the country will pause for peace July 1.

How did they do it?

"We got the idea of a chain letter and sent them to our friends," Jan explained. "In this letter we suggested that the receiver make five copies of the message and send it to their friends. It seems to be working!"

Jan visited the Archbishop's House and received his commendation.

A letter to Jan from Arch-



Jan Lewis asks you to be peaceful.

Staff Photo by Stanley Forman

bishop Humberto Medeiros suggests:

"Everyone can join in a program for peace, first to promote peace within, through meditation and prayer to God, the source of peace and second without, in works of justice, the basis of peace."

And Jan visited one company owner who asked for 200 letters about the hour for peace which he put in his employees pay envelopes.

"We chose July 1 because it's the last working day before the holiday and it's the fiscal year — like a time for a

new beginning," Jan explained.

Jan and Steve Nelson like to stress that they are non-political people. They co-authored a book last summer, "Sunsets Are Red, White and Blue," which they say "makes a positive statement about America."

"So many peace movements are simply against war. We like to make this a demonstration for something," Jan said. "I hope this will give people of all different backgrounds a communion of peace."

"It could set an example."

Cambridge Chronicle

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1971

An Hour of Peace - Do You Have Time?

By PAULE TEAGUE

What are you doing July 1? That's right, what are you doing on that day?

Before your defense mechanisms take over, calm down. Everyone knows how busy you are, and no one is going to ask you to take on another task.

On the contrary, Jan Lewis and Steve Nelson want you to take a break that day. They want you to take it easy and observe an hour of peace.

Jan and Steve, both of Cambridge, are sponsoring "An Hour of Peace" for 2 p.m., July 1 so everyone can take a break and see what peace could be like.

They want a kind of "non-demonstration" during which people all over the world can talk and think about peace. "So many peace movements are simply against the war," they said. "This one would be more than that, it would be for something, for a world communion of peace that will

last for one hour."

Chain Letter

Spreading the word of the campaign may not seem like an easy task. Their method is simple, though. They have circulated a chain letter and asked each receiver to make five copies and send them to his friends. 1500 copies have already been mailed.

The campaign is not without support. Archbishop Humberto Medeiros sent Jan and Steve a letter commending their program.

What do you do during an hour of peace?

Nothing. Just stop whatever it is you would normally be doing, and think about peace for a while. Think about the fact that people all over the world are also observing an hour of peace at the same time, Steve suggests.

Oh, and one other thing. You might occasionally flash the two-fingered peace sign to anyone you see, Jan says.

World urged to pause for peace

By Robert H. Shipman

Written for *The Christian Science Monitor*

Cambridge, Mass.

What will you be doing between 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, July 1, 1971?

Jan Lewis and Steve Nelson hope it will be nothing but being peaceful. On that day they are proposing that the nation observe what they call "A Hour of Peace." They hope people will stop whatever they are doing, wherever they may be, and think about peace and talk about it with their friends.

Miss Lewis, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from the University of Michigan, and Mr. Nelson, a Harvard Law School graduate, conceived of the idea of "A Hour of Peace" after the April 24 demonstrations in Washington.

"For once we should have a nonpolitical observation of peace by all persons, be they hard-hats or radicals. We want people all over the world to observe it."

And they feel the hour is a logical extension of a book they wrote together last summer called "Sunsets are Red, White and Blue" which "makes a positive statement about America."

One step at a time

So far they have been spreading the word for "A Hour of Peace" one step at a time. First, through a gift of \$100 from a friend, they printed a chain letter and sent it to their friends.

Then, after a visit with Archbishop Humberto Medeiros, Miss Lewis received a letter from the Archbishop with his commendation.

Now the press and radio are covering their progress, and next they plan to present a resolution for "A Hour of Peace" before the Cambridge City Council.

But Miss Lewis and Mr. Nelson point out that they are not trying to push the idea of an hour's personal peace demonstration. Rather they want to present the idea, and then it's up to the individual to assume the responsibility and decide whether to participate.

They feel that the individual can and must be involved in his community. "There needs to be more involvement at the local level — community cooperation in the New England town meeting tradition.

It may begin with collecting bottles to be recycled and develop to bringing peace," says Miss Lewis.

Miss Lewis readily admits, "It's not a solution, of course, but rather an experience. A wave of peace rolling round the world."

BOSTON
BOSTON
BOSTON
BOSTON
BOSTON

June 15, 1971

25 CENTS

Peace Hour Coming

BY STEVE NELSON
AND JAN LEWIS

Steve: O.K., let's get this straight. It's July One, not July Seven, despite what the ads said.

Jan: A Hour of Peace. July One. 2-3 p.m.

S: Gotcha. Want to explain?

J: It's simple. Just stop what you're doing and be peaceful.

S: That's the point. *Be* peaceful. We can demand peace, but why don't we just *be* peaceful, if only for one hour?

J: Do it in your own way: pray, meditate, stand on your head. Just be peaceful and quiet.

S: Yeah, quiet. One hour of quiet in the city. Park your car. Put down your work. Lower your voice. Be still.

J: Silence can speak louder than raised voices.

S: And we can all be silent together. It's not a divisive political trip. There are no sides.

J: This isn't a protest *against* something. It's something positive everyone can do *for* peace.

S: *It is* peace. And all kinds of people are getting into it.

J: WBCN, the Archbishop, the newspapers, street freaks, TV stations.

S: They're all getting behind it.

J: And you can just by doing it.

S: You don't have to spend any money, you don't have to go anywhere, you don't have to be organized.

J: Just stop at 2:00 p.m. on July One to be peaceful.

S: And pass the word.

J: We've been sending out chain letters about it, and if you send us a self-addressed stamped envelope we'll mail you one to pass along.

S: The address is A Hour of Peace, Box 505, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

J: Now let's explain why it's "A Hour," not "An Hour."

S: That calls for a riddle.

J: Adam was made from billions of atoms. What is made from billions of Adams?

AN HOUR OF PEACE

Let's have an Hour of Peace.
Meetings, protests, speeches, rallies
All show our desire for peace.
So let's have an Hour of Peace.
Talking, shouting, singing, crying
All speak our desire for peace.
So let's have an Hour of Peace
Without drivin' 'n' typin'.
Without sellin' 'n' stealin'.
Without fussin' 'n' fightin'.
With our voices lowerin'.
With quiet harmony growin'.
With tranquility flowin'.
Then we'll have an Hour of Peace.
7/1/71. 2:00 p.m. local time.
Wherever you may be.
Pass the word and help it grow.
A wave of peace rollin' round the world.

an Hour of Peace

July 7, 1971 - 2:00pm

Worcester, Thurs., June 10, 1971



Gazette Photo

Steve Nelson and Jan Lewis browse through copies of their book.

Poetic Demonstration

Pair Calls for Hour of Peace

By FRANK E. MAGIERA

Of The Gazette Staff

Steve Nelson and Jan Lewis often dress alike in blue jeans and matching denim jackets.

They wear the same colored patches over their breast pockets — on the right an "A" design over bars of red, white and blue and on the left a rainbow arc around a lapel pin of the American flag, the kind worn by many politicians and public officials.

They have written a book of poetry together (but come back — they're not selling it).

Now they are organizing a peace demonstration, or more accurately, a demonstration of peace.

'Hour of Peace'

They are asking everyone to participate in "A Hour of Peace" between 2 and 3 p.m. on July 1.

During the hour, you just stop what you're doing — whatever it is, wherever you are. You stop to think, talk or just relax — but with peace and self-evaluation in mind.

The capital "A" in the title, and the patch they wear is a symbolic reference to humanity. It appears often in their book as well.

"You don't have to travel to

Washington or to Boston Common, you don't have to carry a sign or chant or yell or anything," Steve said.

"Lately demonstrations have tended to place the blame for all our problems on someone," said Jan. "They blame this or that, it's us and them, young and old or rich and poor.

"We are asking everyone to start with themselves, to recognize their own personal responsibility in affecting things. Everybody has the power to act on themselves and sometimes silence speaks louder than noise.

Nonpolitical

"This doesn't have any political sides," Steve said. "It doesn't divide people."

The couple live in Cambridge and say they have made appeals for "A Hour of Peace" all over the world.

Steve, 30, is a graduate of Cornell, Harvard Law and studied at the Kennedy School of Government. He was a lawyer for the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) before he turned to sandalmaking. Lately he has managed rock music clubs in Cambridge and in Western Massachusetts.

Steve placed 15th out of 26

candidates in the 1969 Cambridge City Council elections and expects to be a candidate again this year.

Jan, 25, says she is an "Irish-American descendant of Pocahontas." Her mother was Irish-American and her father's ancestors include John Rolfe and Pocahontas, she said.

Phi Beta Kappa

She attended Boston University and Radcliffe before graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Michigan. She taught junior high school and has earned credits towards her masters degree at UMass.

"A Hour of Peace" is an extension of their book "Sunsets Are Red, White and Blue," which they wrote last summer.

The book is a series of poetic fragments and can be read in half an hour.

"It's a book for people who hate books," Steve said.

After being turned down by several publishers, Steve and Jan invested \$500 of their own money to have it printed and sold the copies themselves on the streets of Cambridge. Now they give away some

copies.

With another \$100 donation they wrote and mailed chain letters announcing "A Hour of Peace."

Steve and Jan chose July 1 because it was the first day of the fiscal year and also because it was the last day before a holiday.

"It's a good day to understand what it is we're producing," Steve said.



ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

May 21, 1971

Miss Jan Lewis
Box 505
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Miss Lewis:

Thank you for your letter of May 9, 1971 and also for your visit to the Archbishop's House on Thursday, May 20. I am sorry I was unable to be with you but I am happy that Father Daily was able to receive you.

Your program, "An Hour of Peace" as discussed in your letter is most commendable. Everyone can join in a program for peace, first to promote peace within, through meditation and prayer to God, the source of peace and second without, in works of justice, the basis of peace.

I would encourage every noble effort for peace, but must leave it to the good judgment of pastors and priests as to the manner of endorsement and the publicity given on the local level.

With every good wish, I remain

Devotedly yours in Our Lord,

Humbert S. Medeiros

Archbishop of Boston

A Hour of Peace Resolution

Whereas meetings, protests, speeches, rallies
All show our desire for peace,

Resolved: Let's have A Hour of Peace.

Whereas talking, shouting, singing, crying
All speak our desire for peace,

Resolved: Let's have A Hour of Peace.

Without drivin' 'n' typin'.
Without sellin' 'n' stealin'.
Without fussin' 'n' fightin'.

With our voices lowerin'.
With quiet harmony growin'.
With tranquility flowin'.

Resolved: Let's have A Hour of Peace.

July One Seventy-One.
2:00 p.m. local time. *✓*
Wherever we may be.

Resolved: Let's have A Hour of Peace.

Submitted by
STEVE NELSON

In City Council June 21, 1971.
Adopted by a voice vote.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

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RESOLUTION
AN HOUR OF PEACE

June 21, 1971