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# Idea Exchange

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George in the House of Representatives and by Herbert R. O'Conor in the Senate. It was favorably reported out by the Senate Judiciary Committee in May 1951. Both the Republican and Democratic parties adopted planks in their 1944 and 1948 platforms recommending submission of a constitutional amendment on "equal rights for women."

The amendment providing for equality is endorsed by more than 40,000,000 women through their own organizations; and it is also endorsed by hundreds of state, regional, and local organizations representing social, political, industrial, business, professional,

and religious groups. Mrs. Murrell writes that "in 1951 it is considered fashionable on Capitol Hill to be for the amendment."

The Legislative Committees of both AWSCPA and ASWA are continuing their work urging submission of the amendment by the 82nd Congress; and, in so doing, they are carrying out the mandate of AWSCPA and ASWA and answering the question "Why do women demand an amendment to the constitution which will guarantee them full citizenship?" with the question propounded by Mrs. Murrell: "What, gentlemen, would you trade for your constitutional rights?"

# IDEA EXCHANGE

#### By THEIA A. CASCIO, Sherman Oaks, California

#### FILL-IN JOBS

Contributed by Jennie M. Palen, C.P.A., New York, N. Y.

Practically every business has a slack season, or at least one in which certain of the employees are less busy than at other times. Idle time during this period as well as occasional lulls during other periods may be utilized to prepare forms for use later in the year.

If, for instance, the accounting procedure calls for monthly or quarterly statements in comparative form, skeleton forms may be pre-drafted for as much as a year in advance and the prior-period figures filled in, as well as all headings, so that the pressure of the statement-writing period will be lessened.

Even more time may be saved by preparing several copies of each form at one writing, by typewriter or other duplicating process. The headings (except for the dates) and the lists of assets and liabilities, and of income and expenses, are done by machine, while the dates and the prior-year figures are entered individually in pencil.

Planning is the key to prompt completion of financial statements and to avoidance of the stress and fatigue that frequently accompany their preparation.

### **GRAPHIC ACCOUNTING**

Contributed by Doris Parks, C.P.A., of Seattle, Washington

Are you visual-minded? Graphs and pictures often mean more than twice the space in words. Graphs can be used very effectively in accounting reports and may be

clearer than several pages of figures. A comparative statement of operations which can be divided into four or five broad divisions can be read very easily in graph form.

Monthly statements of operations for a year based on precentages of sales might be charted on a sheet of graph paper. Percentages from zero to 100 should be marked on the left side of the graph sheet, leaving space at the top and bottom. The months of the year should be indicated at regular intervals across the bottom of the page. If a budget has been established, the budget percentage figure for cost of goods sold might be shown as a colored straight line (say, blue) across the graph sheet. Monthly fluctuations in blue pencil above or below that straight line are much more quickly grasped than twelve figures on a comparative statement.

If the next large item in the budget is wages, that budget percentage figure might be shown by a red line, with monthly fluctuations plotted and those points connected by a red pencil.

Other divisions of the statement of operations could be shown in other colors, or in dotted lines for variation. The graph should not include more than four or five main divisions or it will become confusing to read.

Profit and loss percentages of sales would be plotted above and below the zero line, which has been drawn across the sheet. A key as to what the plotted lines mean should be given on the graph, possibly in the upper right hand corner.

Try your hand at making graphs—it can be fun!