

# President Warned On Divided U.S.

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The League of Women Voters abandoned its traditional silence on the war in Southeast Asia today and urged President Nixon to avert "the tragedy of a divided nation."

In a letter hand-delivered to the White House, the 160,000-member group said it is "deeply concerned about the national crisis resulting from the extension of the war into Cambodia."

"It is our conviction that the government of the United States must respond to the

concerns of its citizens," the letter said.

"We urge you to listen with close attention to the voices of all the people — the young and the mature, the poor and the affluent, the farm, the suburb, the city and the campus."

The league has never taken a position on the war in Vietnam, and on Monday, the opening day of its convention here, rejected demands by some delegates to consider the Cambodia question.

The letter was signed by Lucy Wilson Benson, Amherst, Mass., the League president.

A spokesman for the group, which ends its national convention here today, said the letter was drafted by the League's 16 board members in response to demands of several delegates and telegraphed requests from "more than 150" League members around the nation.

She said it was "probably the strongest, most critical" letter the League had ever sent to the White House.