WOMEN INSIST DRY ACT SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED

WASHINGTON, April 15- (Associated Press) - An avalanche of petitions and endorsements from the National Council of Women in support of the enactment of the Volstead Act in its present form through the House of Representatives was pouring in yesterday, according to a recapitulation of women's organizations in this city today.

The avalanche of petitions and endorsements was launched by the Women's National Press Association, which issued a statement yesterday that it would forward to the sponsors of the Volstead Act in Congress the petitions and endorsements of all women who voted against the act.
WOMEN INSIST ON STRONGER LAW

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Senators cutting off applause early in the proceedings during the testimony of Mrs. Herbert J. Gurney of Wollaston, Mass., chairman of the New England division of the woman's national committee for law enforcement.

Applause Cut Off.

"I think the committee can get along quite well without the applause," said Senator Reed, democrat, Missouri, after the crowd had expressed approval of Mrs. Gurney's statement that she would rather have liquor sold in "speakeasies" than in the open saloons because the government could cope with them.

"Yes, I think manifestations of approval or disapproval ought to be withheld," said Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana, the then acting chairman.

Reed Cross-Examines.

Senator Reed, the one avowed wet of the committee, took the lead in cross-questioning some of the witnesses, principally Mrs. Peabody, Mrs. Gurney and Mrs. Lippincott. After the hearing closed, Mrs. Peabody gave a statement to the press in which she asked that it be made clear "that much of our time was taken up with useless cross-questioning."

Before the women opened the case for the drys and while they were filing into the room Senator Harrell admitted to the record statements by two wet members of the House, Representatives Gallivan, democrat, Massachusetts, and MacGregor, republican, New York, who advanced a number of reasons why the Volstead Act should be amended.

Wet Statements Received.

Like those of a number of women witnesses, the statements were not read, but simply spread upon the official report of the proceedings. Additional statements for the wet side will be made tomorrow as the wets continue with the presentation of their case, which began exactly a week ago.

After they are through the drys will have twenty-two more hours in which to reply, only two hours having been taken up for the opening of the dry case today.