

Stipulated Exhibit 19

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1952.

REDISTRICTING FIASCO.

The Missouri redistricting fight has blocked all work on important state legislation for the present. And still the voting public doesn't know where it is on redistricting.

The Democratic bill still carries the technical error which the Republicans discovered and used to keep the lieutenant governor from signing it last month. You can assume that the Republicans will attack it in the Supreme court and if they should win the Legislature would be back where it started. With time running out the only hope then would be a quick agreement of both parties to support a bill with an emergency clause. If such a move should succeed of course it would force a new plan fair to both parties—a happy outcome. But this course is a long road with several large obstacles along the way.

If they fail in court the Republican leaders of the Legislature appear to be heading for a referendum. Such a move would automatically head off redistricting this year and force all congressional candidates to run at large. It would be a shot in the dark that would make a mess of the next congressional election. Beyond that, nobody can predict.

Unless the people really like this kind of system there is no reason why it should continue indefinitely. Redistricting for the Missouri state Senate has been taken away from the Legislature and put in the hands of a bipartisan commission. Without fuss or feathers the senatorial redistricting has been handled to general satisfaction. By a constitutional amendment the state's voters could extend the successful method to Congress.

The state is now looking at a good example of redistricting by a political body. It has seen all the Legislature's important business blocked for months on end. Out of the long ruckus has come a gerrymandered bill, the only thing now in sight. Ahead lies court action as the only means to fair redistricting. If that fails the state faces the probability of a scrambled at-large election.

If the Republicans should lose on their referendum the state would have the same Democratic gerrymandered districts for the 1954 election. If the Republicans should win, the next Legislature would have to start over with the same hot political problem. Unless control of the two houses happened to be split between the two parties we would see another gerrymandered bill and the danger of another referendum. As long as redistricting is left to a political body you are bound to get districts that favor the party in power. The two parties are equally adept at gerrymandering.

A state that has a better method of setting up districts for the state Senate should be able to solve the problem of districts for congressmen. A constructive proposition for the voters would be a constitutional amendment to put all redistricting in the hands of the bipartisan commission. Before the public gets through with this mess it may be in a mood to vote for a fairer and simpler system.

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al, Mo., Wednesday, June 25, 1952

Redistricting Case Under Advisement In Supreme Court

No Hint Given Of Date For Final Decision

JEFFERSON CITY, June 25.—(AP)—Congressional redistricting—1952's political hot potato in Missouri—was dumped into the hands of the state supreme court today.

The court took the redistricting test case under advisement after oral arguments. There was no hint as to when a decision might be reached. Normally the court speeds up its procedure in cases of such public importance.

The court's ruling is expected to decide whether the more than 100 congressional candidates this year will have to run on a statewide basis or in their home districts.

But the actual issue before the court is whether republicans challenging the redistricting law have until July 29 to file referendum petitions to force the law to a vote at the general election.

Or was the deadline for filing petitions passed last April 22?

If a referendum is upheld, the candidates must run on statewide tickets. If the redistricting law is upheld, they run in their home districts.

Circuit Judge Sam C. Blair ruled that April 22 was the deadline, and therefore petitions filed since then could not be accepted by the secretary of state.

Alton Stockard, attorney for the republicans, told the supreme court today it would be "one of the greatest trials in the history of the state" to hold that the time was so limited.

The framers of the 1945 constitution allowed the legislature to put some laws into effect within 90 days after the date of a referendum (April 22 in this case.) But Stockard argued that was not intended as a restriction on the time for filing a referendum.

Anyway, he said, the redistricting bill was not yet a law when the legislature received last January 22, so the 90-day provision did not apply in this case. He said it could not become a law until 90 days after final adjournment, or July 29.

William Becker of Columbia, an attorney for the Missouri Farmers' association, challenged this view. He said "a chaotic and unworkable condition" would be created if opponents of the redistricting law could continue to file referendum petitions until a week before the August 3 primary.

"It just won't work—it's not practical," he told the court.

If the court upholds the referendum position, he said, "there will be chaos and confusion in our elective process for years to come."

He said the republicans "had 90 days to file their referendum petitions and they fell down on the job."

A. D. Sappington, chief counsel for the MFA, explained that all parties to the fight have agreed that the original petitions filed by the republicans before the April 22 deadline did not have enough valid signatures.

He stressed that hundreds of laws have been put into effect by the 30-day recess method and they have been accepted by the courts, the people and the state's administrative agencies. This is the first time the legality of the process has been challenged, he said.

Charles C. Madison, father of state Sen. Charles L. Madison (R) of Kansas City, sided with Stockard. His son is one of the congressional candidates who has filed to run only on an at-large basis.

"The people want to do anything they like," the elder Madison said.

"The conclusion is inescapable that the constitutional convention intended any act to be subject to a referendum. Even though they had become effective, the referendum still could be used."

The whole dispute arose because Missouri's congressional representation was cut from 15 to 11 under the 1950 census. Republicans challenged the redistricting bill finally passed by the legislature, claiming it gave them only three of the 11 seats.

Lesson Learned



On July 5th of last year, these Almer, 16, Woolley, Madden, 15, Tinsless, 14, were holding the ad off as planned and the three at a time it wasn't known whether they got together recently to even normal again. The three h... again. (AP Wirephoto)

Conventions Are Being Held At Girls' State

JEFFERSON, Mo., June 25.—(AP)—Members of the Missouri Girls' State were holding political party conventions this morning, and were scheduled to conduct state primary elections this afternoon.

Ten girls are seeking the nomination for governor on the federal ticket, and seven on the nationalist state ticket they are.

Nationalist — Loretta McCray, Jettison; Naomi Bailly, Bethany; Nancy Costello, Springfield; Jesse Kambour, Independence; Nancy Solomon, University City; Mary Ann Vogel, Jefferson City; Peggy Jeanne Bolin, St. Louis.

Federalist — Adrienne Asher, Kansas City; Joan Runge, St. Louis; Carey Ann Russell, Kansas City; Helen Lee, Franklin, Ky.; Frances Esterle, St. Louis; Helen Anderson, Grandview; Sue Pierce, St. Louis; Pat Graves, St. Louis; Teresa Chabriere, Orick; and Janis Hertell, Plattburg.

The state general election will be held Thursday. Officers for three mythical counties and members of a state legislature were chosen yesterday.

Stevenson Out Of Hospital

CHICAGO, June 25.—(AP)—Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson was released today from Dequain hospital, where he underwent a minor operation Sunday for removal of a kidney stone.

The governor said he "felt fine" and planned to leave immediately by airplane for Springfield, the state capital.

Pittsfield, Ill., June 25.—Fred Boyle of Pleasant Hill, employed at night by the Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line company, was admitted to (city) hospital Monday. Boyle said his right hand in power saw which he was using while on duty. There was an almost complete amputation of the index finger and severe cuts on the three other fingers on the same hand. He remained as a hospital patient.

