

# Population Count to Touch Off Gerrymandering Across Nation

Washington—UPI—A double-edged political carving knife is being whetted in 18 state legislatures where the 1960 National census is certain to revive the old American art of gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering, which means reshaping congressional districts to benefit the state party in power, has been deplored but practiced in this country since 1812. That was when Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry whittled up Essex county to insure victory for his own people there. Hence the name, gerrymander.

This year's national population count will touch off the biggest Gerrymandering activity in U.S. political history. Democrats and Republicans alike have indulged in the practice in the past and will continue to do so.

**Five States Free**

The American Political Science Association which has sought to establish standards that would minimize the practice, credits only five states with having set up Congressional districts that are free of the Gerrymandering taint. They are Arizona, Maine, Nebraska, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Six states can't Gerrymander because they elect only one House member at large. They are Delaware, Nevada, Vermont, Wyoming, Alaska and Hawaii.

Every 10 years, as the census bureau completes its nationwide head count and prepares to announce the subsequent changes in the number of congressmen from each state on the basis of population, politicians around the country get ready to gerrymander.

The state-by-state allotment of the 435 House seats, which preliminary statistics indicate will mean changes in at least 18 states, is based on an accepted scientific formula.

But the Bureau's impartial distribution of political power comes to an abrupt halt when the state legislatures work out the actual boundaries and political makeup of congressional districts within the state.

**Two Basic Rules**

The state lawmakers generally follow two basic rules.

—Set up district boundaries so that your party has a solid majority of voters in each district.

—If this can't be done, confine the majority of the other party's voters into the smallest number of districts, thus insuring victory for your party in the remaining districts.

Gerrymandering is not peculiar to any region or party. It is practiced by both Democrats and Republicans in the North as well as the South.

One of the most obvious gerrymanders in the United States is the district of Rep. James Roosevelt (D-Calif.), which was engineered by a Republican legislator.

Republican leaders, knowing that Roosevelt would be hard to beat, crammed every local Democratic voter they could find into his unusual claw-shaped district which meanders through six separate towns in Los Angeles county.

**Positions of Strength**

As a result, Roosevelt won by an overwhelming majority but the concentration of Democrats in his district eliminates Democratic opposition in a number of other Los Angeles County districts.

In a number of cases, the farmer and his rural political

have managed to gerrymander themselves into positions of strength in almost every state.

For example, each Alabama House member theoretically should represent about 340,000 people.

But in reality, eight rural Alabama lawmakers have districts averaging just over 300,000 people, but the Ninth congressman, from the industrial Birmingham region, represents close to 600,000 people.

Efforts to change the Gerrymandering practice have been stymied.

One bill, offered by Chairman Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) of the House Judiciary Committee, would make a two-pronged attack on Gerrymandering.

**Approval Doubtful**

First, Celler's bill would forbid election of any representative with a district population 20 per cent higher or lower than the average per-district population of that state.

Second, it would require that all districts be reasonably "compact and contiguous."

But no one, not even Celler himself, believes the legislation will be approved by Congress in time to affect the next general redistricting which, under law, must be done before the election in November, 1962.

At best, the state legislators may avoid creating what became known as the "Mississippi Shoe String District" which once ran 500 miles long and 40 miles wide for partisan political advantage.

**Sheriff's Officers Arrest Talent Youth**

Jackson county sheriff's officers cleared the burglary of a Talent second hand store earlier this week with the arrest of a 14-year-old boy of the Talent area yesterday, it was reported.

He has been turned over to juvenile officers. Two guns were taken from a rack in the shop, but were found outside by the door as the boy was apparently frightened off, officers said.

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Fade back to November of 1956. The scene is the Olympic Village at Melbourne, Australia. A husky American hammer-thrower w a t h e s idly as a blonde Czech girl, built along symmetrical but Amazonian lines, tosses a discus on the practice field. They get to talking. She knows a little English. They are both avid adherents of strict physical training methods. He learns she is a medical student at home in Prague. She learns he is from Boston and a school teacher.

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**Iron Curtain Broken**

Love blooms but an Iron Curtain descends between the couple as Olga goes home to her Communist-dominated land and Hal goes back to the United States.

Weeks go by while embassy officials from both countries go into secret huddles. There seems to be no progress in Connolly's effort to get a visa for a trip to Czechoslovakia. Then suddenly one day it comes through and he's off to Prague and a wedding which makes the pair international heroes.

So it's back to the United States for the happy young couple as they shed the entanglement of yards of international red tape.

But their story does not

end on a clinch-type "they lived happily ever after" note.

They settle in the Los Angeles area and continue their athletic training—to a point. Olga must take time out for another chapter in their story. On May 1, 1959, she gives birth to a sturdy little athlete who is called Mark.

Then she goes back into training. And back into the rigorous routine of premedical studies and work as a laboratory technician at the University of California at Los Angeles.

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**GERRYMANDERING SEEN** — The redistribution of seats in the House of Representatives because of population shifts will touch off the greatest gerrymandering activity in U.S. history by state legislatures. One of the most obvious gerrymanders is district of Democratic Rep. James Roosevelt, top photo, of California, which was engineered by a GOP legislator. Chairman Emanuel Celler, lower photo, of the house judiciary committee, is attempting to halt the practice with a bill requiring all districts be reasonably "compact and contiguous," among other provisions. (UPI Telephoto)

# Olympic Couple Surmounts Obstacle Confronting Nations

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