

Federal Court May Set District Boundaries

(Editor's note: The supreme court's March ruling that federal courts have jurisdiction in the issue of state reapportionment has proved to be a bombshell in state capitals throughout the nation. In Wisconsin, the federal courts are already locked in a showdown with a Republican-dominated legislature and a Democratic statehouse administration. The following dispatch traces Wisconsin's reapportionment battle, one which may be repeated in a number of other states before the issue is settled.)

By THOMAS PLEDGE
United Press International
Madison, Wis. — The federal courts had a tiger by the tail in Wisconsin this week.

The "tiger's" name was reapportionment, an issue which has pitted the state's Democratic administration in a bitter test of strength against the Republican legislature and which has given the whiphand to the federal judges.

For the first time in the

nation's history, a federal court has taken the responsibility of setting the boundaries of a state's congressional, senate and assembly districts.

And unless the Democrats and Republicans can patch their quarrel in short order the court proposes to do just that and set a history-making precedent for states in the same predicament.

Politically, Wisconsin is as sharply divided as any state in the middle west. Its boundaries range from the industrial Milwaukee area, where the vote is largely Democratic, to the woody vacationlands of the north, where the election returns are likely to lean to the Republicans.

Since 1931 there has been no realignment of assembly districts and none of state senate districts since 1933.

May Do The Job

The man who may have to do the job is a former state supreme court justice, Emmert Wingert. Wingert has been appointed a special master by the federal court to hear arguments on the reapportionment issue and to recommend a solution.

His word might decide the issue unless the Republicans of the legislature can come up quickly with a plan acceptable to Democratic Gov. Gaylord Nelson. The plan will probably have to be a compromise, since Nelson has already vetoed the first plan to come from the legislature.

Democratic Atty. Gen. John Reynolds started the donkeybrook.

Reynolds, 41, a candidate for governor looking for an election issue, went to the state supreme court in January asking that reapportionment be ordered before the fall elections, when a new governor, one half the state senate and all 100 assemblymen will be elected.

The Republican-controlled legislature, hip deep in tax debate and anxious to end their longest session in history, brushed off the action. When the state court ruled that reapportionment could wait until 1963, the issue seemed dead.

But Reynolds got a break when the U.S. supreme court, in a historic decision on March 26, ruled in a Tennessee case that federal courts have jurisdiction in cases where malapportionment of legislative seats is alleged.

The court said voters in under-represented districts were losing out on their rights to equal protection under the 14th amendment to the U.S. constitution.

The decision brought a wave of suits in other states. Alabama and Okla-

homa were ordered to reapportion. A re-districting was challenged in Georgia, Florida, North Dakota and Virginia. Federal action is either contemplated or underway in 21 other states for a total of 27.

Reynolds went to the federal district court of Wisconsin in April with

a satchel full of census figures purporting to show a number of under-represented areas, mainly in the fast-growing southeastern portion of the state near Milwaukee.

A panel of three federal judges heard arguments and then asked Gov. Nelson, who is running for the

U.S. senate, to call a special session of the legislature.

The judges warned the legislature that any evidence of "foot dragging" on the reapportionment issue would bring the federal courts directly into the reapportionment squabble.

Growing Republicans, contending they were working "under the shadow of a club" held by the federal courts, proceeded to use their majority might to push through a GOP plan for reapportionment.

But the GOP bills failed to give a added representation to predominately Democratic areas of Milwaukee county and were vetoed by Nelson. He called the plan "a shameful gerrymander."

That was when the federal court named Wingert to conduct hearings and chart a plan of action. He began work this week. The legislature likewise reconvened this week.

Ignoring Each Other

Legislators and federal judges were largely ignoring each other in the reapportionment showdown. As each day passed, it appeared increasingly doubtful if any kind of reapportionment could be achieved in time for the fall elections.

The voters themselves seemed uninterested. When the legislators opened public hearings on reapportionment, they expected a crowd of hundreds. Instead, only three persons asked permission to testify.

Health Board Warns of Sun-Stroke, Prostration

Portland — The Oregon state board of health has warned against the possibilities of sun-stroke or heat prostration from over-exertion, particularly during periods of hot weather.

Although the two conditions frequently are thought to be the same, they require different methods of handling, according to Dr. Richard H. Wilcox, state health officer.

He said symptoms of sun-stroke include a red face, hot dry skin, no perspiration, labored breathing or sighing, a full and rapid pulse, high temperature and possible muscle spasms.

Call Physician

Victims should be moved to a cool place immediately and a physician should be called, Dr. Wilcox said. The patient's clothing should be loosened, the body cooled, and brisk rubbing should be started to stimulate circulation. Avoid ice packs or baths because they constrict surface blood vessels.

By contrast, Dr. Wilcox said, heat exhaustion usually produces muscular weakness, dizziness, nausea, an uncertain or staggering gait, pale face, and profuse perspiration. The pulse is weak, breathing shallow, and the victim may become cold even though the air is warmer than body heat.

In the case of heat exhaustion, the patient should lie down in an area with good air circulation and be given a moderate amount of covering, according to the health officer. A level half-teaspoonful of salt in about one-third glass of water may be given repeatedly until as much as a level tablespoon of salt has been taken. Stimulants such as warm coffee or tea may be given and external heat may be needed in severe cases. A physician should always be consulted.

Sun-stroke and heat exhaustion can strike anyone, although serious cases occur most often among alcoholics, young children, elderly people, overweight persons, and those suffering from some chronic illness.

Deadline for Some Vets For Loans Is July 25

Portland-Entitlement to a GI home, farm or business loan will expire for an estimated 25 per cent of World War II veterans July 25, Manager R. J. Novotny of the Veterans Administration regional office in Portland has announced.

For example, this date would apply to an ex-serviceman who was released from active duty early in 1944 after two years of service.

A veteran can compute his own deadline by adding 10 years to his date of discharge and an additional year for each three months of war service. To meet the deadline in connection with a loan by a private lender, VA must receive the loan application from the lender before the veteran's expiration date, Novotny said.

However, a veteran who plans to purchase a home in a VA direct loan area will have his deadline extended one year by addressing an informal letter of application to the Portland VA office, provided the request is received before his loan entitlement expires.

Final Deadline

Regardless of service period, a veteran or his widow in one of the following classes will have eligibility up to the final World War II deadline of July 25, 1967:

(1.) A veteran released on grounds of service connected disability from active World War II duty; (2.) A veteran who had previously secured a GI home loan but whose entitlement has been restored due to his need for disposing of the original home for reasons beyond his control; (3.) An unmarried widow of a veteran who died from a service connected disability during active duty; (4.) An unmarried widow of a veteran who was discharged for a service connected disability.

Grand Jury System May Be Altered

Portland-UP-A member of the legislative interim committee on social problems hinted Thursday there may be a drive in the 1963 legislature to alter the present grand jury system in Oregon.

State Rep. Grace O. Peck (D-Portland), accompanied her remarks with a blast at the Marion county grand jury report which criticized the State Hospital in Salem two weeks ago.

The report charged that homosexuals have been employed on the hospital staff. The hospital's ground parole policy also was criticized and the report complained that some male and female patients were fraternizing.

At a subcommittee meeting, Mrs. Peck said the report "dealt a real serious blow" to Oregon's new mental health program.

Marion County Dist. Atty. Hattie Kremen defended the report. She noted that various newspapers have described the Marion grand jury as a group of uninformed laymen. She said this is "quite untrue," adding the jury was composed of businessmen and women who were well qualified.

Foreign 'Tax Haven' Holes May Be Closed

Washington-UP-The Senate Finance Committee went on record Friday as favoring the closing of foreign "tax haven" loopholes.

The committee took the action in its third day of closed sessions on President Kennedy's controversial tax revision bill, passed more than three months ago by the House.



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