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REAPPORTIONMENT VITAL ISSUE

Bob Dole Leader In Fight To Reverse U.S. Supreme Court Ruling



GIRL SCOUT HANDBOOKS were presented to Bob Dole whose office is always open to First District's organizations and groups who wish to give the Congressman information on their activities. Making the presentation of the new Girl Scout handbooks are left to right, Margit Larson, Mrs. Bob Dole, who is a Girl Scout Troop leader, and daughter, Robin.

HUTCHINSON — Cong. Bob Dole stated today the biggest single question in the minds of those attending the State Fair is Reapportionment. Kansas, particularly those in rural areas, are beginning to fully understand the possible consequences if the U. S. Supreme Court decision of June 15 should be enforced in Kansas. They should also realize that this Administration is seeking to quietly sidetrack legislative action by Congress and that the Democrat platform adopted in Atlantic City last month, completely ignored the issue.

The Court ruled on June 15, that seats in both houses of bicameral state legislatures must be apportioned strictly on the basis of population. "This decision will be the beginning of the end", Dole stated, "of the ancient concept of checks and balances in our representative system of government, if not halted by congressional action. It would eliminate the practice of nearly two centuries wherein one house was generally based on population and the other on geography and tradition. The Court has long acknowledged that the two house system, was proper in that it would insure mature and deliberate consideration of, and prevent precipitate action on, proposed legislative measures, but on June 15, the Court majority ruled the bicameral system, if it survives, must survive on a strict population basis.

If this decision were implemented in Kansas, our 1st Congressional District, which now has 59 State Representatives in Topeka, would have perhaps as few as 33. I do not contend rural Kansas should dominate the Legislature, as there should be "balance". This "balance", however, was, in my opinion, achieved earlier this year by apportionment of the Senate based on population, and the Kansas House so that every county has one representative and the more populous counties additional members.

A bill identical to one I introduced, proposing a Constitutional Amendment, provides that "Nothing in the Constitution of the United States shall prohibit a state having a bicameral legislature from apportioning the membership of one house of its legislature on factors other than population", may be considered by the House in the next ten days but chances of it receiving the necessary 2/3 vote are doubtful since this Administration is not supporting the measure.

In my opinion this is the most important legislation Congress has considered and action must not be delayed until next year even though this is an election year and members are anxious to campaign for re-election.

Dole Proposes Constitutional Amendment

Congressman Bob Dole (R - Kansas) introduced a resolution Monday, June 29, proposing a constitutional amendment which would permit states with Bicameral Legislatures to apportion one house on factors other than population. This would offset the Supreme Court decision of June 15, that representation in both houses of state legislatures must be based on population.

Congressman Dole declared: "If this Supreme Court decision is permitted to stand, the State of Kansas will be completely dominated from this day forward by urban areas. Rural areas will be virtually powerless. Balanced representation is important to protect the interests of both rural and urban areas however, if both Houses of our State Legislature are to be constituted solely on the basis of population such balance will be impossible. A requirement that both houses be apportioned strictly on population alone would amount to a desertion of the rights of the minority and an abandonment of the unique needs of the individual citizen."

Dole stated: "It has appeared to a rapidly increasing number of thoughtful citizens that the Supreme Court has begun in recent years to exceed its proper authority and usurp powers which long have been held to belong to the States, or to other branches of the Federal government. Without doubt, these most immediate decisions of the Court proceed the farthest along this wayward path and to the most harm to the long time concept of States' Rights."

"It is correct to say," Dole said, "as the Supreme Court does, that legislators represent people, not trees or acres, but people who reside in States are not numbers. They are people with dissimilar and sometimes conflicting needs, with conflicting hopes and aspirations, with ever changing problems that sometimes fail to yield to computer logic. Through the wisdom of the people themselves as represented by the elected leaders of Sovereign States, they may well decide that there is a need for representation of particular interests in one body of a legislature in contrast to the representation of general interests in the other body."

Congressman Dole's resolution contains this provision: "Nothing in the Constitution of the United States shall prohibit a State having a Bicameral Legislature, from apportioning the membership of one house of its legislature on factors other than population."

Dole concluded, "The Supreme Court calls for apportionment on the theory of 'one man, one vote.' A slogan, of course, cannot be a proper substitute for logic and in all likelihood it will not, for long, guard individual rights. Apportionment according to population must be tempered by other considerations of equal importance, including geography. With regrettable frequency, in recent years the Court seems to be assuming the role of elected officials and taking up the mace of the law makers. By such unwarranted action the Supreme Court invites increasing public distrust and rebuke.



SIZEABLE CROWD — In the press of people on hand at the Zerger Air Field in Pratt to greet former Vice President Richard M. Nixon and Bob Dole, Republican candidate for re-election as Congressman of Kansas First District, Dole took time to greet Ken Peters, center, of Ellinwood who, with several other friends, flew in for the public rally. Nixon was scheduled for another stop in Tulsa, Okla., before flying to Washington to attend the funeral of Herbert C. Hoover. (Tribune-Press Photo)

FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - MARCH 24, 1964

Congressman Bob Dole of Kansas now is the sole congressional Representative of a 49,668-square-mile area in the geographic center of the United States. It is larger than the State of New York, which sends 41 Representatives to Congress. Its rolling plains, where vast buffalo herds once roamed, produce one-eighth of the Nation's wheat crop. Its 58 counties contain no great cities (Salina, the largest, has a population of 42,000), but western Kansas is witnessing a remarkable industrial growth in recent years, based upon huge underground stores of gas and oil.

Bob Dole, the spokesman for this vast expanse in the heartland of America, has been graduated, during his less than 4 years in the House, to the top ranks of a young Republican group which is revitalizing the minority party. He is tabbed by Representative Charles A. Halleck, of Indiana, the GOP leader, as a "comer."