

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 1964

Hays - A panel of distinguished Kansas legislators pointed out the dangers of the recent reapportionment decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in a TV telecast here last night.

Jess Taylor, former House Speaker, who has served 16 years in the Kansas Legislature was the moderator.

He said that "this is a very dangerous trend for everybody in Western Kansas regardless of party."

Congressman Bob Dole said that the decree would "move complete control to the big centers and reduce the voice of rural America to a whisper without even giving the people the right to vote on the question." Dole has introduced a resolution into Congress calling for apportionment of one half of the legislature on a basis other than population.

Ed Boyd, House Leader pro tem, declared that if Kansas is forced to reapportion on the basis of population alone, "county lines will be crossed, ultimately leading to a complete breakdown in our county system."

Senator Keith Sebelius said the Kansas Legislature had already been reapportioned to conform with the Kansas Constitution.

"If we go this other step," he continued, "Western Kansas representation in the House will be reduced from 59 to 33-36, losing needed support for such facilities as our State school at Hays."

Robert Jennison of Healy, former Speaker of the House, declared that the founders of the federal Constitution recognized the need for protection from the "momentary whims of popular opinion," by setting up the system of checks and balances. "Kansas," he said, "has followed the traditional pattern of apportionment laid down by those who wrote the federal Constitution."

Senator Claude Bell illustrated this effect of the Supreme Court decision pointedly. "In my district," he said, "we have 10 counties with one Representative each. If we are forced to reapportion, our House Membership will be reduced from 10 to 3."

Cliff Hope, Jr., former Senator, said the dangerous effect of reapportionment by judicial decree was the fact that "the people will be refused the right to set up their own legislatures."