

Behind the News



—By Yardley, Reprinted with the permission of The Baltimore Sun

'It Sounds Like Another Emancipation Proclamation to Me'

The So-Called Apportionment Question

By RUTH C. SILVA

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Last March, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the federal courts have jurisdiction to decide whether state legislative misapportionment and gerrymandering deny the citizen an equal vote and, consequently, equal protection of the laws contrary to the Fourteenth Amendment. Since that time, 53 law suits have been filed in 37 states, and 41 judicial opinions have been handed down. Lawyers, judges and the general public have confused the whole so-called apportionment question by failing to distinguish between apportionment and districting.

Apportionment is the allocation of legislative seats among pre-existing units such as counties or towns. Districting establishes the precise geographic boundaries of a legislative district. With regard to the U.S. House of Representatives, a sharp distinction is made between apportionment and districting since the two functions are vested in different governments. The National Government apportions Congressmen to the states, but the state governments divide their respective states into congressional districts.

Further Confusion

The confusion caused by the failure to distinguish between apportionment and districting has been further confounded by a failure to distinguish between the basis of apportionment and the units to which representation is apportioned. Although representation is usually apportioned to a territorial subdivision such as states (Congressmen) or counties (state legislators), it may be apportioned to ethnic or economic groups. Seats in the Cyprian House of Representatives, for example, are apportioned to the Greek and to the Turkish communities while seats in the Spanish Cortes are apportioned to industrial, labor, cultural and professional associations.

'Area' and 'Population'

Because representation is usually apportioned to geographic subdivisions such as states or counties, apportionment experts often say that representation has two bases — area and

population. But, except for an abortive attempt in Wisconsin (1952) and a recent proposal in Michigan (1962), nobody has ever seriously advocated apportioning seats on the basis of acres or square miles or any other such territorial measure. In apportionment, "area" merely means that representation is apportioned to a geographic subdivision such as a county. In districting, "area" means that consideration should be given not only to population equality but also to topography, to territorial contiguity and compactness, to the means of transportation and communication, and to a community or social, political and economic interest.

Although most political scientists and apportionment experts would give consideration to these "areas" factors in districting, virtually all of them also agree that population is the only legitimate basis for apportionment in a democratic society. This is the corollary of the democratic idea that every voter should have an equal ballot. If each of two districts elects one legislator but one district has twice as many voters as the other does, then one popular vote cast for legislator in the less populous district has twice the weight of one popular vote cast for legislator in the more populous district.

Equal Ballots?

Today, the courts are hearing cases in states where a popular vote cast in one legislative district has up to 872½ times the weight of a popular vote cast in another. One popular vote cast for state senator in Pennsylvania's least populous senatorial district, for example, has 10½ times the weight of one cast in Pennsylvania's most populous senatorial district while one popular vote cast for state representative in Pennsylvania's least populous legislative district has 31 times the weight of one cast in Pennsylvania's most populous legislative district. And one popular vote cast for state representative in Vermont's least populous town has 872½ the weight of one cast in Vermont's most populous town.

TODAY ON CAMPUS

Lecture

Leon Goure, senior staff member and Soviet area specialist with the Rand Corp., will open the Political Science Lecture Series at 8 p.m. in the Hetzel Union assembly room. His subject will be "The Role of the Military in Soviet Foreign Policy."

Goure is a consultant to the U.S. Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization and is a lecturer at the Army War College.

He is author of "The Siege of Leningrad" and "Civil Defense in the Soviet Union," both published this year, and "Moscow in Crisis," published in 1955. He is also a contributor to The New York Times Sunday Magazine and to "The Problems of Communism."

Several years ago he served as a consultant for the study of civil defense prepared by HRB-Singer, Inc., of State College.

Seminar

Francis R. Hama, research professor at the Institute for Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics at the University of Maryland, will speak at the first Fluid Mechanics Seminar for the fall term at 4 p.m. in 232 Hammond. His topic will be "Progressive Deformation of a Curve Vortex Filament."

'Mademoiselle' Conducts Women's Talent Contest

Mademoiselle, national women's magazine, is sponsoring again this year a series of contests designed for women in colleges and universities throughout the country.

The College Board Competition is directed toward women with talent in writing, art, fashion, promotion, merchandising or advertising.

Complete entry rules for the contest are available in The Daily Collegian office in the basement of Sackett. The deadline for entries is Nov. 30.

Gymsuit Sale Refund

Receipts from the Cwens gym-suit sale will be refunded to upperclass women from 9 to 11 a.m. tomorrow in McElwain lounge. Tomorrow is the only day for refunds.

Meeting

The Student Society of Landscape Architects will hold a business meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 111 Boucke.

At 8 p.m. John Simonds, author of "Landscape Architecture: The Shaping of Man's Natural Environment," will speak.

Other Events

Graduate Student Association square dance, 8:30 p.m., Hetzel Union ballroom.

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., Helen Eakin Eisenhower Chapel; Confessions, 8:45 a.m., Eisenhower Chapel.

Coeds May Obtain Applications For Homecoming Queen Today

Applications for Homecoming Queen will be available at 11 a.m. today at the Hetzel Union desk, Robert Polishook, Homecoming chairman, said last night.

Any coed who is enrolled as a full-time student is eligible for the contest, Polishook said. All applications must be returned to the HUB desk by Oct. 8.

Each contestant will then be notified by postcard concerning the time of her interview before a panel of judges. The interviews will be held from 6:30 to 10 p.m., Oct. 11 in 218 HUB.

THE CONTESTANTS will be judged on academic achievement, activities, beauty and poise, Polishook said. Five finalists will be chosen.

These finalists will appear before the football team at 8:30 p.m., Oct. 15 at the Nittany Lion Inn. The team members will then select the queen.

The queen will be crowned Oct. 19 at the pep rally sponsored by the Block 'S' Club.

THE QUEEN and her court will be honored at an alumni luncheon on Homecoming Day, Oct. 20, in the HUB. At that time, she will be presented with a trophy pro-

vided by the Alumni Association. The queen and her court will also sit in the Block 'S' section at the football game and will be honored at halftime.

No cocktail dresses or formals should be worn to contest events, Polishook said, but contestants should wear heels.

Buck Appointed Associate Director

Roy C. Buck, professor of rural sociology and social science, has been named associate director for the social sciences in the Center for Continuing Liberal Education.

In addition to his new duties, Buck will continue to teach in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. During the past year he has taught social science courses in the University's general education program.

Research projects conducted by Buck have been concerned with rural adjustment to adulthood, sociology of rural school district reorganization and community organization. He has published the findings of his research both in scientific and popular journals.

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APPLICATION BLANKS

for

AWS COMMUNITY COUNCILS

are now available at the HUB Desk.

- Deadline -

for the return of Application Blanks

Wednesday - Oct. 3

5 p.m.

at the HUB Desk