Complex System Is Said Illegal

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Senator after senator condemned it as obviously unconstitutional, a Chinese jigsaw puzzle and an exercise in futility.

And in two overwhelming votes it was passed anyway -- a legislative reapportionment plan so deluged with complex amendments that many did not know what was in it and those that did were shaking their heads in amazement.

Collective Sigh

The bill for reapportioning the House passed the Senate, 32-5, and the measure for redistricting the Senate was approved by a 33-4 vote. Both were sent to the House with a collective sigh.

The House bill was cleared in minutes, but senators spent several hours fighting over their own plan and loading each with amendments which reinstated residency requirements for election, a provision which has long been declared unconstitutional by the federal courts.

WINS APPROVAL

In one of the most heated battles, New Orleans senators defeated Jefferson Parish lawmakers and won approval of an amendment to insure the Crescent City seven senators by plucking 18,000 citizens from the neighboring parish.

The Senate overwhelmingly rejected amendments by Sen. J. D DeBlieux of Baton Rouge to institute single-member districts in both houses.

The plans finally approved were almost unanimously condemned.

Blastrant Gerrymandering

Sen. Adrian Duplantier of New Orleans said the House plan included blatant racial gerrymandering in his city and could not possibly stand up in the courts.

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BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) that in any census figures, New Orleans is entitled to 7 senators and Jefferson 3.

Senate Okays Complex Plan For State Reapportionment

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"I am not going to vote for what I consider an exercise in futility," Duplantier said. "No serious effort was made to come up with single-member districts. Certainly this bill doesn't attempt to. As a matter of fact, we don't have a reapportionment plan in these bills."

In the plan submitted by the New Orleans House delegation, a string of black precincts were split to dilute the Negro vote, Duplantier said.

DeBlieux charged that senators completely twisted a recent appeals court decision, which reapportioned the Mississippi Legislature, to flood the Louisiana redistricting bill with amendments to provide for residency requirements.

In New Orleans, for example, the Senate accepted an amendment that would have given New Orleans six senators and Jefferson Parish three and created a one-member district in its stead a two-member district in which New Orleans would outnumber Jefferson by 170,000 to 18,000.

According to the 1970 census figures, New Orleans is entitled to 7 senators and Jefferson 3.

Not only thought to have accomplished anything," said Sen. Ted Hickey of New Orleans. "I think the court will throw it all out."

The Senate completely reversed itself in the squabble between Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

Sen. Jules Mollere of Lafourche first won passage of an amendment which would have reversed itself in the squabble between Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

"Throw Out"

"I'm really not too much concerned about what we do here today," said Sen. B. B. Rayburn of Bogalusa. "What we are doing is giving those federal judges something to make them earn their salaries."

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