Senate Passes Proposal by 29-9 Vote

BY C. M. HARGRODER

BATON ROUGE, La. — By a 29-to-9 vote the Louisiana Senate put the finishing touches to legislative reapportionment Wednesday. Gov. John J. McKeithen scheduled an 11 a.m. ceremony Thursday to sign House and Senate bills.

There were a few whimpers and a little levity as the Senate approved House redistricting — the House approved the Senate's redistricting Tuesday — then moved on to approve 38 to 0 a $13.6 million appropriation to pay school teachers and other school employees full implementation of a 1964 salary schedule.

The House quickly concurred in a Senate amendment which tacked on some $200,000 to the teacher pay bill, and the measure landed on McKeithen's desk in time to meet the five-day-before-adjournment provision for all money bills.

The Senate will convene Thursday at 9 a.m. and follow- ing business of the day, adjourn until Monday when the Legislature is expected to return and adjourn sine die.

Thursday's calendar appears to contain five bills on final passage—HE 19 to increase penalties for armed robbery, HE 22 intended to block an Orleans income tax levy outside the parish, HB 16 to allow Ascension Parish to use a portion of a one-cent sales tax for capital purposes, HB 29 to require lesees of tax-built industrial facilities to pay taxes as though they owned them, and HE 30 to establish a Fifth district sales tax district and authorize it to levy a one-cent tax.

Reapportionment — as usual — brought a brief flurry of objections for varying reasons before being overwhelmed in a final showdown. Sen. Charles Brown, Tallulah, as he did in the Senate bill, guided debate and moved final passage.

Sen. Harvey Peliter, Thibodaux, offered the first objection. Without offering an amendment for a Senate vote, he complained against Lafourche and Assumption Parish being combined into one representative district. Lafourche has had two representatives since the 1921 constitution, and which he said was permissible under federal court guidelines.

Sen. Danny Roy Moer, Homer, disagreed with Brown that the Senate had no alternative but to approve the plan presented by the reapportionment commission in compliance with those guidelines. There was something he could do, he said — he could vote against it.

"I, as an elected official," said Moer, "sworn to uphold the constitution of Louisiana which is being violated by this very bill."

"You just want to uphold a portion of the constitution?" asked Sen. J. D. DeBlieux, Baton Rouge. DeBlieux pointed out that the state constitution has required reapportionment events...
Senator Theodore M. Hickey, at large, said he would vote for the bill because it referred to a covered district rather than to one that might not be available in the future. He warned the Senate to "be expensive" and discouraged it from extending the project experted $20 million. District No. 7, composed of District No. 23, composed of District No. 39, composed of Tallulah; Clemons, Jennings; and District No. 40, composed of Baton Rouge; Folkes, St. Francisville. SENATE VOTE GIVEN

The Senate Wednesday approved bill 2 providing the reapportionment of the representatives. The vote was: For -- 51 New Orleans and area -- D politely, DeBakey, Degraff, Regis, Representative. Representative. Representatives. Representatives. Senator Pro Tempore early in the Senate Immediately after the vote he indicated that about the United States would not have been able to witness the last test because it was a drill.