Remap Filibuster Is Senate Threat

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — New Orleans lawmakers today threatened to filibuster against a conference committee report aiding with Jefferson Parish in a reapportionment battle with Orleans Parish over a shared senate district.

New Orleans senators charged the conference committee of flouting the will of the upper chamber in voting 4-2 to uphold House amendments to the reapportionment plan.

Sen. Ted Hickey of New Orleans took the microphone on complete the flood of paper lawmakers today personal privilege and yielded to reject the conference committee report on the reapportionment bills.

At stake was the question of whether New Orleans would be able to elect six or seven senators to the 1973 legislature. The House, meanwhile, voted 73-11 to uphold the conference committee report on the reapportionment bills.

The Senate again opposed debate on reapportionment to give the desk time to complete the flood of paper work which usually fires up both houses on the last day of the session.

Agrees To Recognize

Lt. Gov. C. C. Aycock agreed to recognize Hickey again once the paper work is completed.

The threatened New Orleans filibuster on the Senate reapportionment plan was apparent & promised by the inability to collect the 20 votes necessary to reject the conference committee report and kill reapportionment legislation.

The Legislative Reapportionment Committee recommended a plan which would have given Jefferson Parish six senators, Jefferson Parish three and created a one member district to be shared between the two parishes.

Sen. William Berhard of New Orleans charged that all lawmakers Monday, contendin voters would approve no constitutional changes until they had more confidence in the legislature.

Sen. John Schwegmann of Metairie, a candidate for governor, was the sole senator to speak against the proposal, contending voters would approve no constitutional changes until they had more confidence in the legislature.

"I'm afraid we are just spinning our wheels," he said.

Preclude Filing

Proponents argued the voters would welcome the changes because they would preclude filing the ballot with numerous constitutional amendments on local government entities at each general election.

The legislation removed from constitution such entities as police districts, sewerage districts, garbage districts and other such local affairs.

Vocational-Technical Bond Bill Faces Its Last Chance

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Supporters of a proposed $50.4 million bond issue for vocational-technical schools across the state had one last chance today to win passage of the measure in the Senate.

Sen. William Berhard of Baton Rouge, Senate floor manager for the bill, said he would try again today.

The Senate gave the measure a 25-12 vote but needed 20 votes for passage.

Calls for fiscal responsibility dominated over Berhard's plea for help for "all the kids who don't finish high school or don't particularly care for college."

Cite Statistic

Proponents cited the statistic that only 13 per cent of the students who enter college in Louisiana ever finish. Opponents agreed that the need was there, but said the state simply did not have the money.

"If there is a void or vacuum in education, this where it exists," said Berhard.

"There comes a time when the only way to finance projects that are needed is on credit," said Sen. Jesse Knowles of New Orleans.

Bonded Indebtedness

"I don't think that you know what the bonded indebtedness of this state is," said Sen. A. C. Clemens of Jennings, citing the $800 million in bonds authorized by the legislature but not yet sold.

Sens. Jules Mollere and John Schneider of Metairie charged that all lawmakers knew the Bond Commission could not sell the trade school bonds and the measure was nothing but an effort to fool the people.

How They Voted

SENATE

Here's how Acadiana senators were recorded as voting on key measures in the Legislature Monday.

$50.5 Million Bond Issue to finance expansion of vocational-technical schools across the state. Favorable vote of 25-12 was one short of 26 required for passage.

Notice of reconsideration given.

FOR

Diedrich, Dudley J., LeBlanc, Mouton, Romere.

AGAINST

None.

NOT VOTING

None.

Revision Bills Go To Governor

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A package of constitutional revision bills to strip local government entities from the state's basic law and replace them in statutory law have been sent to Gov. John McKethen for his signature.

The Senate gave overwhelming approval to the House-passed bills Monday. The Senate adopted several technical amendments to the measures, but the House quickly concurred.

'Upgrade Constitution'

Sen. Edgar Mouton of Lafayette, Senate floor manager for the legislation, said the measures would "upgrade the constitution, give more authority to the legislature and allow local governments to govern themselves."

Sen. John Schwegmann of Metairie, a candidate for governor, was the sole senator to speak against the proposal, contending voters would approve no constitutional changes until they had more confidence in the legislature.

"I'm afraid we are just spinning our wheels," he said.

Proponents argued the voters would welcome the changes because they would preclude filing the ballot with numerous constitutional amendments on local government entities at each general election.

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Remap
(Continued From Page 1)

ceeded in junking the committee plan on the floor, creating a shared district dominated by Orleans Parish.

The House then changed the district again, splitting it almost evenly between the two parishes.

Sources within the conference committee said, however, the House-passed alternative would be upheld.

Reinforces Action

Meanwhile, Rep. Carl Bauer of Franklin, chairman of the Legislative Reapportionment Committee, said a U.S. Supreme Court decision on redistricting handed down Tuesday reinforced Louisiana legislative action on the controversial issue.

In a decision on the Indiana Legislature, the Supreme Court said multi-member districts were not unconstitutional.

"It's right in the teeth of what we have been saying all along," Bauer said. "No court thus far has ordered single-member districts on a statewide basis."

Nothing To Require

Bauer said he saw nothing in the Indiana decision to require any change in the Louisiana redistricting plans for the House and Senate.

Hearing Request
(Continued From Page 1)

Rep. H. B. Dejean of Opelousas, a thoroughbred breeder, opposed the amendments saying "Let's not pre-judge the case and tell the commission what to do. They already have a hearing slated."

The House first adopted the Hollins' amendments, then changed its mind and voted 47-40 to reject them. The resolution calling for a public hearing was adopted without opposition.

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