E'S NEW LOOK

Candidates

New Districts

By JAMES H. GILLIS

(First of a Series)

Louisiana is preparing to elect a Legislature which has been reapportioned in both houses for the first time since 1924, when it chose one in which the reapportionment had been fixed by its 1921 Constitution.

It was the 1921 Constitution which established a Senate with a maximum of 39 members and a House of Representatives with not more than 101 members. But in the years that followed a few changes in the original representation had been made and the membership of the House had been increased to 105, all by amendments to the Constitution.

However, the constitutional mandate that it reapportion itself—after each decennial census had been consistently ignored by the Legislature following the 1930, 1940, 1950 and 1960 Federal population counts.

SILENT ON SENATE

The Constitution required that House reapportionment be by population subject to the basic guarantee of at least one member for each of the 17 wards of Orleans Parish and a minimum of one for each of the other 63 parishes of the state. It was silent as to how the Senate should be apportioned beyond stipulating that at the time of House reapportionment the Senate should be divided into districts.

Thus, within limitations, the Constitution made population a factor in House reapportionment, but it left the matter of how the Senate should be reapportioned entirely to the whim, the political expediency and the sometimes dubious sense of fair play of members of the Legislature.

Suggestion that the Legislature itself, ever...