

Ruling on Apportionment Stirrs Senate into Action

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

So far as California is concerned, the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that both houses of all bicameral state legislatures must be districted solely on a population basis has roused an active, strong defense of our present system of districting the State Senate. The Senate Inter-

im Committee on Judiciary was promptly called into session to review the Court's decisions, and to consider what steps, if any, should be taken with regard to the matter.

Made up, as it is, entirely of attorney members of the Senate, the committee nevertheless called upon counsel for advice. Appearing before the group, and frequently

speaking as a team, were an Assistant Attorney-General, our own Legislative Counsel, and a noted expert in U.S. constitutional law.

They were unanimous in the opinion that, even though California is not a party to any of the six Court cases involved in the historic decisions, the organization of our Senate is directly affected. They quoted language from the principal decision which tossed out the window the

geographical districting, modeled after that of the U.S. Senate, of our State Senate.

It was indicated that if the U.S. Court did rule in this fashion, it would be necessary to secure a stay of its order to permit November elections for Senate seats to go on as scheduled. Since the

Attorney-General's office represents the state officers who are defendants in these pending suits, and since the State Senate is now represented only on an amicus curiae—"friend of the court" basis, the committee unanimously decided that the full Senate should become party to all pending or future suits in federal or state courts involving its districting.

Senate intervene in every such case, and the Senate Rules Committee was officially requested to retain the services of the constitutional lawyer for such purpose.

THE COMMITTEE gave full recognition to the fact that California cannot sit and do nothing about the problem. It therefore formally passed a resolution, calling upon the Senate Rules Committee to assign to an appropriate interim committee for actions raised by the U.S. Supreme Court decisions on re-apportionment of state legislatures and what legislative steps, if any, are needed for California to conform to the

decisions. The committee considered, but took no immediate action on a proposal to urge the California Congressmen to work for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution which would permit selection of one house of a state legislature on some basis other than population.

Some possibilities discussed by the committee were election of all Senators on a statewide basis; dividing the state into two (or four) districts equal in population and electing half (or a quarter) of the Senators from each district; establishing a one-house legislature, like that of Nebraska.

Armed Forces

Army Pvt. Joe M. Parks, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Boyce, live at 3530 Madison Court, was assigned to the 3rd Armored Division in Germany, July 6.

The 19-year-old soldier, a light-vehicle driver in the 3rd Battalion of the division's 33rd Armor near Kirch Gons, entered the Army in January 1964. He completed basic training at Fort Ord.

Parks is a 1963 graduate of South High School.

Army Pvt. Gene R. Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claris Wilson, 2129 256th St., Loma, was assigned to the 3rd Armored Division Artillery stationed near Hanau, Germany.

He entered the Army in February, completed basic training at Fort Ord, and was stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., before arriving overseas.

The 18-year-old soldier was graduated in 1964 from Narbonne High School.

Army 2nd Lt. Kenneth R. Weeks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell R. Weeks, 4722 Towers St., was assigned to Company A of the 317th Engineer Battalion in Germany, June 28.

Lieutenant Weeks, a platoon leader in the company, entered the Army in March and completed basic training at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The 22-year-old officer was graduated from North High School in 1959 and from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1963.

Army Pvt. Lawrence V. Youngker, son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Youngker, Redondo Beach, was assigned to the U.S. Army Forces Southern Command Signal Service in Quarry Heights, Canal Zone, July 3.

The 22-year-old soldier, a communications center specialist in the service, entered the Army in December. He completed basic training at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Army Sgt. Gene K. Moreno, 28, son of Mrs. Dorothy K. Montgomery, 2843 Danaha St., was assigned to the U.S. Continental Army Command at Fort Monroe, Va., June 29.

Sergeant Moreno, a personnel specialist in the command's Headquarters Company, entered the Army in January 1955 and has served in Europe.

A 1954 graduate of Torrance High School, the sergeant attended El Camino Junior College and was employed by General Petroleum Corporation, Salt Lake City, before entering the Army.

Airman 2. C. Frank Beaver II, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. Beaver, Redondo Beach, has arrived for duty with a unit of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) at Laon Air Base, France.

Airman Beaver, a photographer, previously served at Misawa Air Base, Japan. A graduate of Junipero Serra High School, he attended El Camino College.

Henry E. Ford, machinist's mate fireman, son of Mrs. Lucy T. Bryan, 339 W. 223rd St., is a crewmember of the Navy destroyer USS Richard B. Anderson, operating out of San Diego.

Airman 3. C. David C. Starns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Starns, Wilmington, has graduated from the technical training course for U.S. Air Force data processing machine operators at Sheppard AFB, Tex.

He is being assigned to a Tactical Air Command (TAC) unit at George AFB. The airman is a graduate of Banning High School.

Army Pvt. Calvin T. Hearnsharger Jr., whose parents live in Redondo Beach, was assigned to the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Irwin, July 2.

Hearnsharger entered the Army in April, completed basic training at Fort Ord, and is a data processing operator at the garrison.

He is a 1960 graduate of Aviation High School and attended El Camino College. He was employed by Space Laboratories before entering the Army.

Kenneth W. Fagan, sonarman 2. C., USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Evert Alwige of 1567 W. 214th St., is a crewmember of the Navy destroyer escort USS Bronstein which recently returned to San Diego after four weeks of intensive anti-submarine operations in the northern Pacific.

Bronstein, normally part of an anti-submarine unit composed of surface and sub-surface units equipped to locate and destroy enemy submarines, operates out of San Diego.

Two Army ROTC cadets from Torrance, Robert J. Watt and William F. Steinwachs, began six weeks of military training at Fort Lewis, Wash., June 20.

Cadet Watt, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Watt, 5316 Lorna, is a 1958 graduate of Fullerton Union High School and is participating in the ROTC program at San Jose State College. He is a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and Alpha Delta Sigma fraternities.

Cadet Steinwachs, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Steinwachs, 5320 Sharynne Lane, is a 1961 graduate of South High School and is participating in the ROTC program at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Marine Lance Cpl. James V. Hurley Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hurley of 22713 B. Maple St., recently participated in an extensive sea assault exercise called "Operation Pine Tree" off the coast of Southern California with the First Marine Division based at Camp Pendleton.

Army ROTC Cadet Edwin J. Richards Jr., whose parents live at 28809 Crestridge Rd., Rolling Hills, began six weeks of military training at Fort Lewis, Wash., June 20.

Cadet Richards, 20, a 1961 graduate of Narbonne High School, is participating in the ROTC program at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Everett W. Snow, fireman electrician's mate, USCG, son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett L. Snow of 17503 Falda Ave., is a member of the Coast Guard Cutter Taney operating out of Alameda.

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