

Editorial

For a Better Legislature

By Ashley E. Holden, Sr.

Unless something is done soon to correct the situation, the day is not far distant when the legislature of the state of Washington will be completely under the domination and control of the big labor unions and the political machines of the big cities.

A move now under way by the League of Women Voters to put an initiative on the ballot in 1962 would redistrict the legislature on a population basis, which sounds fine in theory but which would disfranchise the rural areas of the state and concentrate political control in the big cities and industrial areas where the union bosses would crack the whip. Reshuffling the legislative districts on a basis of population will not assure better legislators nor will it mean better government. It will only compound the problems and increase the cost of government.

If the League of Women Voters really wants to do something constructive it should work for a constitutional amendment for the adoption of the federal system in the election of the legislature. This would preserve the system of checks and balances which has made America great, and it would afford minorities protection from the tyranny of a ruthless majority. Majority rule is not always right or just.

Instead of electing senators and representatives to the legislature of a population basis, which would give the big cities control of both houses, why not follow the pattern of the congress, in which the senate is chosen by geographical units, while the house is chosen on a population basis?

Suppose each county in the state elected two senators just as each state does in congress, and the house members were elected by districts divided on a basis of population. This would mean a state senate of 78 members, of whom 40 would come from the 20 counties in eastern Washington.

The house, regardless of the number of representatives elected, always would have a majority from the heavily populated sections, but the rural counties could check them in the senate, where Adams county would have an equal voice with King county.

This would temper the extremists on both sides of any question, for it would require legislation by compromise. It would curb the power of the big labor lobby in the legislature. It would keep a farm bloc from enforcing its will on the majority. In short, the American principle of government by checks and balances would prevail. It would mean better government.

Reprinted from the Tonasket Tribune
October 12, 1961

BEWARE OF THIS BOOBY TRAP!

Redistricting of the Legislature, as proposed by the League of Women Voters, would concentrate control of both houses in the big cities and industrial areas where COPE and a Big Labor lobby could run the show.



To protect minority rights and the freedom of the individual the legislature should be organized on the Federal Plan, which would provide adequate checks and balances against the tyranny of the majority.

WRITE FOR REPRINTS OF THIS EDITORIAL AND
HELP DEFEND FREEDOM.

Committee for Voluntary Unionism, Inc.

329 Second & University Building
Seattle, Washington