

# Voter League Plan Is Not Practical

Legislative redistricting has become a problem in many states, of which Washington is one, and it now appears that Congress will do little toward helping solve that problem.

In this state, Atty. Gen. John J. O'Connell has tried to bring about a reasonable solution which would result in more equitable districts being formed by the legislature.

However, he is receiving opposition from some strange areas. In 1962 the Washington State League of Women Voters went to a lot of work to devise a redistricting initiative which went on the ballot, but which was defeated.

The League of Women Voters showed at that time that it was sincerely interested in bringing about equitable representation, but its most recent action creates doubt as to its good judgment.

In an appeal to the federal district court in Seattle this week, an attorney for the League of Women Voters urged that a "weighted vote" plan be put into effect to force the 1963 legislature to redistrict the state.

O'Connell has proposed that the court give the legislature 30 days to enact a law redistricting the state in a constitutional manner in compliance with decisions of the United States Supreme Court.

The attorney general said that if a weighted vote plan—under which each legislator's vote would be weighed in direct proportion to the number of people in his legislative district—is put into effect, it should apply only to votes on redistricting legislation, or, at the most, to votes taken on the floor of either house.

But the league has insisted that the weighed vote plan should be applied to all legislative functions, even those actions taken in committee.

This position reflects little familiarity with the realities of legislative procedure. Such a plan would be more than cumbersome, it would be completely impractical as attorneys for the state indicated in their own retreat from the proposal first made by the federal district judges.

It is difficult to see what the league hopes to accomplish by the reinjection of this idea at this time. Even if the league officers and attorneys had popular support for the weighted vote plan for legislative operations, the state's case before the federal judges certainly has not been improved.