

**OTHER EDITORS SAY**

NORTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU NEWS

**HIGH COURT STRAYED**

by **B. C. Mangum**  
PRESIDENT

N. C. FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Perhaps no Supreme Court decision has had or will have as far reaching effects as its recent decision regarding apportionment of state legislatures. The court's call for a "one man, one vote" make-up of legislatures digs into the very heart of our representative form of government.

The Supreme Court's decision is probably one of the most misunderstood questions ever to come before the American people. When you condense the decision into its simplest form, it means that both houses of a bicameral state legislature must be apportioned solely on a population basis, no matter what the people of a state may want.

The astonishing thing about this decision is that since the 1800's, previous court decisions have held that apportionment of state legislatures is a political question reserved for the states, and that the Supreme Court did not have jurisdiction in such cases.

However, today, a majority of the high court bench claims the power to amend not only the Constitution of the United States, but the Constitutions of the states as well. It was by a split vote of 6-3 that the justices passed the controversial ruling on apportionment.

Since the beginning of our present form of government, we are all aware that the framers of the Constitution were careful to reserve this power of amendment to the people alone.

If the Supreme Court can decide how state legislatures must be apportioned, it stands to reason that they can also decide how county school boards, county boards of commissioners, and other such boards, must be apportioned. A lower court in Michigan ruled that, based on the Supreme Court decision, the Kent County board of commissioners must be reapportioned on a population basis.

What does all this mean to rural people? It probably will mean less road aid, high school taxes and less local school aid. It could impair the role of vocational agriculture and home economics, bring a sales tax on

farmer production items, result in the consolidation of county functions and the redrawing of county lines. It could lead to the reapportionment of congressional districts to the disadvantage of rural areas. These are only a few of the things that could happen.

This move to apportion both houses of a state legislature on a population basis will weaken our representative form of government. Good government depends on fair representation, and the only way to have fair representation is to have all the people represented.

We must have agreements among all the different interests from all the different sections of the Supreme Court is to amend the U. S. Constitution, guaranteeing states the right to base one house of a bi-cameral legislature on factors other than population, and allowing states, too, to determine how subordinate governing bodies shall be constituted.

This would allow North Carolina to retain the present make-up of the House of Representatives, in which both area and population are considered. It

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WILLIAMSTON ENTERPRISE

**Where The Money Goes**

The U. S. Defense Department spends right at \$48 billion a year. The Treasury Department passes out right at \$13 billion, followed in third place by the Health, Education and Welfare with a request for \$7.8 billion. And where the money goes, no one knows.

To gain just a faint idea of where the money goes, look at a few items the Health, Education and Welfare is spending in tax money, as follows:

For studying aging in the house fly, \$38,938; for studying the spinal cord of a mouse, or mice,

would also allow county boards to continue to elect representatives on a district basis.

A bill has been introduced in the General Assembly of North Carolina calling for such an amendment to the U. S. Constitution. The bill is referred to as H.B. 68. The measure amounts to an effective weapon which the people of North Carolina may use in the fight to maintain good government.

Fifteen other states have already passed similar bills in the state legislatures, and others are working on the matter.

\$7,500; for studying the effects of ant venom, \$9,202; for study of araneae (garden spiders) in New Zealand, \$9,752; for studying chigger mites in western North America, \$27,595; investigation of blood in new born opossum, \$13,692;

And: To make a survey of American drinking practices, \$249,179; "Longitudinal" study of changes in drinking practices, \$101,512;

Also: To study familial patterns of schizophrenia in Iceland, \$22,185; to study what happens if one is deprived of dreams, \$11,366; to study parasitic flatworms in bluegills (sunfish), \$5,050; to study Mexican freetail bat's physiological adaptation, \$6,240;

In addition: For the "First American Conference On Frozen Ground", \$10,000; research into a mental health program for labor, \$64,638; for investigation of aquatic midge (2-wing fly), \$3,000;

As well as: Development of a comprehensive "cottage-life program," \$100,000; a "self-instructional" program for youthful offenders, \$64,000; a "family training center as a depopulation aid", \$99,800; studying the nature and effects of marriage customs, \$8,052; and for research into the nature and roles of female delinquent gangs, \$24,336; and to study the "role of the brain in male reproduction," \$44,115; and a study of "personality factors in the vocational choice of ministers," \$4,200.

Let's not go into the worth of the projects. The listings are merely offered to show where the tax dollar is 'goin'.

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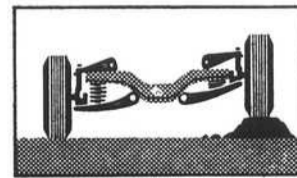
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