

Opponents in Blue Ballot Debate Charge Scare Tactics Being Used in Campaign on Proposal

Witwer, Powell Heard By 125 at Dinner

By Don W. Roberts
Of The Herald Staff

Opponents in a debate on the merits of the blue ballot reapportionment amendment last night charged that scare tactics were being used in the campaign on the proposal.

Rep. Paul Powell of Vienna said a warning of court action forcing election of legislators at large if the amendment fails "is a scare to try to force the reapportionment plan, in my opinion."

Gov. William G. Stratton voiced this warning at a meeting in Springfield Wednesday night. Powell opposes the amendment.

Powell said he is not opposed to reapportionment, but only to a plan which gives control of one house to one county. Both Cook County and Downstate should propose changes which make changes in their own areas.

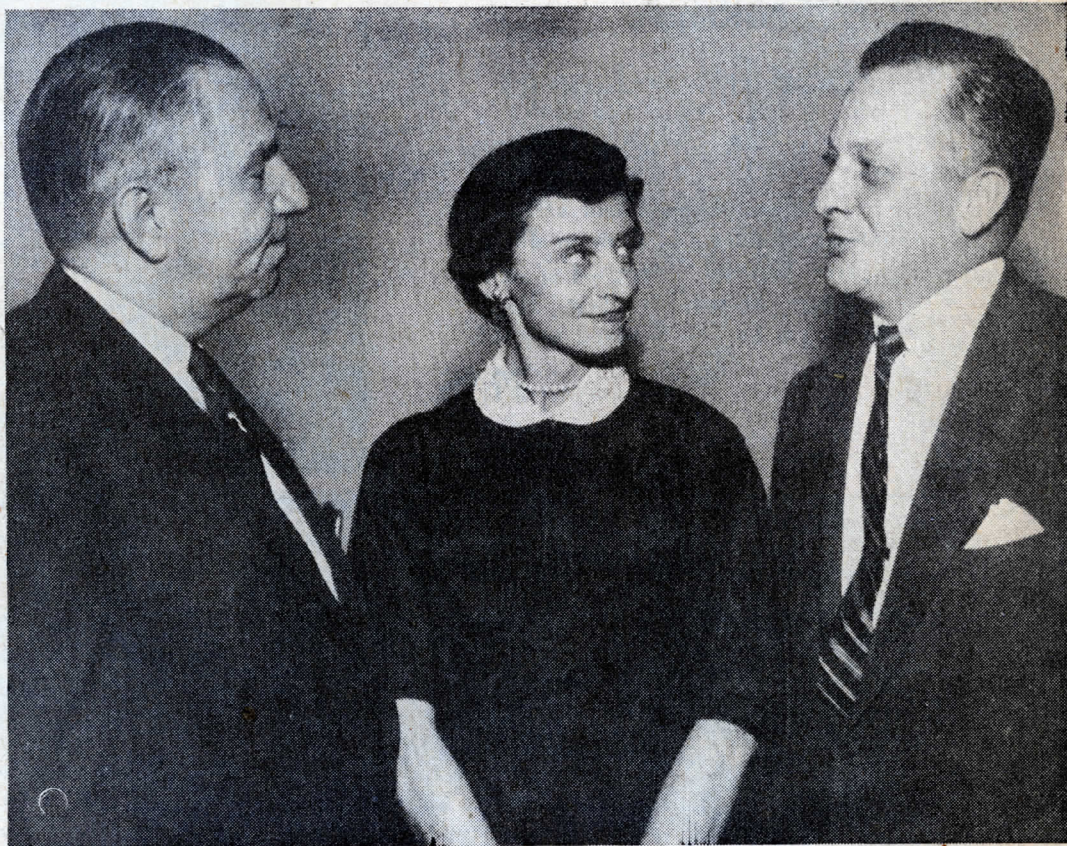
Samuel W. Witwer of Riverside, chairman of the Illinois Committee for Constitutional Reapportionment, placed the scare label on the contention of opponents that the reapportionment plan would rob Downstate residents of a portion of the revenue they now receive.

"The distribution of public money is governed by the Legislature. Bills must be passed by both houses. I resent the inference that Downstate senators will sell you out, and Downstate would have permanent control of the Senate."

Powell said court action to force reapportionment has been tried before. "There has been no successful action to date. I don't know why after 53 years we should become so alarmed." Witwer had mentioned the governor's statement.

Gov. Stratton told a group of newspaper editors and publishers that if such legal action were brought, courts would have to order statewide elections, which would give control of both houses to Cook County.

Answering a question, Powell said he will not be bound by the



Opposing forces size each other up prior to last night's debate on the blue ballot reapportionment. Rep. Paul Powell, left, opposes

the amendment, and Attorney Samuel W. Witwer, right, favors the proposal. Mrs. John J. Donovan, center, chairman of the

League of Women Voters, who sponsored the meeting, presided.

(Herald and Review Photo)

TB X-Ray Bus

The mobile unit in Central Park will operate today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m. Five working days remain in the X-ray survey.

The project is sponsored by the Macon County Tuberculosis and Visiting Nurse Association in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

To date 14,088 persons have had free X-rays. The total includes 766 who visited the unit yesterday in Central Park.

Rt. 48-51 Lights In Operation

Transfer House Opening Delayed for Strike Talk

A day's delay in reopening of the Transfer House, which would postpone the start of a threatened bus strike here, has been asked for and received by Mayor Robert Willis.

Willis made the request yesterday of M. R. Biddle, Decatur City Lines manager, as the first possibility of a break in the threatened bus strike appeared.

Until yesterday, the Transfer House was tentatively scheduled for reopening today. Present plans are to reopen it tomorrow.

Reopening of the renovated land-

tion to say anything about," he said, "and I wouldn't want to say anything which might be misconstrued or might throw a wrench in to things."

Biddle said there were several things discussed at length at yesterday's conciliation meeting, but indicated no basically new proposals were made by either side.

He said the bus company's position is that it still pretty much the same way about it.

In turning the keys of the

Democratic state platform, which supports reapportionment, charging it was adopted in the Cook County convention this week with "a stacked deck." "They didn't try to bring it up in the Springfield convention," he said.

Witwer, who spoke first, said one of the greatest challenges to freedom is on the local level, and that where the constitution recognizes the votes of equal citizens shall be of equal weight, there are shocking disparities in representation.

The 1½ million Downstate citizens who have the same legislative representation as another half-million citizens have become third class citizens.

Witwer said the amendment is a "fair, realistic compromise" on the basis of the facts of political life, not giving Cook County control of both houses, assuring Cook County of a "fair shake" in the legislature and assuring Downstate control of the Senate.

Downstate could not lose Senate control except through another constitutional amendment, Witwer pointed out.

He said those who argue the amendment will give Cook County control of the Legislature know the argument is "falacious, and nevertheless they try to steer us toward sectional bias and animosity."

"By and far, over the years, suburban Cook County has sided far more frequently with Downstate than Chicago colleagues," he said.

Powell countered that from his 20 years experience in the Legislature that Cook County members jump through the hoop with no exceptions on important legislation when the whip is cracked.

He said that if the amendment is adopted, Cook County would, never give up control of the House, regardless of future population changes.

Should the Legislature fail to reapportion on the basis of the amendment and the job go to a commission named from members nominated by state central committees, the majority strength would still rest in Cook County.

Powell said this would be true because state central committees vote on the basis of their party's primary voting strength. The greatest primary strength for the Democrats is in Cook County, he said, and "I feel the same would be true of the Republicans."

Powell said Cook County control would mean allocation of state school distributive funds on the basis of population, and he predicted it would mean the diversion of more gas tax funds to Cook County.

He said he will fight for farm to market roads rather than nine-

operation at the intersection of Routes 48 and 51 yesterday.

Electrical mechanisms for the signals were received early this week and the work of installation was completed yesterday afternoon.

The Sangamo Construction Company of Springfield received the contract for the project last April.

Four approaches to the busy intersection were widened. The contract included sewers for drainage, curbs and gutters, the pavement widening and installation of the signals. The electrical installation was sublet to the Capitol Electric Company of Springfield.

Traffic signals at the East William Street-Brush College Road junction are expected to be put into service about Oct. 1, state highway engineers said yesterday.

lane highways in Cook County, and noted a Chicago newspaper editorial called Route 66 "a lonesome road compared with Lake Shore Drive."

Powell also said that Cook County control of the House would bring the state property tax back because property taxes are not paid in Cook County "like they are Downstate."

Powell defended his stand against the amendment against what he said were charges of being "selfish and un-American."

"If I am selfish, then why did I vote for adoption of the resolution putting the amendment on the November ballot," he asked. He pointed out that he said at the time he would oppose adoption of the amendment because he did not believe in the type of the proposal.

Witwer had said most of the opposition to the proposal has come from Downstate legislators of both parties, though he said not all of them are necessarily selfish or cynical.

Powell charged that most newspapers are not giving both sides of the controversy and questioned where the money is coming from for the campaign, for the proposal.

Witwer said "what little money" there is comes from both Chicago and Downstate supporters, and that many of 77 organizations backing the amendment are distributing literature.

Powell mentioned cocktail parties among the functions sponsoring support of the reapportionment move, and Witwer said he hopes certain meetings of Powell and his colleagues were "as bone dry as our meetings."

The League of Women Voters sponsored the meeting, attended by about 125 persons in the Decatur Club ballroom.

mark has been set as the date for a walkout by bus drivers—unless the company has agreed to install toilet facilities.

Up to now neither side has reported a change in their stand, but Elmer R. Walker, union president, said last night union members will meet tonight in response to developments at yesterday's meeting with state and federal labor conciliators.

Walker declined to detail the developments, and said "I'm not putting out any news until after the meeting."

He said he can't tell yet whether the strike may be averted. Asked if the possibility of a settlement looked any brighter, he answered "No."

Biddle said "I guess you could say there was some progress" made at yesterday's meeting.

Biddle declined to go into details.

"It's kind of an awkward situa-

Mayor Willis requested it reopened until tomorrow, giving the company and drivers extra day to iron out their difficulties.

Calling on Biddle and V exert every effort to avert stoppage, Mayor Willis 100 block East Main Street be used as a loading zone day.

The block has been a loading zone during the Transfer House has been closed.

Mayor Willis said he won't take any other action, but qualified the statement by saying, "Not that I force."

He said he feels sure the public is sympathetic to drivers in their predicament.

The mayor said the Council looked at the bus franchise day, but said there was no Council action as a result.

Park District To Survey Sites

A survey of possible sites for new parks will be undertaken soon by the Decatur Park District's commissioners.

The move is a continuation of the study recently decided on to determine what park expansion will be necessary to provide facilities for the population growth expected here during the next few years.

The study and survey of sites were decided on after suggestions by Dr. R. Zink Sanders, board member.

R. Wayne Gill, board president, said a map will be prepared showing present parks and areas where expansion is considered necessary.

Immediate development of new parks is not foreseen, but acquisition of land before residential development pushes prices up is considered advantageous by board members.

Nelson Park Clubhouse To Be Closed Nov. 1

The clubhouse at Nelson Park will be closed Nov. 1, the Decatur Park District decided last night. A reopening date was tentatively set for next March 1.

Several requests have been made for use of the clubhouse after Nov. 1, but the closing is necessary because heating facilities aren't available, the board said.

Alderson Services

Macon Lodge No. 8, AF&AM, will conduct Masonic services at 3 p.m. today at the funeral for William C. Alderson in the Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home. Mr. Alderson died Tuesday.

FARM EQUIPMENT FROM JESS

Walter Stahl, R reported to Sheriff yesterday the theft from a crib on southwest of Decatur four tires and a sheller, a 120-foot tarpaulins, and transmission gear.

New Plans For Clearing Dreamland

New plans for refilling Fairview Lake are being considered by the Park Board.

Drained as a habitat after waterfowl died, the lake several months ago to clean out the cyanide bacteria of the water cause of the n

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