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ADVERTISING RATES MADE KNOWN ON REQUEST

Why Towns Like Yours Will Win The Election

By Bari McDowell

The big cities are howling these days that you voters out in the towns and on the farms pack altogether too much political punch.

They claim that come November your single ballot may be worth 10 votes cast in metropolitan centers for a U. S. Congressman—or even hundreds for a state legislator. They charge it's unfair, even a swindle, and they demand reapportionment. Almost everywhere today the big city voter is out to whittle your political power.

Well, just how much political punch do you pack? TOWN JOURNAL finds it's decisive. With the help of Sales Management, Inc., a national research group, we've just measured your power in all 435 Congressional districts of the 48 states. We wanted to know how many people live in and around communities of 25,000 population or less—using the best 1956 estimates.

Working from the Census and Sales Management data, TOWN JOURNAL is the first to bring you these facts. The figures proved this:

You people in the Countryside towns and on farms hold a clear voting majority in 42 states.

Only in six states—California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island—do big city voters dominate elections. This means that, through their sheer weight of numbers, towns of under 25,000 and rural areas roundabout control 84 of the 96 seats in the Senate at Washington. That's 87%.

The same voters dominate 275 of the 435 Congressional districts—63% of the U.S. House of Representatives.

And that's only part of your Congressional weight. Nearly all of the powerful chairmen of the committees on Capitol Hill hail from the town and farm area. You influence the men with the most influence. Why? These chairmen get their posts through seniority—and Countryside voters seem inclined to re-elect over and over. You elected 18 of the 19 Senate committee chairmen and 15 of the 20 House committee chairmen.

Nor is this all your political punch. You can claim 67% of all state lawmakers this year.

TOWN JOURNAL'S survey shows that of 7,506 state legislators, 5,363 come from places of 25,000 population or less. In 36 states these men have a clear majority of both houses. They also control Nebraska's one-house legislature, and split in seven other states. That leaves only three states (New York, Illinois and Massachusetts) where big-city voters control both houses.

No wonder the big city folks are after your seats. If you live in Nevada with a population of only 233,000, you can vote for two Senators, as do the people of New York who number 15,969,000. The Constitution gave you this right to help keep the Federal Union in balance.

And if you live in the cotton country around Bryan, Texas, for example, your vote for a Congressman is worth more than four ballots cast in booming Houston (which has grown 25% in the last six years).

This matter of determining the make-up of the House of Representatives is up to the state legislatures. After each 10-year Census, Congress adjusts the number of each state's Representatives and the legislatures draw the new boundaries. Trouble is, say the critics, they often spy big-city people when they do so.

Here the critics try to show that even the legislatures are "rigged." Actually, most state legislatures are modeled after Congress—one house based on population and the other on regional units like counties or towns. A large city that is "underrepresented" in the state senate may run the house or assembly. But such facts don't keep critics from pointing to lonesome Inyo County, Calif., where a single vote for state senator is worth 296 votes in Los Angeles Co. Then they cite parts of the Connecticut countryside, where one vote for a representative in the State House may be worth 682 big-city ballots.

Those are isolated and extreme cases. But this kind of criticism is getting results.

All over America new boundary lines are being drawn for state legislative districts. In Alabama, Colorado, and Washington citizens are voting on such proposals. Hot court cases this year have tested reapportionment laws in Utah, Florida and Illinois. The Governors of New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island are all calling for reapportionment in their legislatures.

In the last session of Congress, four bills were introduced to set up a Department of Urban Affairs with a Secretary of Cabinet rank. Just as the USDA works with farmers, the new Department of "Urbiculture" would watch out for "America's great and neglected cities." Another bill would require Federal courts to order reapportionment of House districts.

What is the truth about the fairness or unfairness of political power? Just this:

Today some 92 million Americans live in communities of less than 25,000 population. That's 55% of all Americans. Obviously it's fair for these people to have a working majority in our lawmaking system.

The question is whether 55% of our people should control more than 55% of our lawmaking machinery.

Let's look more closely at the House of Representatives. In the six years since the last census, the population has increased by 15 million and moved around, too. Obviously, then, some districts are unfairly represented . . . and legislators in some states have delayed reapportionment to hang on to their own jobs.

But handing a few more Congressional seats to the biggest cities probably won't cut the Countryside's political power much. For even after the fairest reapportionment, hundreds of middle-sized cities will still be "islands" in the middle of Countryside districts—outnumbered by town and farm areas.

Spokane, Wash., for example, has 185,000 citizens—but 204,800 people live on farms and in smaller communities of that Congressional district. The boundary lines are fair; the total population almost ideal. Yet Spokane residents are outnumbered and can be outvoted. So are the people in Mobile, Ala., Savannah, Ga.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Sacramento, Calif.; Kansas City, Kan. In all, some 49 cities with more than 100,000 population and 313 other cities over 25,000 are swallowed up by the smaller communities and farm areas around them. These people, islanders so to speak in the Countryside Ocean, represent 12% of our U.S. population.

Even now, the average Congressional district dominated by smaller communities is not far out of line with the average in metropolitan centers. Experts say a mathematically ideal district would have

about 381,000 population, and today the 275 Countryside districts average just 12% short of this ideal.

Is 12% difference an unfair edge? Well, the reapportionment committee of the American Political Science Association says that a 15% deviation from the national average is both reasonable and necessary for flexibility.

Assuming, then, that voters in towns like yours will win the election (if they vote), just what kind of citizens are they?

They're more interested than big-city people. Some opinion pollsters say they get 30% greater returns from towns and farms than from big cities. But that's only one indication.

Compare Countryside voters with those in Detroit. In a recent election, one polling place got the wrong ballots—candidates were those for another ward—but not one of 203 voters noticed the difference! Judges found the mistake when they counted the ballots.

Could that happen in your town? Well, cities are up against this apathy all the time. Says Dr. Arch Dotson of Cornell: "Urbanite and suburbanite are likely to have a sense of futility and frustration about political participation" They get lost in the big population turnover. Then there's the problem of foreign immigrants (2½ million since World War II) who aren't yet prepared to vote or take part in government.

What else differentiates the Countryside voter? He's more conservative—even when it hurts.

Congressman Cecil M. Harden of Indiana mailed 15,000 questionnaires to people in his district. "Did they favor President Eisenhower's policy of debt retirement—or did they want a tax cut now?" People in Terre Haute (pop. 65,000) endorsed the President's policy by a firm 4% to one. But voters in the smaller towns went further: They opposed a tax cut for themselves by a solid 8 to one. Conservatives aren't the same as pocketbook voters.

These differences have a national significance. People in the small U.S. communities don't vote as a bloc on any issue. But shadings of opinion make themselves felt. It's natural for them to look at economic issues differently from big city people. They are more likely to be homeowners than renters, self-employed than employees. Maybe they are less conditioned to Government controls. The lawmaker who represents a Countryside majority listens a little more carefully to them than to city pressure groups. The Countryside has a strong restraining influence within both political parties. Except for hot partisan issues, Countryside members of Congress usually take the side of caution.

What about the relative honesty of town and city voters? Well, Countryside people probably are no more honest than anyone else, but they can't get away with as much.

Just before the last election in Albany, N.Y. (pop. 140,000), local bankers suddenly ran out of \$5 bills. Now a sizzling report from the State Attorney General tells why: "Wholesale buying of votes . . . a staggering array of frauds." The report notes that "at least \$80,000 in \$5 bills" was paid to one party's local officials just before the election. Would the Main Street grapevine permit party machine graft like this in your towns?

A big-city politician, Senator Richard L. Neuberger, of Portland, Ore., sums it up: "A city politician can be known as a grafter and still survive. In the Countryside, a legislator must be honest. He can get away with being too liberal or too reactionary, but mutterings of corruption are more than he can weather."

Those are the facts of political power out in the country: The towns and farms hold the edge in 42 states; 55% of all Americans live in communities of 25,000 or less.

Next time one of your neighbors asks, "What's the use of voting?" hand him this story!

News From Around Nebraska

An experiment in heavier corn yields in dry years has been conducted at Ainsworth this year and is meeting with apparent success, according to the Ainsworth Star-Journal. A farmer in that area set aside a field in which he planted the rows of corn 80 inches apart instead of the customary 40 inches. He used a two row planter but placed seed in only one box, he explained.

A careful check of the field has revealed that despite the fact that there were only half as many rows, the yield is actually going to be about 10 percent above fields planted in the conventional manner. The number of stalks per row was increased slightly, it is explained. Ears on the corn from the wide rows average 2½ inches longer, are well formed and firm. Most noticeable improvement is the manner in which the corn is drying out. The wide-rowed corn will be ready for picking much quicker than the other and will pick faster because there are fewer rows to be covered.

The David City Banner-Press and the Butler County board have teamed up on a \$100 reward in an effort to learn information regarding the identity of persons who are destroying road markers in the county. Over a long period of time, someone has been stealing reflectors, turning signs backward, defacing signs or removing them entirely. Butler county authorities recognize the extreme hazard to motorists and are offering the reward in an effort to stop the malicious practice.

Madison will hold a pancake day October 10th, the Madison Star announced last week. The affair will be patterned after the type of activity Blair has staged for a number of years.

There will be a Horse Show at Red Cloud next Sunday, the Commercial Advertiser has announced. The Red Cloud Saddle Club and the Red Cloud business men are sponsoring the affair. There will be a street parade and prizes to the saddle clubs coming from the greatest distance and with the largest numbers.

Stamp collectors are swamping the Chadron Postoffice with requests for "First Day" air mail letters sent from that place. Chadron will inaugurate air mail by Western Airlines around September 29th or 30th when Western starts to use the new hard-surfaced runway at the Chadron airport on its Denver to Minneapolis daily flight. Orders have been coming in for months and some collectors have submitted several dozens of envelopes to be mailed and cancelled on the first day of airmail service, the Chadron Record reports.

A new corn, which as yet has no name, has been developed near Wahoo this year, the Wahoo Newspaper revealed last week. Principal characteristic of the corn is the big ears which it develops. The newspaper showed pictures of the well-developed ears which averaged 18½ inches in length. A hybrid corn grower there has been perfecting the new corn but will not place it on the market until further perfecting is accomplished.

A new motel is being built at Oakland, Nebraska, the Oakland Independent announced last week. It will serve traffic on highway No. 77. Six buildings are to be built of brick and redwood. A former operator of a motel in Tekamah is to be the owner.

Schools at Friend, Nebraska have installed televisions which will be used as a part of their instructional program this year. First-year algebra is being taught by a combination television-correspondence course taught by the University of Nebraska. Each day the students watch the program for twenty minutes. The work is carried on without a teacher in the classroom, although one student is held responsible for administrative details. The work is an experiment and the Crete News, which reported the new trend in education, did not forecast its success.

A Lexington, Nebraska Merchant, who held a grand opening of his store, recently gave away gas-filled balloons. Last week he received a letter, and one of his balloons from a man who lives at Export, Pennsylvania. It turned out that the balloon had apparently traveled the distance of 1100 miles by wind currents, making the trip in less than a week. No one knows the height at which it traveled or deviations from a direct route which it might have followed as wind courses changed.

Pete Patterson

Pete Patterson age 87 years, of 5212 So. 25 St., expired Friday morning, September 14, at a local hospital. He was an Omaha resident 14 years.

He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Eva Starnes of Omaha; two nieces, Mrs. Ruth Brown of Omaha, Mrs. Nadine Wright of Kan-

sas City, Kans., and other relatives. Funeral services were held Monday, September 17, 1956 at 2:00 p.m. from Bethel Baptist Church with Rev. Curtis Brown officiating. Interment was at Graceland Park Cemetery.

Palbearers Messrs T. Brown, G. W. Briggs, E. Wiggins, C. Adams, C. Young and C. Reed. Myers Brothers Funeral Service.

Ervins Go Back To California

The Walter P. Ervins, "Gladys and Pops" and former Omahans, who now reside in Los Angeles, California entrained last week to continue their vacation tour. They will visit points east including Detroit, Washington, New York and with Bridgeport, Connecticut as their destination where they will be the guests of Mr. Ervin's relatives.

From their arrival in Omaha to their departure the social calendar was fulfilled. Mrs. Alton B. Goode opened their visit by holding open house in their honor on Sunday, August 12 with other events following.

Their last week's visit included many more enjoyable occasions. Mrs. Jessica Wright of 2512 Binney Street chose Thursday morning August 23rd to honor the Ervins and Mrs. Elise Turner who was moving with her family to Los Angeles. The hospitable atmosphere typical of "Jessica" the appointments of silver and linen highlighted by a profusion of summer flowers made the well prepared, succulent food, the delightful guests and good wholesome conversation more delightful and enjoyable. Those invited to enjoy this affair with the honorees included Mesdames Jessie Brooks, Clifford, Alton B. Goode, Thomas E. Hayes, Aaron McMillan, Archie Macy, Wade Macklin, Malcolm Scott, Virgil Shobe and Earl Wheeler.

The Virgil Shobes chose the following Wednesday evening to entertain for the Ervins with a picnic supper on their lovely picturesque well appointed patio. There again was a picture of complete harmony, congenial guests, a menu of delicious well prepared food under the canopy of a full moon and star studded sky. For added enjoyment and entertainment Mrs. Malcolm Scott showed pictures of the golden west, it's scenery, relatives and friends during the joint visit of the Shobes and Scotts to California plus pictures of friends and events here at home.

Those invited were the Ervin's brother, Mr. J. D. Ervin, Mr. and Mrs. Alton B. Goode, Mr. and Mrs. William Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Hayes, Mrs. Jessica Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wiley, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Scott and Mr. Shirley Yancy. The Shobes as always were genial host and hostess.

Mrs. Addie Seals of 2808 Binney Street in her own traditional way assisted by her sister, Mrs. Allie Willis, Mrs. Amanda Jenkins and Dora Green chose Friday evening preceding Labor Day at 7 p.m. to honor the Ervins and Mr. and Mrs. I. S. McPherson, Mrs. McPherson having just returned from the Shrine Convention at Washington, D. C. with one of those dinner parties so symbolic of her. A turkey dinner complete with all of the trimmings as delectable and tasty was the Bill 'Affaire' for the guests to admire and consume. The flowers and appointments accentuated this festive event.

The guest list included Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bly, Mr. and Mrs. Alton B. Goode, Dr. and Mrs. A.

Television Lists Plans For Color

17 SERIES OF TINTED SHOWS SLATED ON REGULAR BASIS, AN INCREASE OF 14

By VAL ADAMS

Seventeen different series of regular programs will be televised in color on a full-time basis next season by the National Broadcasting Company. Only three of these were done previously in color on a regular basis.

Robert W. Sarnoff, network president, said that on some nights N.B.C. would present three consecutive hours of color programs. Among the Sunday shows to



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Article in Reader's Digest Reveals Jittery Pre-Menstrual Tension Is So Often a Needless Misery!

Do you suffer terrible nervous tension—feel jittery, irritable, depressed—just before your period each month? A startling article in READER'S DIGEST reveals such pre-menstrual torment is needless misery in many cases! Thousands have already discovered how to avoid such suffering. With Lydia Pinkham's Compound and Tablets, they're so much happier, less tense as those "difficult days" approach. Lydia Pinkham's has a remarkable soothing effect on the source of such distress. In doctors' tests, Pinkham's

stopped . . . or strikingly relieved . . . pain and discomfort! 3 out of 4 women got glorious relief!

Taken regularly, Pinkham's relieves the headaches, cramps, nervous tension . . . during and before your period. Many women never suffer—even on the first day! Why should you? This month, start taking Pinkham's. See if you don't escape pre-menstrual tension . . . so often the cause of unhappiness.

Get Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound . . . or convenient new Tablets which have blood-building iron added. At drugists. *By noted doctor



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be done in color arc Ray Bolger's "Washington Square" (alternate weeks, 4 to 5 P.M.) and the "Chevy Show," "Alcoa Hour," "Goodyear Playhouse" and "Hallmark of Fame," which will alternate in the 9 to 10 P.M. hour.

On Mondays "Robert Montgomery Presents" moves into the color schedule at 8:30 to 10:30 P.M. "The Adventures of Sir Lancelot," a new film series from 8 to 8:30, starts as a black-and-white show in the fall, but switches to color in January. "Producers Showcase" continues as a ninety-minute color show once a month.

The Tuesday evening schedule consists of "The Big Surprise," 8 to 8:30, and "Noah's Ark," a new film series, 8:30 to 9. On Wednesdays the color presentations will be "Kraft Theatre" from 9 to 10 P.M.

The Thursday schedule lists the Dinah Shore show 7:30 to 7:45 P.M., and "Lux Video Theatre," 10 to 11 P.M.

On Fridays from 8:30 to 9 P.M. the Walter Winchell show will be

in color, and, once a month, the "Chevy Show," 9 to 10 P.M. The Perry Como show is scheduled for color each Saturday, 8 to 9 P.M., and on some occasions "Your Hit Parade," 10:30 to 11 P.M. The Saturday night Oldsmobile spectacular continues on a once-a-month basis. "Matinee Theatre," presented each weekday from 3 to 4 P.M., also continues in color.

The Reason When an old rabbi was asked why God made only two people, Adam and Eve, he replied: "So that nobody can say 'I came from better stock than you do.'"

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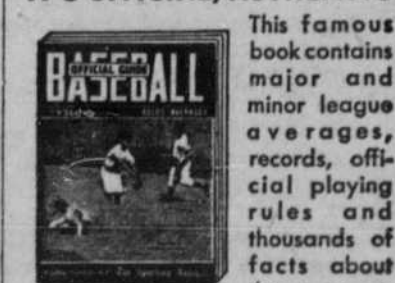


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