

As you may know, the statute amending provisions of Louisiana law dealing with the election and apportioning of police juries and the redistricting of police jury wards (Act No. 445 passed during the 1964 Louisiana legislative session) was submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to section 5. The implementation of this statute, along with the provisions authorizing at-large elections for school board members (Act 561), were objected to by him on June 26, 1965. Because of his earlier objection to the enabling legislation and federal court decisions affecting at-large election problems, we feel constrained to object to an apportionment plan by Franklin Parish which incorporates these same characteristics. In the case of Dyer v. Love, 307 F. Supp. 974 (N.D. Miss. 1969), the court ruled that as a result of the Attorney General's objection to the implementation of a state statute authorizing at-large elections for boards of supervisors in Mississippi, the supervisors "do not have statutory power or authority to provide for such elections."

This is in reference to Franklin Parish Ordinance No. 3233 reappportioning Franklin Parish which was submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

Mr. R. Rudolph McIntyre
District Attorney
Shreveport, Louisiana 71295

I. 6-29-71
DMN:RDI:gmj
DJ 166-012-3

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8/19/71

Although we understand the difficulties a police jury must overcome in drawing new election districts for a parish, we must conclude that the Attorney General of the United States is without power to supersede the Louisiana legislature by carving out exceptions for particular counties. However, in view of the recent United States Supreme Court decision, Whitcomb v. Chavis, No. 92 O.T. 70, June 7, 1971, dealing in part with the questions of multi-member and at-large election schemes we are reexamining our previously referred to objections to Acts 445 and 361. If our reexamination leads to a determination by the Attorney General to withdraw his objections to the Acts we will at that time so inform you so that you may if you wish submit Franklin Police Jury Ordinance Number 3233. *re-submit*

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division