

Filing date may be delayed

Court to order districts

United Press International
AUSTIN — An attorney for the state said Tuesday's U.S. Justice Department objections to state redistricting plans means 1982 elections will be held under court-ordered districts and the Feb. 1 deadline for filing for office probably will be delayed.

Assistant Attorney General Rick Gray, who defended the reapportionment plans in a week-long trial in Dallas, said the ruling makes the case moot for all practical purposes.

Gray said he had not seen the Justice Department's formal announcement, but said the agency probably objected to both plans in their entirety rather than to individual districts.

"My reservations all along had been with the Justice Department," Gray said. "We had been led to believe it had been politicized and I don't know, maybe it has."

The recent case charged that the plans discriminated against Republican voters to preserve Democratic dominance in the statehouse.

The Justice Department's review was done under the Voting Rights Act and was independent of the court challenge. However, Gray said the ruling means that the three-judge panel that heard the case probably will have to draw the new districts.

Unless the districts are drawn up quickly, Gray said, the filing deadline probably will be delayed.

Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds said the Justice Department objected to the plans mainly because they did not appear to reflect minority population growths.

"The net result seems to be a plan in which minorities enjoy no significant gains even though their percentage of the population has increased and the demography of the state presents several areas for recognizing the increased potential of the minority community," he said.

In particular, the Justice Department noted allegations that minority concentrations in Bexar and Harris counties had been fragmented under the Senate plan.

Under the House plan, Reynolds cited allegations that the Dallas' west side was split

into several districts in order to prevent the election of a Mexican-American legislator.

"The plans that were drawn by the Legislature and by the speaker both had greater minority representation than the one the redistricting board actually adopted," said a plaintiff in the case, Rep. Bob Davis, R-Irving.

Gov. Bill Clements said he was pleased by the Justice Department's ruling and he had sent a letter to Attorney General Mark White urging him to have the court expedite the drawing of new boundaries.

Clements said state law would have allowed him to call a special session of the Legislature to

argue redistricting, but he rejected that option.

"Throwing it back to the Legislature or the Legislative Redistricting Board, which have tried and failed to come up with acceptable plans, would insure a delay of indeterminable length and, undoubtedly, require court action," Clements said.

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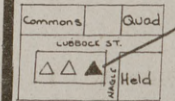
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Continental to lay off employees

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Continental Airlines, struggling through the worst year in its history, says it will lay off another 1,500 employees and seek work rule changes in an attempt to save \$60 million a year and put the carrier in the black by year's end.

In addition to furloughing an estimated 14 percent of its work force, Airline spokesman Julian Levine said, Continental, which is expected to report a \$60 million loss for 1981, will also seek to change work rules, realign management and cut some routes.

Levine said Continental does not plan to ask for employee pay cuts.

Rigo Martinez, president of the International Association of Machinists representing about 1,150 workers, said his union would probably fight any concessions in work rules.

But members of the Airline Pilots Association, representing the carrier's 1,250 pilots, said pilots would accept work rule changes, but only if management makes comparable sacrifices.

Continental was heavily criticized for spending millions of dollars and countless hours of management time unsuccessfully fighting a takeover bid by Texas International, which now owns just over half of Continental's stock.

Continental tried to merge with Western Airlines as a means of solving its financial problems, but the effort was scuttled and analysts said management was too diverted by the takeover fight to deal effectively with Continental's problems.

The financial cutbacks were approved over the weekend by Continental's board of directors, and they must now be approved by the airline's creditors. Continental refused to provide a breakdown of the 1,500 layoffs. Talks were scheduled to start meeting Monday with employees to discuss the layoffs.

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