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**Court Rules
Against GOP
'Bonus' Plan**

Washington

A three-judge Federal Appeals Court yesterday ruled unconstitutional the Republican party's "Victory Bonus" rule for the 1976 national convention, but other judges on the court suspended the ruling until the entire nine-member court can rehear the case.

The three judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia held in a 2-to-1 decision that the GOP plan, which would reward states that had Republican victories in the 1972 and 1974 elections, violated the Supreme Court's one-man, one-vote decision.

But the full nine-member court vacated the ruling and ordered a rehearing of the challenge to the bonus rule brought by the Ripon Society, a group consisting mostly of young liberal Republicans.

The majority opinion of the three-judge courts written by Chief Judge David E. Bazelon, said: "The Victory Bonus operates to entrench the prevailing powers of the Republican party through a territorial discrimination that weights the votes of some actual and potential Republicans more than others."

"The one-person, one-vote standard is implicit in the concept of a democracy, as necessary to representative government as the concept that individuals may not be disenfranchised because of their social or economic views and as such (it is) a constitutional principle of the highest order," Bazelon wrote.

The Victory Bonus ruling, adopted in 1972, tilted representation at the next Republican National Convention in favor of those states which voted Republican, rather than on a strict population basis.

The result would be to give many smaller states, especially those in the south, a lop-sided voice in choosing a national ticket next year.

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