

Reapportionment in 17th Is Key Factor for Kupferman

By THOMAS BUCKLEY

It is dusk in a 12th-floor apartment on Sutton Place. Lights twinkle on the Queensboro Bridge. Candlelight burnishes old silver. There is the tinkle of ice in crystal glasses, the ripple and purl of pouring scotch.

Twenty men and women are artfully arranged on the sofas and easy chairs in the two-level drawing room. "Oh, I'm not going to vote for him," an ash blonde is saying, "I just wanted to see the apartment."

The occasion is a get-acquainted party for Representative Theodore R. Kupferman, who is seeking his first full term in Congress from the 17th Congressional District.

He circulates determinedly, shaking hands, a perpetual look of worried amiability on his face. One of the ladies from down the street is talking about Vietnam. "I'm not a hawk," Mr. Kupferman tells her. "I'm not a dove. I'm a wise old owl."

Divorce Law Sponsor

Thirty-five blocks uptown and 10 floors down, State Senator Jerome L. Wilson sits in the battered living room of his floor-through apartment in an old brownstone, drinking coffee out of a thick blue mug.

He is the Democratic nominee, a round-faced, low-keyed man of 35 who is best known as the sponsor and prime mover of the state's liberalized divorce law, which goes into effect next September.

The 17th, the Silk Stocking District, has not elected a Democrat since 1936. John V. Lindsay won the seat in 1958 and held it with steadily increasing Republican majorities until he resigned to take office as Mayor.

But reapportionment, which reduced Manhattan's Congressional delegation from six seats to four, has added thousands of tenements, the red brick enclave of Stuyvesant Town, most of Greenwich Village and even a sliver of Central Park West to the cloud-capped towers of Sutton Place and Park and Fifth Avenues.

Close Race Foreseen

Thus, Mr. Wilson believes, the district can no longer be regarded as safely Republican. Indeed, in February's special election to replace Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Kupferman defeated the Democratic nominee, Orin Lehman, by only 919 votes out of 45,000.

Mr. Wilson draws additional hope from the fact that he also has the Liberal party designation, which is usually good for 10,000 votes and may be worth more this year.

The challenger says that matters of major concern to the voters of the district are Vietnam, the Police Department's Civilian Complaint Review



Rep. Theodore R. Kupferman
Republican



Richard J. Callahan
Conservative



The New York Times
Jerome L. Wilson
Democrat-Liberal



The New York Times Oct. 31, 1966
17th Congressional District

Board and what he calls "the declining quality of urban life," which includes air pollution, dirty streets and excessive noise.

Mr. Wilson backs the review board unequivocally and favors an immediate halt to bombing in North Vietnam. His opponent also favors the board, but he objects to the ethnic considerations that have apparently shaped its membership.

War De-Escalation Favored

Mr. Kupferman does not talk about Vietnam unless he is asked. When he is, he replies that we ought to start de-escalating and withdraw to secure coastal perimeters while trying to end the conflict by diplomatic means.

The issue that affects the voters of the district most directly, says the Congressman, is inflation and the rising cost of food. Among the host of bills he introduced during his first eight months in the House was one that would cut agricultural subsidies as a means of lowering prices.

Mr. Kupferman also rode a horse from his apartment on East 72d Street to his office on 44th Street to dramatize the fact that the mail moved faster by pony express than it does now.

"A lot of people laughed at me," he said, "but there was a speed-up in the construction of the new post office at 54th Street and Third Avenue, and the service got better in a lot of ways."

Mr. Kupferman, who is 46 years old, grew up in the Bronx and was graduated from City College and the Columbia University Law School. A long-time protégé of the late Stanley Isaacs, he held Mr. Isaacs' seat in the City Council before his election to Congress. He and his wife, the former Dorothee Hering, who is of German birth, have two children.

Mr. Wilson grew up in Washington. He is a graduate of Colgate who later served as a lieutenant in the Air Force and as an assistant to former Manhattan Borough President Edward Duddley. He has served in the State Senate since 1963, but he lost his seat through reapportionment. He married the former Frances Roberts of Hamden, Conn. They have four daughters, the oldest 8.

There is a third candidate in the race. He is Richard J. Callahan, who has the Conservative party designation. However, he is regarded as unlikely to poll more than 10,000 votes.

Mr. Callahan, who is 38, is the editor of "33," a metal-producing trade journal. A native of Brooklyn, he now lives in Greenwich Village with his wife,

Kupferman re-elected
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the former Rita Allen, and their three children.

He takes the position that Mr. Kupferman is a Republican "in name only"; that an all-out assault will carry the day in Vietnam, and that the police review board ought to be abolished.