

House Committee on Rules and Reapportionment January 24, 1991 - Page

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks

report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

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Measures Heard HJM1

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RULES AND REAPPORTIONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

January 24, 1991 Room 350 8:00 a.m. Tape 3

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Greg Walden, Chair Rep. Peter Courtney, Vice-Chair Rep. Ray Baum Rep. Bill Markham Rep. Tom Mason Rep. Randy Miller

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Margaret Carter

VISITING MEMBER: Rep. Ron Cease

STAFF PRESENT: Adrienne Sexton, Committee Administrator Carol Wilder, Committee Assistant

WITNESSES: Bob Goldstein, HJM1 John Sharrard, GIS

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TAPE 3, SIDE A

006 CHAIR WALDEN calls the meeting to order at 8:02.

012 SEXTON: HJMI comes to this committee from the Joint Interim Committee on Redistricting. One of the issues considered by the committee had to do with the potential for adjustment of 1990 census statistics. Secretary of Commerce is required to submit each of the states its statewide population broken down into small geographic pieces no later than April 1 of this year. Those are the numbers that this body will use to create legislative and congressional districts.

-Through a stipulated agreement, the Secretary would review the issue of undercount, overcount. Following the 1980 Census, the Bureau conducted a series of studies to determine whether they had not reached all of the population to the highest degree possible. They established through their own studies that there has been an undercount of certain strata of the population. The highest undercount that they could document was in the black male population between 18 and 54 which was in the neighborhood of a 10-15% undercount. There was also an undercount of the Hispanic population in general somewhere in the neighborhood of 5-8%.

-Because of that study and because in 1988 the Secretary said that he would not consider an adjustment of the statistics once the data was out and the numbers had been compiled, a number of states enjoined the Secretary from making a unilateral decision on whether to adjust. Through the stipulated agreement between the parties, the Secretary agreed to create some guidelines and to use an independent panel to develop those guidelines. The panel was made up of individuals who had a very high knowledge of statistics, demographics, population studies, etc. That panel provided input to the Secretary and the draft guidelines came out early in 1990. The Interim Committee reviewed the guidelines, made some comments back to the Department of Commerce indicating that it was believed by this Assembly that the Secretary had already made a decision whether or not to adjust contrary to the agreement that the Secretary would consider other factors before making that decision.

-The final guidelines were significantly softened so that the language did not appear to support the contention that the Secretary had made a decision already. Further information from the Secretary indicates that an adjustment would take place only if it could be done by July 15, 1991. He might not even decide whether to adjust until July 15. Then if an adjustment were to be made, that would take place sometime after July 15. That's two weeks after Oregon's deadline for its own legislative redistricting activity.

-Further there was a measure introduced to Congress last September which would restrict the Secretary from releasing that data before a decision had been made whether to adjust. If released, it could be done so long as it was stipulated it was not for any legal purpose. Congress adjourned and this measure has not been reintroduced into this Congress but it could happen. If it were enacted, Oregon might receive the census data but it simply couldn't do anything official with it. It could use it for study purposes. That would foreclose Oregon's activity from redistricting prior to July 1, 1991, because it would also permit the release of the official data after July 15.

-The purpose of HJMI is to pass along to Congress, to the President, and to the Department of Commerce the statement that to do anything except release the final official statistics to Oregon by April 1, as required

by current law, is to take away from the Legislature its ability to do its constitutional job.

101 REP. MARKHAM: Does an overcount mean that someone was counted twice or five times?

101 SEXTON: That's correct.

102 REP. MILLER: Is there any recollection in this undercount as to whether or not undercounts were centered in areas where there might be more of the kind of population you described that was perhaps the subject of undercounts? Is Oregon a place where that undercount phenomenon was shown to exist?

111 SEXTON: Doesn't know the location of the post-1980 census data study that documented an undercount situation. If the data were to be adjusted, it would be adjusted universally according to the strata that's determined to be the undercount and the factor applied. If they decided that we had a significant undercount in black male population 18-48, wherever an individual fits that criteria that adjustment factor would apply to the total number of that population. The adjustment would be at the smallest geographic level. It would apply to that strata throughout the United States.

-During the pre-census activity there were a series of programs that the Census Bureau initiated starting in 1982 to prepare for the 1990 Census.

One of those activities was the pre-census local review program. That involved the Census Bureau sending census maps and a listing of the housing counts within each geographic block that the Census Bureau had identified to the highest elected official of each jurisdiction within the state. It was then the responsibility of the cities and counties to verify that information and advise the Bureau as to whether there were any discrepancies. The Bureau would then review that information, add it as they deemed appropriate to the census listing for the enumeration.

Generally, there were discrepancies throughout the state. Hillsboro was the most significant, and has since been resolved. It involved city boundaries. None of Hillsboro's changes since 1980 appeared on the census maps that were released in 1989. The city boundaries have since been corrected and the housing counts were within a reasonable number.

170 REP. COURTNEY: Moved to recommend passing HJM1.

172 REP. MILLER: We know how memorials are received in Washington, D.C., and this perhaps would slow down the process if they actually take time to read it. Perhaps we could send an accompanying letter to our congressional delegation hoping that they might read it.

179 BOB GOLDSTEIN, CITIZEN: Supports HJM1.

219 REP. MASON: The great virtue of this memorial is it shows that we did everything possible.

228 REP. MARKHAM: Calls for the question.

In a roll call vote the Motion unanimously passes. Rep. Carter excused.

240 JOHN SHARRARD, REDISTRICTING COORDINATOR, GIS

-Introduces other members of the technical team. Shows two examples from the two types of devices that produce the maps. One is for draft quality work and the other for final plans. One done by the electrostatic plotter uses a Tiger file to produce the map and only

shows geographic features like roads, hydrography, and other transportation features.

-Census geography is another mass of lines that show the individual census blocks where the enumeration has been aggregated to the blocks. As the redistricting process goes on, what you are doing is moving your district lines around the boundaries of one block to another.

296 REP. MASON: There's certainly more information on there than we'll need.

306 SHARRARD: Most of extra detail will drop out. Major features will be shown. There will be ability to change what detail you want.

332 CHAIR WALDEN adjourns meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Submitted by:    Reviewed by:

Carol Wilder      Adrienne Sexton Assistant      Administrator