House Committee on Legislative Rules & Reapportionment Subcommittee on Reapportionment February 16, 1991 - Page

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RULES AND REAPPORTIONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

February 16, 1991City Council Chamber 1:00 p.m.Madras, Oregon Tape 6

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Greg Walden, Chair Rep. Beverly Clarno

STAFF PRESENT: Adrienne Sexton, Committee Administrator

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TAPE 6, SIDE A

010 CHAIR WALDEN: Calls the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Gives an overview of the subcommittee's mission, why they're holding the regional meetings, and some of the requirements and responsibilities the subcommittee faces as they begin the process of redrawing the congressional and legislative district lines for the next ten years.

085 REP. CLARNO: Welcomes the audience.

## PUBLIC HEARING

100 MADELINE J. QUEAHPAMA, DIRECTOR OF VITAL STATISTICS, THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS: Submits written testimony requesting that the congressional district line running along the crest of the Cascades remain unchanged (EXHIBIT A). Asks if the comment record period can be kept open for three weeks following this session.

128 CHAIR WALDEN: Absolutely. In fact, we will be conducting hearings the remainder of this next week and then we will go into public hearings

in Salem as well. Up until the time we go into a work session, we would be glad to keep that open and would certainly invite your testimony in Salem as well, either written or personal presentation.

140 DAN AHERN, CITIZEN: My desires are to assure that Jefferson County's state representative and state senator lines continue to be drawn where Jefferson County is represented by one as opposed to being divided. Our county is much too small to be split in any fashion, in my opinion, to have effective representation. As it is, although we are a small county, we feel our representation listens to what we are saying and Rep. Clarno's presence here today is proof of that. Regarding communities of special interest, I think Warm Springs fits that definition better than any other community within our county. Their reservation boundaries extend beyond the boundaries of Jefferson County. It would also be my desire, given their unique characteristic, that that geographical area be respected when the boundaries are drawn so that the reservation is not split among state representative and state senate seats. As far as congressional boundaries, I believe it's almost impossible to draw a boundary in the Second Congressional District that takes everything into consideration. There's certainly differences between southern Oregon concerns and central Oregon concerns and the boundaries, but I do agree with the Cascade Mountains being a definite boundary line. West of the mountains is a good place to get a education, and east of the mountains is a good place to live. It's a good way to have the boundary drawn. Finally, I would like to say that in the event that Senate districts are being looked at, there are special relationships currently existing between the Tri-County area of Jefferson County, Crook County, and Deschutes County, with the numerous organizations that have representations of City Council and County government. If boundary lines are going to be redrawn, that connection is one that I would like to see strengthened, if at all possible.

185 CHAIR WALDEN: Like you, this was our first hearing.

187 REP. CLARNO: I've not heard anybody say that quite that way before; that "West of the mountains is a good place to get an education; east of the mountains is a good place to live." But I must say, I certainly do agree with that philosophy. Will these people testifying today be notified as to when the public hearings will be held?

190 CHAIR WALDEN: Yes, we could do that. Asks for further comments. It is our intent to hold more hearings than were held last time in 1981 out in communities to get this kind of input. Describes the dates and times of other regional meetings. We will return to a rather rigorous committee schedule in Salem because by then we should have the data up and running on the computers, keeping in mind computers as they sometimes like to treat you, can cause some problems. That is certainly our intent and we would be happy to notify anyone who wants to keep track of our hearing process, where we're at, and you are all invited to attend those hearings in Salem or other parts of this state.

230 PETE SETALA: I lived in the valley until I retired over here and found no better place to live than in the Madras area. Do you have any indication how redistricting would affect some of these areas or have any information on it?

240 CHAIR WALDEN: We really haven't got to that point yet. We have the county numbers, and so you begin to get a general idea of where the population growth has occurred. Predominantly it's been in the Washington and Clackamas County areas of the state with some in Central

Oregon. But the shift seems to be almost a mirror of what happened in 198 1. Multnomah County lost population and the suburbs around Portland gained population and therefore seats in the Legislature. That also goes with the congressional districts. We have five in Oregon and the population shifts obviously that occur in those counties will affect the lines that are eventually drawn for the Congressional districts as well.

255 REP. CLARNO: Is there anything generally you could discuss regarding the increase in each district? Are there any estimations out there?

260 ADRIENNE SEXTON, ADMINISTRATOR: From approximately 45,000 per district to approximately 47,000.

261 REP. CLARNO: That gives us a problem in some perspective from the fact that we don't have that much growth on this side of the mountains. You start adding that many people to some place like Harney County that many folks didn't move in there.

267 CHAIR WALDEN: When you're trying to come up with 2,500 people or whatever in each of these legislative districts from state growth over the last ten years. For example, I represent the district just north of here, Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler Counties and several of those counties actually lost population over the last ten years.

272 REP. CLARNO: We always enjoy hearing from legislators in Portland about how big their districts are. When Greg represents five counties over a large geographical area, you have to sit there and snicker once in awhile.

277 CHAIR WALDEN: It's closer for me to drive from my home in Hood River to the State Capital than it is from my home in Hood River to the outskirts of my district by about an hour.

282 REP. CLARNO: I'm delighted that you came to Jefferson County and to Madras to hold a hearing today. As you know, being on the east side of the mountains yourself, we often feel that we're neglected over here so it's nice to have some other legislators come over and join us for a day in Madras.

285 CHAIR WALDEN: Those who wanted us to hold the field hearings in Albany and Lebanon and places like that as well, we felt it was more important to get a little further away.

Adjourns the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Carol Wilder Adrienne Sexton Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A -Testimony on Redistricting - Madeline Queapahma - 2 pages