

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.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RULES AND REAPPORTIONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

February 21, 1991 Woodburn City Council Chambers 7:00 p.m.  
Woodburn, OR Tape 10

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

VISITING MEMBER: Rep. Ron Cease Rep. Fred Parkinson Sen. Jim Bunn

STAFF PRESENT: Adrienne Sexton, Committee Administrator

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.

TAPE 10, SIDE A

006 CHAIR WALDEN calls the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Gives an overview of the subcommittee's mission, why they are 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.

Opens the public hearing.

(Tape 10, Side A) PUBLIC HEARING

052 BILL WILKINS, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY:  
Submits and summarizes written testimony in favor of keeping all three  
of Oregon's universities-- University of Oregon, Portland State  
University, and Oregon State University--in separate congressional  
districts so that each congressman has a major campus in his district.

142 ANABELLE JARAMILLO, CITIZEN: > Population growth in Washington and

Clackamas Counties is significantly higher than it was ten years ago. >  
Do not dilute large minority population in that area; consider them a significant portion of a single district.

160 REP. PARKINSON: Do you know where the Hispanic population has increased in either Clackamas or Washington County?

JARAMILLO: The population in Hillsboro, for instance, is 11.2% Hispanic, and that would be a significant portion of Washington County. In Marion County, the largest population is in east Salem with 6.1%. If there is a significant population in Clackamas County, it's probably more rural. The other large population would be in the southwestern part of the state in Medford of 5.1% Hispanic. That makes a significant part of the population in Jackson County. My concern primarily is in the northern Willamette Valley where we do have a significantly larger population, and I would hope drawing the district lines do not dilute that viable population.

185 REP. BAUM: How far does your knowledge extend on the Hispanic population? Does it go to the east side of the mountains?

JARAMILLO: It certainly does, sir. I think you'll find a significant population in the Ontario area. If you look at District #57 around Hermiston, you'll find that the population is significantly high. I don't have those statistics with me. What I have are those that were in The Oregonian a week ago showing the ten largest cities and the ten largest counties. I am in the process of getting those statistics and I would be very happy to share them with you.

REP. BAUM: I don't anticipate doing anything to those populations but it would be nice to know where they sit. Milton-Freewater should also have some Hispanic population because it has a large labor camp there.

200 SEN. BUNN: You gave the population percent for Hillsboro. Is that because it was in the top ten? You don't, for example, have Woodburn, Cornelius, or Mt. Angel?

JARAMILLO: No, I don't. It shows the percentages for Washington and Marion Counties, but it doesn't break those out in terms of other cities. I think what the intent of the survey by the paper was to show the ten highest population areas. If you look on the east side of the mountain you'll see small communities which have significantly higher population than in Hillsboro. For instance, I'm not certain of this figure but I have heard some estimates of about 28% Hispanic in the Hermiston area.

SEN. BUNN: I think next week we'll have the breakdown for all the communities, but it was interesting to get the information from Hillsboro because it was higher than I realized it was.

217 CHAIR WALDEN: Are those census data?

JARAMILLO: Yes, they are.

220 REP. CEASE: Give me an indication, if you would, whether there's concern in the Hispanic community of undercounting them.

JARAMILLO: There certainly is and the data that I'm using right now are those that have been released by the Census Bureau. They do not take

into account the formula for undercount that the Congress will probably enact over the next few months. As many of you probably know, there is a concern that there was a significant undercount across the nation in terms of minority communities. The Congress is considering some sort of adjustment formula so those numbers could likely be adjusted once that formula is put in place. My personal opinion is that there was a significant undercount in Oregon. If you look at the way the count was conducted in Marion County versus a count in another county, it depended on the census enumerators how well those data were taken. In classifying labor camps, in some counties labor camps were classified as compound communities on a farm where in some other counties they could have been considered as apartment complexes or residential areas. If that was not consistent across the board, then you're going to have a variability in counting, so those adjustments have to be made. But as in 1980, I strongly suspect there was an undercount in 1990.

247 REP. MILLER: I would like to ask Mr. Wilkins a question. In reviewing your testimony you made the statement about it being desirable to have three members of Congress, each of whom have a major university in their district. I'm torn between a couple of thoughts--one is the extra motivation and the better service. Do you equate that with the amount of money that a congressman can bring to a university? Another way to look at this is that if a congressman had two universities in his district, maybe he would also be motivated to do something for higher education.

WILKINS: The point I was trying to make is that our delegation is small enough as it is and having the motivated interest of an extra delegation it seems to me to be a political strength.

275 REP. MILLER: So essentially if each member had a university in their district you think their motivation is enhanced.

WILKINS: I believe it is.

277 EUNICE GOETZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OREGON COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS: Submits and summarizes written testimony regarding undercount of Hispanic community (EXHIBIT B).

The Commission has formed a community task force that will work with the Commission. It will have four statewide Hispanic organizations--two Hispanic elected officials, three people at large, and four Hispanic state organizations. One would be the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, one would be the Governor's Commission on Agricultural Labor, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs in Idaho and in Washington, and the Immigration Coordinating Committee. We would like to communicate and to facilitate and to help you as a committee to try to come up with some strategy for addressing the district.

390 SEN. BUNN: A few months ago, the Commission talked about the idea of trying to build Hispanic influence within a district. Has that progressed at all?

GOETZ: No. I have not had a chance to check into it. There are people in the community that I have identified that really would like to get on this in a hurry and get themselves up to speed so that we can be able to do this.

397 SEN. BUNN: In discussing the undercount or the problem of the count, you mentioned two things: one was an undercount itself and the

other was a poor method with the short form instead of the long form. But with the short form you identify the individual but improperly identify traits for the individual, don't you? Once you've got them on a form, they're counted?

GOETZ: They're counted as a farm worker and that was one of our big concerns because funding for organizations that serve that community depend on a good farming count. To my knowledge, they haven't been counted on the census before.

SEN. BUNN: The point I was trying to clarify is that as far as funding purposes they may not have been treated fairly, but for districting purposes they have probably been, at least with the short form. They would have been included for representation purposes when we draw the lines.

GOETZ: If they identified themselves as Hispanic, our understanding is that a lot of folks identified themselves as White, which Hispanics are of the White race. So if they didn't fill in the Hispanic box, then they wouldn't be counted as Hispanic.

425 CHAIR WALDEN: Adrienne Sexton is our Committee Administrator for the Subcommittee on Reapportionment and I would like her to work with you and the Commission to bring you up to speed on the process. There are some handouts--the Committee Rules that we've adopted, the Addendum for Access, and the rules we're following. If you two could work together, she will help you in any way possible.

430 REP. CEASE: Is there any case in the Senate or House legislative districts at this point where any of the Hispanic communities around the state have been divided or have they all ended up in single seats? I'm thinking of Cornelius, Hillsboro, the Marion County area, Medford, and eastern Oregon. All of those areas have been within single districts or have they been split? Any indication of that?

GOETZ: That would be something to look at.

CHAIR WALDEN: You don't know at this point? You haven't looked at the lines?

GOETZ: It looks like Woodburn would be split, too. The line goes right through Woodburn.

TAPE 10, SIDE B

005 REP. PARKINSON: Northern Marion County which is my district has a great majority of Hispanics. You take Woodburn, Mt. Angel, Silverton, Donald.

008 CHAIR WALDEN: So it's not split in half?

GOETZ: No, not there.

012 CHAIR WALDEN: Rep. Cease, did that address your question?

REP. CEASE: Yes, that's something we can look at.

017 CHAIR WALDEN: Announces meeting in Medford on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Once plans are developed the committee will hold public hearings on those plans in Salem and perhaps outside of the Capital. That hasn't

been decided yet. We will be notifying people who have asked to be notified when we hold the hearings.

Adjourns the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by:      Reviewed by:

Carol Wilder      Adrienne Sexton Assistant      Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A            -            Testimony on Redistricting - Bill Wilkins - 3 pages  
B            -            Testimony on Redistricting - Eunice Goetz - 2 pages