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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

March 19, 1991 Room 350 8:00 a.m. Tapes 15 - 16

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

VISITING MEMBER: Rep. Ron Cease Rep. Carl Hosticka

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Ray Baum

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

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2001 - PH

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TAPE 15, SIDE A

006 Chair Walden calls the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - HB 2001

009 GWEN VAN KLEU BOSCH, VICE CHAIR, CHEMEKETA COMMUNITY COLLEGE:
Testifies on behalf of Chemeketa Community College Board. Supports the
Mason proposal to keep Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties in the 5th
Congressional District, which is the same district for the college.

037 LARRY COLE, CITIZEN, BEAVERTON: Testifies that Washington and
Clackamas Counties should not be included in one CD even though they
have some things in common. Washington and Multnomah Counties have a
long-standing relationship in the 1st CD for more than 20 years and have
a stronger community of interest than there is between Washington and

Clackamas Counties.

082 REP. CARTER: Are you responding to the Mason proposal that has been presented?

085 COLE: There's a proposal to take the 1st CD and link Washington and Clackamas Counties as opposed to Washington and the western portion of Multnomah County.

087 MASON: The Mason proposal keeps the 1st CD basically as it is. I think he's commenting on the conjecture that there might be a Congressional plan that would link Washington and Clackamas Counties.

092 COLE: That's right.

093 REP. CARTER: That's what I was trying to clarify, Mr. Chair. I thought maybe you had printed one and we had not seen it yet.

098 KEITH MOBLEY, CITIZEN, JUNCTION CITY: Submits written testimony in support of keeping the state universities in separate congressional districts (EXHIBIT A). Testifies as a private citizen and not on behalf of Oregon State University.

166 REP. MARKHAM: Are you sure you weren't speaking for the university?

168 MOBLEY: I don't think they would be unhappy with this testimony.

172 JUDIE HAMMERSTAD, CLACKAMAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Submits written testimony supporting the Mason plan for congressional redistricting (EXHIBIT B).

215 REP. CEASE: What do you think the projected population growth will be over the next ten years?

220 HAMMERSTAD: It's expected that Clackamas County will exceed the growth it had in the last ten years, at least 50,000 more people in the next ten years. It could well be more than that, depending on the decisions made about the Urban Growth Boundary.

232 GARY CONKLING, CITIZEN: Testifies in favor of having two to three Congressional voices in the Portland area. Members representing Portland area should represent a mix of urban and suburban interests. The west and east sides have different communities of interests. Maintain CD 1 and CD 3 in same configuration and retain some portion of metropolitan area in CD 5. This would give the Portland Metropolitan Area three voices in Congress.

290 DAVID HARLAN, PORT OF ASTORIA: Submits written testimony in favor of Mason plan (EXHIBIT C). Need two Congressional representatives to represent the Oregon coast; the Ports of Astoria, Coos Bay, and Newport would have to compete with each other for the attention of only one member. Supports the status quo and does not want drastic changes.

320 IDA LANE, TILLAMOOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Supports the Mason plan for Congressional redistricting. Wants to see Lincoln County remain in with Tillamook, Clatsop, Washington, and a portion of Multnomah Counties.

350 REP. MARKHAM: Are you speaking for Lincoln County?

351 LANE: I am speaking for Tillamook County, but I'm speaking to keep Lincoln County within this congressional district.

353 REP. MARKHAM: Are you a county commissioner?

354 LANE: Yes.

357 REP. MILLER: I think it would be helpful if the witnesses would focus on the particular interest rather than on a particular plan, when in fact there will be others. So if you would focus on what would be an appropriate map for us to conclude with, that would be of greater benefit.

365 REP. CARTER: Maybe we could use the term "proposed plan", because there is no other plan.

368 REP. MILLER: I'm thinking in terms of gathering input. I'm not sure we need to focus on a particular plan.

380 SHIRLEY HUFFMAN, MAYOR OF HILLSBORO: Supports a plan which maintains the integrity of CD 1 as it is now drawn. The Hillsboro area shares some of the problems faced by downtown Portland--crimes, drugs, homelessness. Struggled with pressures of rapid population growth and increasing diversity, and an economy shifting from natural resources to the service and high tech areas. The proposed plan realistically reflects the constituencies of Northwest Oregon and of Washington County.

433 REP. MASON: Does the Mason proposal do what you ask?

435 HUFFMAN: It looks to me that it fits our interests most appropriately.

TAPE 16, SIDE A

004 TOM WALSH, CITIZEN: Supports having CD boundaries drawn so that they have one representative having exclusive responsibility for transportation corridors. The boundary between CD 1 and CD 3 should remain the Willamette River so that the Westside Project, for which we still need to complete the funding, falls within CD 1 and that the North-South Light Rail lines fall within a single CD.

055 BOB ALEXANDER, CITIZEN, FOREST GROVE: Supports maintaining existing boundaries. The rural-suburban-urban mix is a good mix. 60% of residents in Forest Grove work in Beaverton or Portland. 40% of the people working in Forest Grove live in Beaverton or Portland. Wants to have more than one representative from the Portland area.

092 REP. MASON: Does the proposed plan do that?

094 ALEXANDER: From what I know about it, yes it does.

096 CHAIR WALDEN: Have you seen the plan?

097 ALEXANDER: Yes I have.

098 CHAIR WALDEN: Have you had a chance to study the boundaries?

099 ALEXANDER: Yes.

102 RUSSELL DONDERO, CITIZEN, FOREST GROVE: Submits and summarizes written testimony in support of the congressional redistricting plan offered by Rep. Mason (EXHIBIT D).

163 REP. MARKHAM: Would that be any different than what happened in the last ten years up there?

165 DONDERO: The key to the Mason plan is that kind of alternative conceptually would prevent that process from taking place because it does cut away a portion of the current district and unites it with another district. The idea of maintaining population balance is preserved with this plan.

175 CHAIR WALDEN: No other plan has been proposed.

177 DONDERO: I recognize that, but it has been discussed in The Oregonian and several people are on record.

178 CHAIR WALDEN: My question goes to the heart of your argument which is, under the proposed plan Washington County is wholly within one CD, isn't it? And that is an area of rapid growth.

182 DONDERO: Right.

183 CHAIR WALDEN: We're also under requirements to come as close to no deviation as possible. So no matter how you draw the lines, you can't create a district that has under population without new growth. Whatever district you do draw has to include Washington County unless we annex it. That is the most rapidly growing county. You're going to run into this problem no matter where you draw the lines, aren't you?

190 DONDERO: I think the question under an alternative scheme, referring to The Oregonian article, if there were a suburban Clackamas and Washington Counties CD, you're uniting the two fastest growing counties, not one of them. That's the key issue here. A plan can be construed and conceived which can separate those counties and keep this balance that you talked about. Given the congressional guidelines, we need to have districts which are roughly 568,000 people. The problem here is if you united two suburban areas in the fastest growing counties in Oregon, you create potential problems which create an imbalance. Suggests that the maintenance of the status quo within reason is important in the political context in terms of participation. I conceptually embrace the Mason plan or some version of it.

240 REP. MASON: Enters into the record The Oregonian article of March 13, 199 1, by Jeff Mapes (EXHIBIT E).

255 REP. CARTER: When will we see the plan discussed in The Oregonian newspaper article of March 13?

257 CHAIR WALDEN: In due course. I don't know that there is a Bunn-Walden plan. What we have tried to do is to get public testimony in our field hearings around the state. Frankly, I've found a lot of value in the testimony we gotten, in reference to the plan that has been presented. I know there are citizens working on their own plans. So we will be looking for theirs. I'm sure in due course you will see a plan offered by other members on this committee and perhaps more than one plan.

280 REP. CARTER: I do think if we're going to be referring to plans, that the committee should have the opportunity of viewing those plans so that we can talk about them in a consistent manner.

295 CHAIR WALDEN: We will have a public hearing and possible work session on Thursday again to accept public testimony and any other plans that may be presented.

301 REP. COURTNEY: I had understood that the Speaker's office, through you, would have a plan for this committee today. The Democrats on the committee on the dates that were given to us about the work of this committee complied with the March 12th deadline with Rep. Mason's comprehensive proposal on the five CDs. We did present a plan in good faith, for better or worse, and we worked very hard on it and I thought there was some other plan coming forth.

322 CHAIR WALDEN: There will be another plan coming forth. I think we will conclude our work by the April 1st deadline. There are certain things that one has to work on to try to look at minority populations and what they relate to, in terms of districts. I don't think it's beneficial to bring a plan forward that isn't ready. That would simply further confuse the process. It is the Chair's intent to bring a plan forward in the very near future.

345 REP. MASON: Let me give you some perspective from 1981. One of the problems is getting mired down in the details. I gave the congressional delegation general concepts.

375 CHAIR WALDEN: Looking back at the last time the legislature successfully reapportioned itself in the 1921 session, I guess I am a little more concerned about detail and that is potentially a stumbling block. Rushing something through is not the way to go.

385 REP. MASON: We're going to meet on the 21st and that gives us how many more hearing dates before the April 1st deadline?

390 CHAIR WALDEN: That is our target. I intend to hold adequate public hearings so even if there are other alternative plans I intend to take what time is necessary to get them on the table, to have public input, to again solicit public input from the congressional delegation, and others involved. That April date isn't etched in stone.

399 REP. MASON: There are quite a few witnesses here today that thought another plan would be presented. This puts us kind of at a disadvantage because some of the people wanted to speak to some of the concepts we've heard discussed in the hypothetical plan. Professor Dondero was clever enough to reference The Oregonian article, therefore he has an anchor there. But a lot of people wanted to testify to that plan today.

415 CHAIR WALDEN: Many of them have been called or notified.

418 REP. CARTER: We're not talking about technical information. What we're talking about is a respect for the deadline which was March 12.

421 CHAIR WALDEN: That was not a deadline for submission of plans, close the door, and we're gone. That was never my intention.

425 REP. CARTER: I was under the impression that some kind of proposal

would try to meet the deadline dates that you and your staff had put together so well and that that would happen. Now if you were constrained by technicality of information and putting things together that can be understood, but when the public also comes and there is an expectation that there is going to be another plan that is what you hear us reacting to. When people are asked not to refer to a Mason plan, they probably have not read the March 13th article that there was another proposed plan. That's why they refer to the Mason plan versus this other plan.

445 CHAIR WALDEN: That raises an interesting question which is, how one can testify and have prepared testimony without having seen The Oregonian article, and yet perhaps we have people who have been told about the other proposed plan. I've found the testimony very helpful in terms of the comments that have been raised in reference to the Mason plan and what's of interest to the community.

TAPE 15, SIDE B

045 (CHAIR WALDEN, continues): In fact, as I have worked on an alternative I've tried to incorporate some of that testimony. If you make one little change here, that can make major changes elsewhere. There's so many things to take into account.

055 REP. MILLER: My desire to have more generalized testimony is not unique to those who have focused on a particular plan. The day this plan was presented, we had some witnesses come forward and it seemed to be testimonial to the service of a particular congressman. I didn't find that especially helpful. What I wanted to know was what made a particular sensible district, because it is likely that at some point there would be some other person serving that district, so let's create the district that makes sense.

067 ROBERT PHILLIPS, COMMISSIONER, STATE COMMISSION OF BLACK AFFAIRS: Spoke at regional hearing in N.E. Portland and wants to re-emphasize the feelings among members of the African-American community. The present boundary lines for the CDs best represent the city of Portland and Multnomah County. Would oppose any plan that would consolidate the Portland suburbs into one CD. Portland is one of the unique cities in this nation where people can come and visit and find an alive downtown area. Must recognize the uniqueness of Portland, the largest city in Oregon, and Multnomah County, the largest county. African-Americans have benefitted from the two representatives in Congress. Do not chop up the city and Multnomah County, and insure the integrity of our Port, transportation funding, and the kind of representation we presently have in Congress.

157 REP. MASON: Northeast Portland is the most identifiable minority community in the state. It's your testimony that if we were to place all of Portland, and all of Multnomah County in one CD, then perhaps draw another CD around Multnomah County comprising approximately 12 or so state districts in a suburban arch around Multnomah County, it is your view that that would diminish the representation in Congress that minority population in Portland has received prior to this. Prior to this they had two congressmen. If you drew this special district, you would only have one?

172 PHILLIPS: Yes.

180 BOB GOLDSTEIN, CITIZEN: Is still working on his plan. Believes that integrity of county lines is imperative. The Mason plan would violate county line integrity and would split the communities of interest as it was in the past, not only in Jackson and Josephine Counties but also midstate in the valley. My plan has not been seen by this committee or our congressmen, nor by any of the witnesses that have testified today.

292 REP. CEASE: I'm intrigued with your suggestion that county lines are sacred. Are you suggesting that the county lines that connect Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties divide communities of interest?

295 GOLDSTEIN: Multnomah only, or in all three?

296 REP. CEASE: Do those lines between those three counties divide communities of interest?

300 GOLDSTEIN: They are the state according to the Home Rule Charter that I have for Multnomah County. It says that the county is the unit of government and also it is local and it is state at the same time.

322 REP. MILLER: Your plan, among others, will be considered by this committee and you'll probably have a future opportunity to appear. With respect to your concerns about witnesses who testified with respect to one plan, I am absolutely confident that they will be open as they view additional plans and will be willing to accept changes if they deem it appropriate. I certainly would hope that they aren't close-minded.

337 REP. CEASE: I would assume that even if they aren't going to change their minds, I would say they are entitled to their opinion.

340 CHAIR WALDEN adjourns the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Carol Wilder Adrienne Sexton Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Testimony on HB 2001 - Keith Mobley - 2 pages.
B - Testimony on HB 2001 - Clackamas County Commissioner Judie Hammerstad - 2 pages. C - Testimony on HB 2001 - David Harlan, Port of Astoria - 2 pages. D - Testimony on HB 2001 - Russell Dondero, Forest Grove - 3 pages. E - "Democratic lawmakers unveil proposal to redraw district lines" - THE OREGONIAN, 3/13/91 - 1 page.