MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING January 19, 1983

CHAIRMAN JOE BRAND called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. in the old Supreme Court room. All members were present.

Chairman Brand noted that the hearing was being conducted with the Reapportionment Commission present and on the agenda were bills related to the Commission's proposals for reapportionment. The bills at issue were HOUSE RESOLUTION 2 and HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3, as well as HOUSE BILL 151 and HOUSE BILL 222, the latter two of which were sponsored by Representative Ray Peck.

Chairman Brand noted that the bills would amount to recommendations to the salary commission, and nothing more than recommendations because the commission is the body under the State Constitution that makes recommendations for reapportionment. Present were members of the Reapportionment Commission, chaired by Eugene Mahoney of Thompson Falls. Chairman Mahoney noted that the committee was, with his appointment as chairman, made up of five members. Mahoney said he was appointed by the Supreme Court because the other members could not reach agreement on recommendations to be made.

Chairman Mahoney noted that the commission conducted public hearings throughout Montana on the issue of reapportionment and reviewed a variety of possible plans; he noted the recommendations he has come up with are strictly tentative, pending recommendations from the Legislature. Chairman Mahoney noted that the reapportionment plan is not final in any form until it is filed with the Secretary of State; at that point the commission will disband. Chairman Mahoney also noted that Sen. David Manning has filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the reapportionment plan. Chairman Mahoney noted that the work the commission has done is "an honest and valiant effort to inform the people" about the commission's work.

Chairman Mahoney noted that the salary commission decided as a commission to establish House districts as part of its reapportionment work, then do Senate districts by combining two House districts to comprise a Senate district. Chairman Mahoney noted that he has been the subject of attention in the news media, some portions of which doubted whether he was politically neutral. Chairman Mahoney said it was "rather naive" to believe the chairman, meaning himself, was a "political unit and became impartial" after years of party activity. Chairman Mahoney noted that as a party member he was not impartial, and that one in his position "must be one or the other."

Chairman Mahoney urged the Legislature to adopt HOUSE RESOLUTION 2. Chairman Mahoney said the proposed reapportionment plan that his commission has come up with has a deviation of 0.02 percent. Chairman Mahoney said that deviation figure represents 90 people within the Congressional districts. He noted that the Republican and the Democratic parties did not object to that deviation figure.

John Kuhr, a member of the Commission, pointed out that HOUSE RESOLUTION 2 is intended to cover both the legislative redistricting and the congressional redistricting. Chairman Mahoney then observed that he had

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meant to refer to HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3 and that he confined his remarks to the Congressional districts.

#### **PROPONENTS**

Chairman Brand opened the hearing on HOUSE RESOLUTION 2 and HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3 to the comments by committee members and the public. REP. JERRY DRISCOLL, District 69, noted that prior to the tentative redistricting plan one dristrct south of Billings was almost entirely farmland. Rep. Driscoll said that after the tentative redistricting, the district would be mostly urban, and the agricultural producers in that district disliked that plan.

REP. BILL HAND, District 82, endorsed the plan.

REP. MARGE HART, District 55, noted that at a Glendive hearing, response by the witnesses was positive. She called it an "excellent hearing." She said she was "perfectly happy."

REP. GARY SPAETH, District 71, endorsed the plan, calling it the "best possible districting."

REP. LES NILSON, District 37, endorsed the plan.

REP. GAY HOLLIDAY, District 46, supported the plan, saying that there had been during the process a lot of challenges and threats to her district. She commended legislative researcher Anne Brodsky for her work with the Reapportionment Commission. Rep. Holliday said "everyone is totally satisfied."

JOE LAMSON, Executive Secretary of the Montana Democratic Party, noted that there was a lot of controversy during the hearing process. He said it was "inherent" in the process. Lamson stressed there was bipartisan support in most cases. He noted controversy in the Bozeman area, and also around the state's Indian reservations. "Hard decisions have to be made," Lamson said. "The Commission is to be commended." Lamson said the Democratic Party supports the tentative redistricting plan.

REP. FRANCIS BARDANOUVE, District 6, said he was satisfied by the break in his district. He spoke of a great community of interest of the individuals within his district, and he said he had heard no complaints, and has no complaints, about the tenative redistricting proposal.

DON JUDGE, representing the Montana State AFL-CIO, encouraged the adoption of the Commission tentative recommendation. He commended the Commission for a good job.

REP. PAULA DARKO, District 22, said her constituents in Lincoln County are pleased with the proposal.

BRENDA SCHYE, Glasgow, said the majority of people in her town are satisfied with the plan.

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THERE BEING NO MORE PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO SPEAK AS PROPONENTS, CHAIRMAN BRAND OPENED THE HEARING TO COMMENTS BY PEOPLE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES OPPONENTS OR THOSE WHO SEEK CHANGES IN THE PLAN.

#### OPPONENTS

LES GUNDERSON, Great Falls, a former legislator, urged the committee to recommend moving District 12 back to where it was before the tentative proposal. He said that would better serve the population of the area and there is a community of interest in the schools and economy. Gunderson said he votes at Great Falls at a school that was closed down and had no heat or water.

REP. CHET SOLBERG, District 2, distributed a handout map and spoke in opposition to the proposed plan. He said the first sheet of his handout represented present districts, the second sheet the proposed redistricting presented by the Commission. Earlier this year, Solberg said, 1,100 residents signed a petition against the proposed redistricting. Rep. Solberg said an alternative plan makes sense. He said the Missouri River has always been a boundary between the districts involved, and the Commission should not scuttle the whole thing.

TOM LACY said a problem with the tentative proposed plan was that it divided "coal country" into two districts, which resulted in improper representation. Lacy suggested the Commission could do better. He suggested the "X-Plan" to add Garfield County to northern Rosebud and Treasure Counties, or an alternative, the "Z-Plan." He said this would be a district much more compatible.

REP. MARIAN HANSON, District 57, spoke for the "X-Plan." Rep. Hanson said that plan would fairly represent the interests of the involved area. She stated her opposition to the tentative plan, and submitted a written statement. (See written statement attached.)

DON WHITE, a Bozeman lawyer, said he represented several Gallatin County people who objected to the proposed plan. White said there were two distinct problems. First, regarding proposed House District No. 75, he said it was a large district with little community of interest among the people to be included. He said it was "not compact by any stretch of the imagination." He said it did not respect existing political boundaries and that factor was not considered by the Commission. He also said there were substantial geographical boundaries because mountain ranges create problems in the district. He said that communications were a problem for the proposed district. White handed out documents, including a map of the proposed area. He said four of the top 12 districts in terms of deviation from the ideal population figure exist in the Bozeman area. He said if population trends continue within ten years there will be a 23 percent deviation from the norm, and he predicted a total net variation of more than 50 percent in 20 years. White also handed out a proposed districting. (See attached statement.)

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REP. ROBERT ELLERD, District 75, said that he would speak in opposition to the plan, but he noted that the proposed changes did not affect him as an elected representative. He said he spoke for the people in a remote area who would be affected by the redistricting problems in the Bozeman area. He said they should not be put in with a much bigger area as the proposed redistricting area would. Rep. Ellerd also called the plan "very partisan."

REP. JOHN SHONTZ, District 53, called the plan "very bipartisan." Shontz said "we've gone a long way to remove politics," and the plan is the best in the country.

SEN. PAT REGAN, District 31, distributed a handout that listed both the proposed districting in an area of Billings and a proposed change in the proposed redistricting. She called it "a very fair change." (See attached statement.)

REP. CAL WINSLOW, District 65, told the committee that by means of the redistricting, he was placed in the position where he did not live in the district he would represent. He complained that he was "districted out." He asked that the committee recommend changes that would keep him in his district.

REP. WILLIAM "RED" MENAHAN, District 90, said the proposed plan could possibly deprive Deer Lodge County of Senate representation. Rep. Menahan asked for redistricting that would place Deer Lodge County with Granite County because the two areas were "more compatible."

REP. BERNIE SWIFT, District 91, spoke against the proposed plan, saying it removed a portion of Ravalli County in the northwest and placed it in with Missoula County. Rep. Swift said there was no need to go outside Ravalli County. Rep. Swift said the county residents could stay in the county and the deviation figure would be 0.3 of 1 percent nonetheless. Rep. Swift also said that by dividing Ravalli County into two districts and keeping the county to itself, the rural-urban break would be "well-balanced." He also said it would be more economically efficient. He said that in the proposed redistricting the metropolitan areas would control the representation of the rural areas, especially in the small representative areas.

REP. KEN NORDTVEDT, District 77, said he was testifying as a mathemetician, and he therefore observed that in reviewing the entire redistricting plan, he noticed several clusters of districts in one area with high deviation as to the population figures. He said that from a statistical standpoint the probability is "extremely small" the cluster occurred through a random process. Rep. Nordtvedt said that in Bozeman the districts with a high number of voters meant that the individual voters strength would be diluted. But in Silver Bow County, Rep. Nordtvedt said, the opposite is true. He said all the districts had low voterstrength figures. Rep. Nordtvedt charged that the plan "looks like a systematic attempt to achieve greater voting influence by Democratic voters." Rep. Nordtvedt asked that Bozeman's four House districts be re-sized.

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JOYCE LIPPERT, clerk of the court of Big Horn County, at Hardin, objected to the plan's proposed splitting of Hardin into two House districts. She suggested that alternative plans 11 and 12A be adopted. She said such a move was supported by both parties at a Billings hearing on the question.

DENNIS BERGVALL, executive secretary of the Montana Republican Party, urged the committee to review several other areas as to possible improper or unwise redistricting. Bergvall cited eastern Montana, where he said the options are available for more compact districts. Bergvall said that in one district in the southeast corner of the state there is a several-hundred-mile distance between the northern and southern edges. He suggested the committee also check about the move of a portion of Hill County to Blaine County. Bergvall said that the proposed "13" plan would be better. Bergvall cited south Gallatin County and its proposed move into Madison County. About that proposal, Bergvall said there were "superior alternatives." He called for "something that does the most justice to most people," and he said "some people who deserve extra considerations."

REP. GLENN H. MUELLER, District 21, said that in Lincoln County, most people are opposed to the proposed redistricting. The greatest source of concern, he said, was for 1,240 people in the Bow Lake area who he said would be "disenfranchised."

REP. BRENT BLISS, District 10, spoke about proposed Senate district 7. He said area residents' first choice was Alternative No. 10, but that 12 or 13 would be compatible.

REP. VERNER BERTELSEN, District 27, said he took no issue with the treatment of Powell County as a separate district. He said it was "a tremendous improvement." In Senate districts, however, Rep. Bertelsen said it made no sense to extend the Senate district to the Bigfork area. He said it was "not appropriate even though" a highway goes to the area. He said the Swan-Bigfork area should not be in the same Senate district as Powell County.

Chairman Brand said not many people in his area are concerned about the redistricting, but the proposal to add Powell County and the Bigfork area is very poor. He said there is no community of interest in terms of trade or commercial interests. He said he personally approved of the second proposal for House districts in his area. But, of all the proposals for Senate and Powell County, the idea to match it with the Bigfork area "is one of the worst." Chairman Brand said that the tricounty areas of Powell, Deer Lodge and Granite Counties consider themselves a unit. He referred to the Tri-County Fair each year by the three counties. Brand said, "that's an interest." He said there is a community interest in commercial and employment areas. In Chairman Brand's words, "Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Powell and Granite Counties have many things that are equal." Chairman Brand said the worst proposal is to link District 50 and the second worst proposal would be to match Powell County to Lewis and Clark. He said the mountain pass between Deer Lodge and Helena is "terrible" in the wintertime.

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THERE BEING NO FURTHER TESTIMONY BY OPPONENTS TO THE PROPOSED BILLS, CHAIRMAN BRAND CALLED FOR QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Rep. Bardanouve asked if the proposal by Rep. Winslow and Sen. Regan would have a ripple effect or disrupt the plan elsewhere in the state. Rep. Bardanouve said he would support the proposed redistricting if there would be no problems created by the Winslow-Regan proposal. Legislative Researcher Anne Brodsky said the map submitted by Sen. Regan indicated with black lines of the tentative redistricting plan while red lines marked in were the Winslow-Regan proposal. Rep. Bardanouve asked her if the Winslow-Regan proposal was acceptable within the deviation limits. He asked if the Commission would object to the Winslow-Regan proposal, and commission members indicated they would not.

REP. JOE HAMMOND, District 24, observed that Rep. Nordtvedt's comments were pointed and Rep. Haymond asked Joe Lamson if he cared to respond. In response, Joe Lamson, executive secretary of the Montana Democratic Party, said that one could play with statistics to indicate anything one wanted. Lamson said the clustering of districts in urban areas is traditional.

In response to a question by Rep. Bliss, commission member Jim Pasma said that 100 people testified in favor of the proposed redistricting at a hearing at Conrad. Rep. Bliss indicated that Alternative 10 was his first choice and that 11 or 12 would be next in terms of preference.

REP. WALTER SALES asked if population trends were considered by the Commission. Chairman Mahoney said there was no legal basis for doing so. He said such considerations were not made.

REP. BARDANOUVE stated that the committee may wish to consider the situation in Bozeman because the matter appeared headed for court. asked about possible alternatives. Chairman Mahoney said one alternative that was rejected by the Commission was dividing Jefferson County up and not giving it its own representative district, and the same was true for Musselshell County. Rep. Bardanouve asked if these were reasonable alternatives, or were there others? Legislative Researcher Brodsky mentioned the Johnson-Marchwick plan. She said that would keep Madison and Gallatin counties intact, with five House districts that were low in population and combine the sixth with Broadwater County. She said considerations amounted to two major ones: that by creating an additional House district in Gallatin County it would have to be 101 districts in the House or another district elsewhere in the state would have to be dropped. Also, Madison and Beaverhead Counties do not have enough people to make up two House districts. She said another plan would combine Three Forks with Madison rather than Gallatin County.

REP. SALES explained that alternatives to get around the situation in Bozeman would have a "reverse ripple effect." He said if Silver Bow County loses one House district, it must go elsewhere and that lowers the overall figure. As a result, he said, that district must be kept higher.

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CHAIRMAN BRAND said two of the Bozeman area districts have a greater than 5 percent deviation figure and two have less than 5 percent deviation. Chairman Brand said he was disturbed about the situation with West Yellowstone and asked if the problem could be solved together with other Bozeman problems. Legislative Researcher Anne Brodsky indicated that was not possible and read from a list of enumeration districts provided by the Bureau of the Census.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked of Legislative Researcher Brodsky, "What was your role?" Legislative Researcher Brodsky said she met with local people around the state and presented her findings to the Commission for its consideration. In her words, "My role was to present problems that may exist." Rep. Bardanouve asked about her role in Bozeman. She said she met with local people and officials, and they submitted the Johnson-Marchwick plan.

REP. KATHLEEN MCBRIDE, District 85, asked the Commission how they decided on its recommendation for the Bozeman area. Commission member Joann Woodgerd said she first sought to have the Johnson-Marchwick plan approved, but it had too many ripple effects. She said it would have forced the breakage of county lines "all over the place." She said there "were too many problems." The only other plan, she said, was to put Three Forks in with Madison County, but that she felt that Three Forks did not have a community of interest with Madison County and was more compatible with Gallatin County.

Rep. McBride asked if enumeration districts might be split. Legislative Researcher Brodsky said Plan C, which would put Three Forks into Madison County, could split one or two enumeration districts.

REP. PAUL PISTORIA, District 39, observed that there were 15 proponents for the plan and 15 opponents against the plan. He asked if Rep. Solberg and witness Lacy could be accommodated, and if that would be a substantial reworking of the project. The Commission indicated that it would be. Rep. Pistoria asked about Rep. Swift's proposal for Ravalli County. Commission member Joann Woodgerd said it would split Ravalli County down the Bitterroot River and therefore split school districts, local governments and other jurisdictions between House districts.

Chairman Brand asked if proposed districts 66 and 67 could be joined as one Senate district. Commission member Woodgerd said the lower end of District 66 is sparsely populated and there exists no transportation over the pass that would connect the two House districts and, therefore, no community of interest.

Chairman Brand asked Rep. Swift about his opinion of having District 66 and 67 as one Senate district. Rep. Swift called it a "second-best choice." Commission member Woodgerd said the removal of the portion of Ravalli County to which Rep. Swift objects was necessary because Missoula County needed one House district to form a Senate district. Rep. Swift stated that he was told by the research person that Ravalli County could exist in itself with no problem.

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Rep. Ellerd said he was never asked by the legislative researcher or other officials to give his input into the preliminary inquiry about possible redistricting. He also said Sen. Paul Boylan was never contacted as well. In his words, "It was all cut high and dry." Rep. Ellerd said, "We are bound not to take Plan C," indicating it would be challenged in court.

Rep. McBride noted that Bozeman is a focal point for attention by the Committee. She asked if the plan would meet criteria for reapportionment. Commission member Kuhr said that by joining Gallatin County districts with Madison, that meets only the population criteria and a similar situation exists with Hill County and the move of a portion of Hill County to Blaine County.

Rep. Bardanouve and Chairman Brand asked for the reason in having Districts 49 and 50 as a Senate district. Commission member Pasma said no one is happy with the arrangement but the Commission has no other choice without ripple effects. "We've come to a place where we're going to have a rotten House and a rotten Senate district somewhere," Pasma said, "no matter what."

Commission member Woodgerd said there were a number of alternatives proposed, and there was very little testimony, and at the last minute a decision was made. She said the Commission sought suggestions from the Legislature.

Chairman Brand asked how heavy the Commission would weigh the legislative recommends. Commission member Woodgerd said that her mind is open because "there is no one good solution."

Rep. Bardanouve spoke of the "best possible alternative" considering the ripple effect. He asked if the Commission's recommendations were the best possible. The response from the Commission was a unanimous "yes."

Rep. McBride said she preferred to have several plans to choose from, if possible. Chairman Brand noted that the Commission has lots of plans.

Rep. Bardanouve called this subject "an area the Commission can get into without a partisan hassle." He noted that "unusual districts" have been formed.

Chairman Brand asked about the proposed split of the city of Hardin. He asked if the Commission had taken into account Indian populations when drawing up districts. Legislative Researcher Brodsky confirmed the Commission did consider Indian population figures as one of the considerations. She said the Indian populations had been "addressed in all the Indian reservations in the state."

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Rep. Solberg asked about a possible split of the reservation in the northeastern Montana. Chairman Mahoney said there was no input from the Fort Peck area until the final week when the attorney for the Fort Peck tribes recommended a split along the Missouri River.

Speaking of the proposed shift of a portion of Hill County into a district with Phillips County, he said he differed with earlier testimony and statements and asserted that there was a great community of interest between Phillips and Hill County.

At that point, Rep. RAY L. PECK, District 8, came into the room to speak on behalf of House Bill 151 and House Bill 222. Rep. Peck secured the Commission's agreement that members agreed with the two pieces of legislation. He explained that HB 151 was a proposed Constitutional Amendment to make congressional districts a matter to be apportioned separately from legislative districts. He said Montana is one of the last states to reapportion after the 1980 census; had the population deviation figures between the eastern and western congressional districts exceeded 15,000 voters either way, he said, the congressional election could have been the subject of a substantial challenge in court. He explained that HB 222 would make statutory changes in contemplation of passage of the constitutional amendment proposed in HB 151.

Joe Lamson stated that the Montana Democratic Party favored the bills as necessary.

MARGARET DAVIS, state president of the Montana League of Women Voters, submitted prepared testimony. (See attached.) She said the League favors the legislation. She said the problem with the congressional districts is a "problem that is hard to defend but easy to correct."

Don Judge, representing the Montana state AFL-CIO, said the labor organization favors the pieces of legislation.

Chairman Mahoney said the Commission favors the proposed legislation.

THERE BEING NO OPPONENTS TO HOUSE BILL 151 AND HOUSE BILL 222, CHAIRMAN BRAND OPENED THE HEARING OF THOSE BILLS INTO QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Rep. Bardanouve asked if it was possible that Montana would lose one of its two congressional districts by means of the 1990 census. Lamson stated that this was a possibility, and in fact had been discussed in federal circles as a result of the 1980 census.

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Chairman Brand noted that in HB 222, on page 3, lines 12 and 13, there were blank spots to amend the language of the bill to conform to HB 151. Rep. Peck confirmed that was the case.

The meeting was declared adjourned.

JOE BRAND, CHAIRMAN

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. for the record I'm Marian Hanson, HD 57-

I want to rise in apposition to the redistricting plan for Powder River, Roselud a

Big Horn Countries.

I feel that anne Brodsky, the resercher, did a good job when she presented the X plan for the Commission. This plan addressed the Crow Indian geople, the northern Cheyenne people a would have guaranteed a Dimocratic sente seat « 2 House seats. It would have left the Powder River Carter & Fallon Countries together as an

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out of true representation.

For these reasons I oppose this plan. Thank you.

# WITNESS STATEMENT

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P.L. 94-171 Counts

### WITNESS STATEMENT

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WHOM DO	YOU	REPRESENT	5 4 5 <b>3</b> 5	<u>. 27</u>			
SUPPORT	·		٠ (	OPPOSE	7	AMEND	χ.
PLEASE	LEAVI	E PREPARED	STATEM	ENT WITH	SECRETAR	Y.	
Comment	s:						

Opposition Testimony on House Resolution 2 or House Joint Resolution 3, or both:

I am Representative Chet Solberg, Representative from District #2. I am appearing in opposition to the proposed plan on Reapportionment as proposed by the Reapportionment Commission. I have passed out to the members of the Committee a handout consisting of three sheets. The first sheet is a copy of the present House and Senate Districts in the State of Montana. The second sheet is a copy of a proposed redistricting plan that was presented to the Commission earlier this year in the form of a petition signed by close to 1,100 people from the northeast corner of the state.

The third sheet was an enclosure with the petitions showing the population needed in each District. As District #1 is in the extreme northeast corner of the state, I am going to try to address most of my remarks to that district.

If you will compare District #1 on the 1st page with the District 1 on the second page, you will find that they are identical except for the long, narrow area extending east in the southern portion of the district.

The Commission completely disregarded all of their own criteria in trying to establish District #1 in any other manner than that shown on page 2; that is our plan. If you will turn over to the third page, you will see that this new proposed District #1 would include the population of 5,414 in Sheridan County and the 2,134 population of what the Census Bureau described as East Roosevelt Division of Roosevelt County. It is further described as all of that area in Eastern Roosevelt County lying east of the Fort Peck Reservation. The one criteria that they completely disregarded was - following boundary of existing lists as nearly as possible. Another of their criteria that they disregarded was the natural boundary of the Missouri River, which has always separated the district from the one immediately to the south. They also had a natural method to form three districts in Richland and The total population of the two counties Dawson Counties. is just right to form three districts; one for Sidney; one for Glendive, and the third composed of the balance of the rural area in the two counties. This would have been close to the area now covered by Districts 53, 54 and 55. They could have moved west and formed Districts #2, 3 and 4 somewhere near that proposed on page two. It is true that some of the lines would have had to be adjusted, but these districts would have been more nearly like their present boundaries. A number of us from the northeast corner objected Opposition Testimony on House Resolution 2 or House Joint Resolution 3, or both: Page Two

to their plan - as early as it was first proposed, but to no avail.

The Commission seemed to take the attitude that those people are from 400 to 550 miles away from Helena. They will soon tire of trying to change anything. I believe we should not pass any legislation approving their proposed plan.

CS/mac

Don White textomory

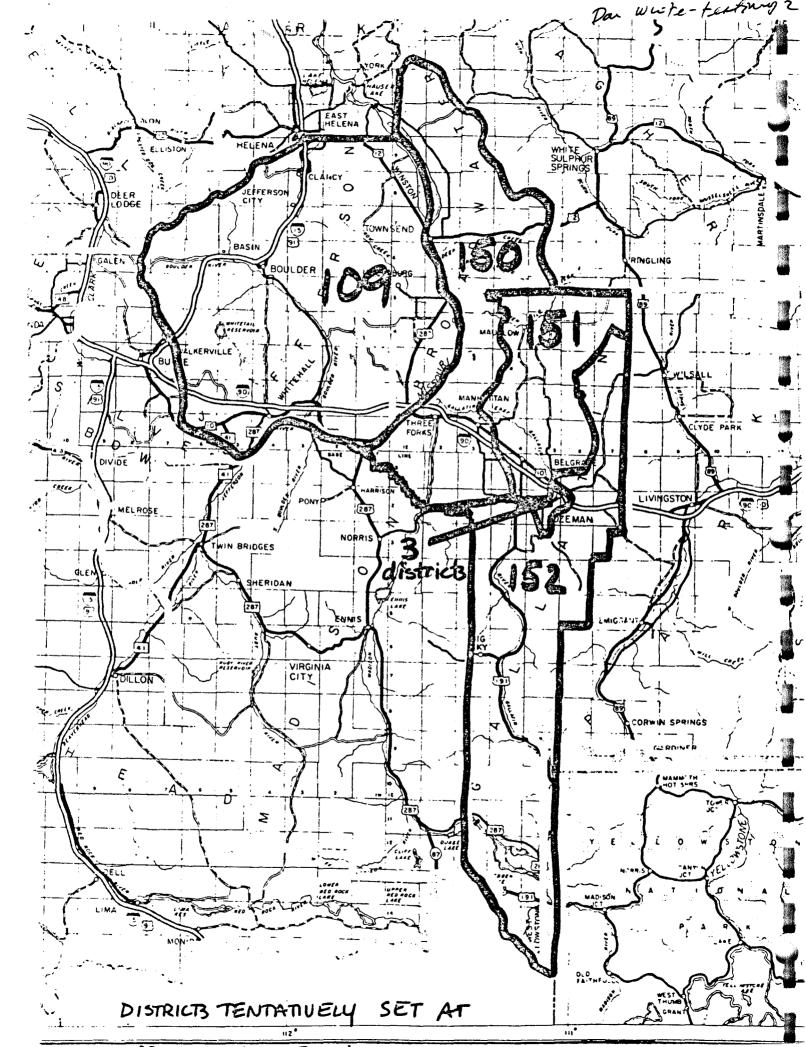
100 HOUSE DISTRICTS

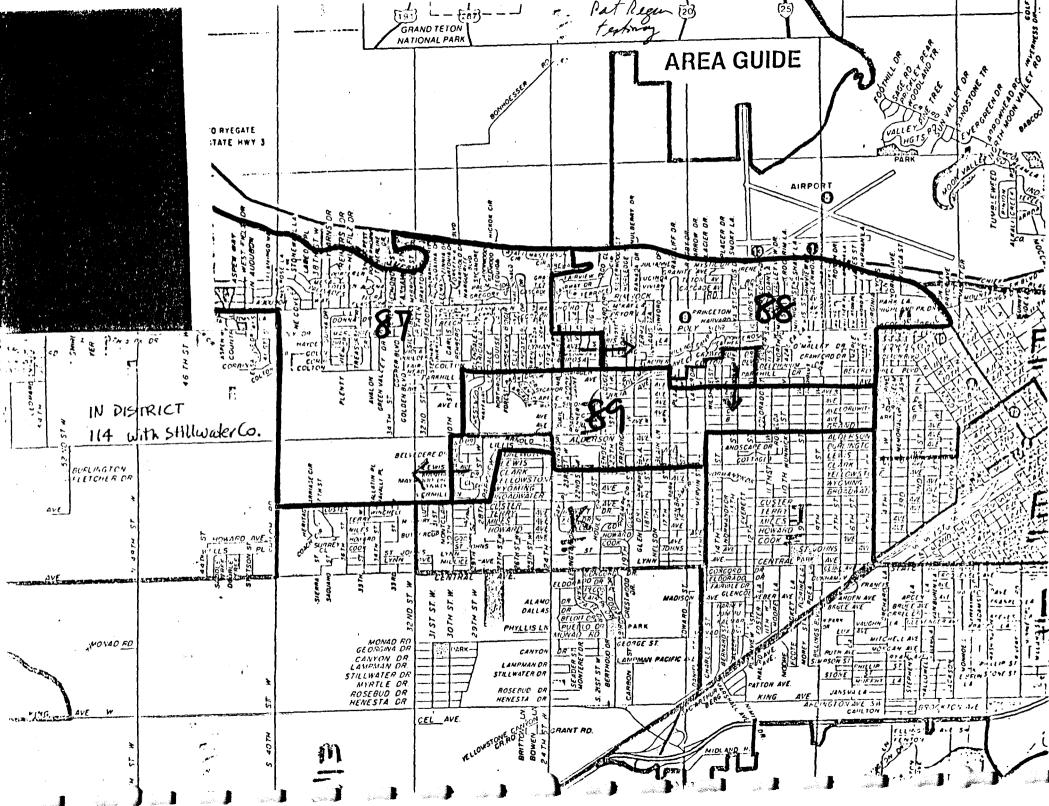
IDEAL POPULATION 7,867

DEVIATION RANGE -5.16% to +5.78%

# TOP 12 DISTRICTS (Deviation over +4.50%)

	COUNTY			% POPULATION
	E &	water 1		CHANGE FROM
	DISTRICT NO.	POPULATION	DEVIATION	1970-1980
1.	LINCOLN #2	8,322	+5.78%	- 1.7%
2.	GALLATIN #77	8,279	+5.24%	+31.9%
3.	GALLATIN #78	8,263	+5.03%	+31.9%
4.	LEWIS & CLARK #48	8,252	+4.89%	+29.3%
5.	MISSOULA #61	8,250	+4.87%	+30.5%
6.	DANIELS #19	8,249	+4.86%	- 8.0%
7.	FERGUS #29	8,247	+4.83%	+ 3.7%
8.	GALLATIN #79	8,236	+4.69%	+31.9%
9.	LEWIS & CLARK #46	8,234	+4.67%	+29.3%
10.	BIG HORN #100	8,231	+4.63%	+10.3%
11.	GALLATIN #76	8,230	+4.61%	+31.9%
12.	FLATHEAD #6	8,225	+4.55%	+31.7%







League of Women oters of Montana 917 Harrison, Helena, Montana 59601 20 January 83

House State Administration Committee

HB 151 and HB 222

Amending the Montana state Constitution to change the schedule for reapportioning the US Congress districts and providing for statutory conformity with the amendment should it be approved by the voters of Montana.

The League of Women Voters supports both HB 151 and HB 222. In reaching this position, the League considered the following issues:

- 1. There is no satisfactory reason for delaying the redistricting of the Conggessional districts. The division of the state into two districts equal in population can be accomplished by considering a relatively limited number of adjustments. The options are readily apparent as soon as the census figures are available.
- 2. With two districts there can be no "demine" effect or ripple effect as result of redrawing Congressional boundary lines. A division of two presents none of the complicated and sometimes unforeseen reprecussions that a plan to create XXX 100 districts does.
- 3. This proposal will have no effect on how the reapportionment commission makes its decisions. The same political and demongraphic contraints would be operative. The proposed hearing requirements parallel existing law.
- 4. HB 151, Section 14 (3) (page 2, line 13 through 16) eliminates Legislative review of Congressional districts and substitutes a 90 day deadline for filing a final plan with the Secretary of State. The current provision for review by the Legislature is non-binding. Montana's biennial sessions create a huge delay between the commissions deliberations and the institution of redistricting plan. Legislative attention does not focus or probably even glance at the portion of the plan delaing with their Congressional colleagues.
- 5. The establishment of the Congressional division line serves as an important starting point for subsequent legislative redistricting.
- 6. Citizen interest in the census may carry over to the Congressional redistricting process, particularly if they can anticipate final action within 90 days as proposed.
- 7. To delay redistricting because of an unwieldy Constitutional provision, was never intended by the framers of the 1972 Montana consitution. The resulting time lapse skews Montana's representation in Congress. Even if only a few of our citizen's are affected, the problem is hard to defend and easy to correct.

The League of Wemen Veters supports submitting this amendment to the veters of Montana.

Mangan;

Margaret S. Davis, president

HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BILL HG 151	DATE 1/19 /83
SPONSOR PECK	

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
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Hen Roses				
John DeBolt	Butte	Rep Glan Roush		
Millions	Kelina Ke	Rep Glan Rough	X	
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JOE LAMSON	HELENA	MT. DEMOCRATIC PARTY	X	
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IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BILL HG SSS		DATE 1/19/8	<u> </u>	
SPONSOR PECK		·		•
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NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
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JOE LAMSON	Ashland	M. DEMOCRATICRARTY	X	
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IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

# HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
Don White	Buzeman	Gallatin Citizens		
John DeBolt	Butte	Rep Glen Roush		
Bernie Juist	Hamilton	Rep. Kursili C.		
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IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

# HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BILL Hr	e a	DATE 1/19/83
SPONSOR	GRANO	

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NAME Judge	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING  MT SFATE AFL (F)	SUP- POPT	OP- POSE
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Sam Korsmol	Holena			
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John selsout	Butte	Rep. Mlen Roush		
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Dennis Bergall	Helena	Most Rep. Party		
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IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.