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COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

JOINT HEARING

Minutes of Meeting -- March 10, 1971

There was a meeting held jointly with the assembly on March 10, 1971 at 5:30 P.M. for the purpose of hearing testimony on reapportionment.

Committee members present: James I. Gibson
Stan Drakulich
Carl F. Dodge
Chic Hecht
Warren Monroe

Also present were other legislators both from the Senate and Assembly. The meeting was open to the public and several people and press representatives were in attendance.

Assemblyman Frank Young called the meeting to order and introduced several people who would be speaking during the meeting as follows:

- Dr. Sid Hess, Whorton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania;
- Gordon Harding, Central Data Processing;
- Fred Dugger, Central Data Processing;
- Dr. Eleanore Bushnell, University of Nevada, Reno;
- Professor A. Maurice Beesley, Mathematics Department, University of Nevada, Reno.

Mr. Young then went over information handed out to all who were present entitled "Discoveries Regarding Redistricting in Nevada in 1971," consisting of two pages. (Copy attached hereto as Exhibit "A".)

Mr. Fred Dugger, Central Data Processing, who had been working with the computer programming explained briefly what they had been doing with regard to reapportionment.

Mr. Art Palmer, Legislative Counsel Bureau submitted 3 maps of the State of Nevada, each with different districting, and analyzed each one. (Copies attached hereto as Exhibit "B".)

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Further testimony was heard from Dr. Sid Hess, and brief remarks were made by Perry Burnett, Dr. Eleanore Bushnell, and Professor Beesley.

Following a period of questions and discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jean Pondi,
Committee Secretary

This session of the legislature must give consideration to the reapportionment and redistricting not only of both houses of the legislature, but of all elected boards and commissions, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Boards of County Commissioners
- (b) State Board of Education
- (c) Board of Regents
- (d) School District Boards of Trustees
- (e) Hospital Boards

This places an unexpected burden on the process of districting the legislative seats.

Let us examine an over-simplified example. Assume that a county has a board of county commissioners elected from three districts and a hospital board elected from two districts. This could result in a need for six ballots maximum.

It turns out that in Clark County, for example, if we were to have five commissioner districts, 11 senate (20-seat senate) and 22 assembly (40-seat assembly) districts, we would have as many as 5 x 22 or 110 different ballots for the printer to print and 110 different arrangements for voting machines.

Let us look at what happens if we reduce the number of assembly seats in Clark County to 20 (36-seat assembly) and the number of senate seats in Clark County to 10 (18-seat senate). First, we note that the apportionment for Clark, Washoe, and rural counties is very close to population. Clark County would be 0.3% under-represented, Washoe County would be 0.2% over-represented, and the rural counties would be 0.1% over-represented.

Secondly, let us look at what happens to the number of ballots. With five county commissioners, 10 senators and 20 assemblymen, only 20 different ballots would be required in Clark County by a 36-seat assembly, Washoe County would have nine seats, and the rural counties seven seats. Thus, with five county commissioners districts in Washoe, only 45 ballots would be required.

Senate districts could be formed by combining two assembly districts. In Clark, this would provide 10 senate districts. In Washoe County, this would provide four senate districts with one assembly district left over. In the rural counties, this would provide three senate districts with one assembly district left-over. If it is assumed that the leftover assembly district in Washoe is contiguous with the leftover district from the rural counties, these two districts can be joined to form one senate district, half in Washoe and half in the rural counties. Then, Washoe would have 4-1/2 senate seats and the rural counties will have 3-1/2 senate seats.

It is noted that the state board of education has asked to be made a fully elected board of nine members. The courts have said that they must be apportioned on an equal population basis. We could district the total school board by combining two senate districts throughout the state. It has been suggested that the Board of Regents be similarly districted.

It will probably be wise in Clark County to consider changing the size of the Clark County School District to either five or 10. In Washoe County, the school district may wish to go to five or nine members.

Assemblyman Frank Young
March 10, 1971

Exhibit "A"

15	8	53	4	26.7	3	20.0
16	9	56.3	4	25.0	3	18.8
17	10	58.8	4	23.5	3	17.6
18	10	55.6	4	22.2	4	22.2
19	10	52.6	5	26.3	4	21.1
20	11	55.0	5	25.0	4	20.0
21	12	57.1	5	23.8	4	19.0
22	12	54.5	6	27.3	4	18.2
23	13	56.5	6	26.1	4	17.4
24	13	54.2	6	25.0	5	20.8
25	14	56.0	6	24.0	5	20.0
30	17	56.7	7	23.3	6	20.0
31	17	54.8	8	25.8	6	19.4
32	18	56.3	8	25.0	6	18.8
33	19	57.6	8	24.2	6	18.2
34	19	55.9	8	23.5	7	20.6
35	19	54.3	9	25.7	7	20.0
36	20	55.6	9	25.0	7	19.4
37	21	56.8	9	24.3	7	18.9
38	21	55.3	10	26.3	7	18.4
39	22	56.4	10	25.6	7	17.9
40	22	55.0	10	25.0	8	20.0
41	23	56.1	10	24.4	8	19.5
42	24	57.1	10	23.8	8	19.0
43	24	55.8	11	25.6	8	18.6
44	25	56.8	11	25.0	8	18.2
45	25	55.6	11	24.4	9	20.0
46	26	56.5	11	23.9	9	19.6
47	26	55.3	12	25.5	9	19.1
48	27	56.3	12	25.0	9	18.8
49	27	55.1	12	24.5	10	20.4
50	28	56.0	12	24.0	10	20.0
51	28	54.9	13	25.5	10	19.6
52	29	55.8	13	25.0	10	19.2
53	30	56.6	13	24.5	10	18.9
54	30	55.6	13	24.1	11	20.4
55	30	54.5	14	25.5	11	20.0
56	31	55.4	14	25.0	11	19.6

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Clark County,
273,288
55.9%

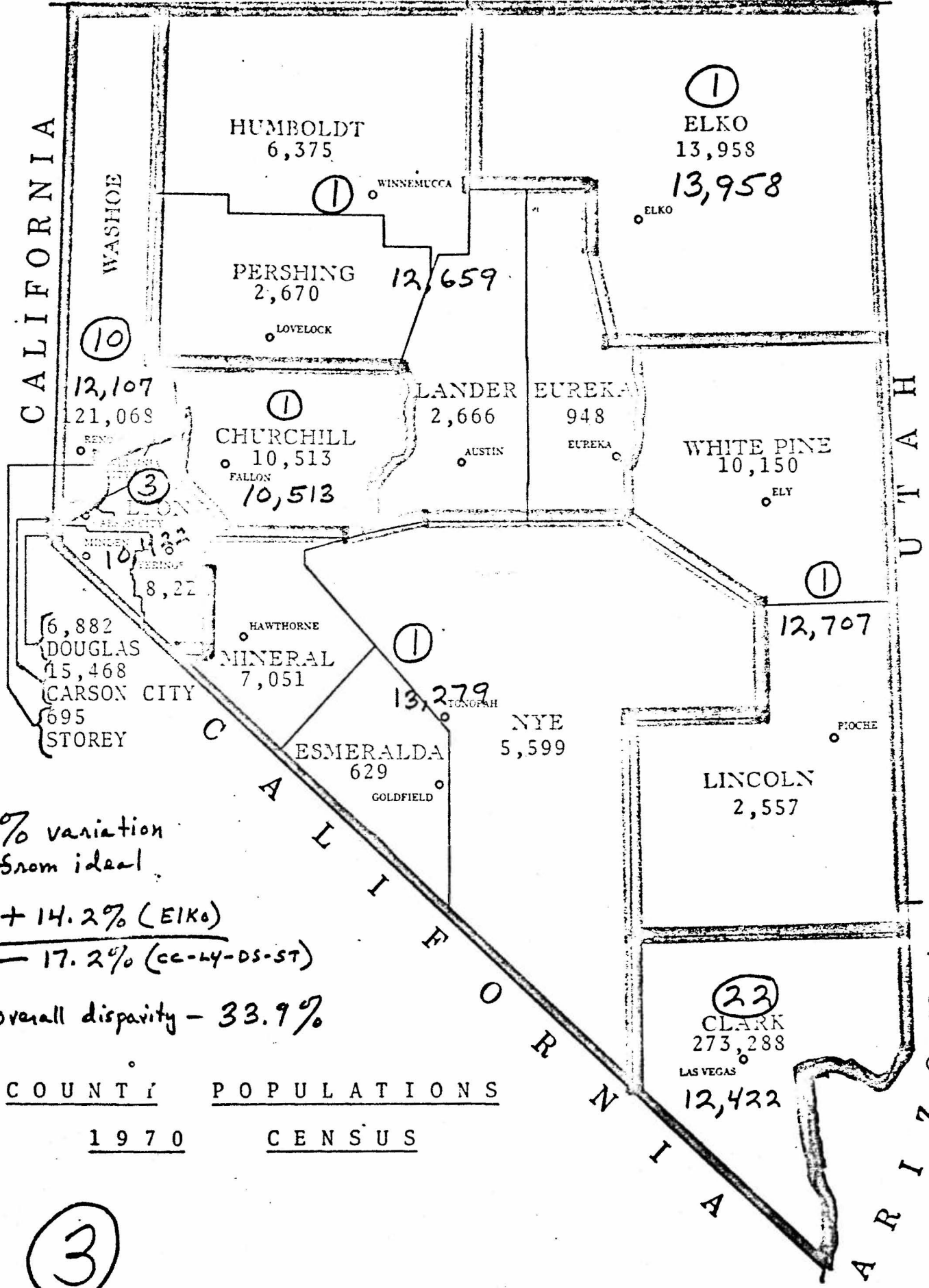
Washoe County,
121,068
24.8%

Balance of State
94,382
19.3%

Rounded off to
nearest %--will
not always add
to 100%.

(40) Assembly — (8) rural county assembly seats Av. Dist 12,218

O R E G O N | I D A H O



% variation from ideal

+ 14.2% (ELKO)

- 17.2% (CC-LY-DS-ST)

overall disparity - 33.9%

COUNTY POPULATIONS

1970

CENSUS

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