

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Glover
Vice Chairman Chaney
Mr. Beyer
Mrs. Ham
Mrs. Hayes
Mr. Hickey
Mr. Malone
Mr. Nicholas
Mr. Prengaman
Mr. Robinson
Mr. Sader

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS PRESENT: Andrew P. Grose, Research Director, LCB
Alan Beck, Humboldt County Board of Commissioners

Chairman Glover called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. in Room 200. He said that the purpose of the meeting was a general discussion of legislative reapportionment and asked Mr. Grose to bring the committee up to date.

Mr. Andrew P. Grose, Research Director for the Legislative Counsel Bureau, said he would give an up-date on reapportionment in terms of process and would then discuss the maps that have been tentatively drawn.

Mr. Grose explained that all the data is now in the computer and that maps have been drawn for a proposed Clark County Senate districting plan and for a proposed Washoe County Assembly districting plan. He noted that the map for Washoe County was physically drawn based on ideas and concepts from the Washoe County Assembly delegation and contains ten Assembly districts which would fit a 42 member Assembly. He added that these districts do not all meet the plus five or minus five criteria but if the general concept is acceptable, they can be made to fit the allowable deviation.

Continuing Mr. Grose emphasized that the Clark County Senate plan was his personal concept to illustrate five two-member districts and two one-member districts with consideration given to incumbents and allowable deviation. He commented that, after the committee had examined these plans, he would be interested in learning what direction should be taken next.

In answer to a question from Mr. Hickey, Mr. Grose replied that there are two single-member districts as there are now, and adding another Senate seat to the present seven members forms four two-member districts. He noted that so far in Clark County no consideration has been given to whether four Assembly districts will fit within the two-member Senate districts.

When Mr. Glover asked what the time-frame might be on establishing Clark County Assembly districts, Mr. Grose replied that the computer should be able to give this information by one week from today.

When Mr. Glover asked the committee if they had any preference of future direction for Clark County, Mr. Hickey responded that he intended to get small groups together to solve the problems in the central areas.

Mr. Sader commented that there was one line that was misdrawn on the Washoe County map because of an error in the figures given to Mr. Grose.

When Mr. Hickey asked Mr. Grose to explain the Congressional districts, Mr. Grose said that he had been directed by this committee and the Senate Government Affairs committee to draw two concepts; one with a Clark County district and a balance of Clark County with the rest of the state, and two splitting both Washoe and Clark County. He noted that in the second concept they split Washoe County along the Truckee River and split Clark County with all of the City of North Las Vegas and all of the City of Las Vegas in one district and the surrounding townships, such as Paradise Valley, Sunrise Manor, Henderson, Boulder City and Searchlight, in another district.

When Mr. Glover asked how many Assembly districts were split by these lines, Mr. Grose answered that he did not know, that these lines were drawn independently. He commented that this is one reason for beginning with an Assembly district plan, going to a Senate district plan and finally on to a Congressional plan.

When Mr. Hickey asked if Carson City would be split, Mr. Grose said that the only way to do this would be to split Washoe County vertically along Route 395 and continue through Carson.

Mr. Sader and Mr. Glover noted that all of the maps were only proposals and any suggestions would be welcome.

When Mr. Nicholas asked if the committee would be voting on a variety of ideas or on one consensus of the committee, Mr. Glover replied that the Elections Committee would present a bill to reapportion the Assembly and the Senate Government Affairs Committee would present a bill to reapportion the Senate; but the bills would fit together as a consensus of both houses.

When Mr. Sader questioned the reapportionment of the Board of Regents, Mr. Glover responded that the regents would be meeting next week in consultation with Dr. Eleanor Bushnell and would present their recommendations in two weeks.

Mr. Hickey suggested that a map be drawn which would delineate the periphery of the city rather than split established cities. He noted that the outlying districts within the county would be more contiguous with the remainder of the state.

When Dr. Robinson observed that Clark County is so large that no matter how you split the state, some part of it must be included with the rest of the state, Mr. Grose said that he needed direction from the committee on how they felt this should be done in both proposed concepts. Mr. Hickey suggested that the Clark County Delegation should be consulted. Mr. Glover indicated that this delegation should meet this week enabling the committee to move forward.

Mr. Grose reminded the committee that in 1971 the legislature also apportioned the Clark County commissioner districts and the school trustee districts in both Washoe and Clark, but in 1976 the State Supreme Court threw out the commissioner districting in Clark County as being beyond the scope of the legislature's authority. He noted that legislative counsel feels that legislature involvement in school redistricting could be constitutionally suspect, but added that some type of law must be written to give someone the authority to resolve single member school trustee districts if the legislature does not do it.

When Mr. Glover asked Mr. Grose if he needed any more comments from the committee, he replied that, as he understood it, as soon as the computer programs the smallest building blocks of proposed Assembly districts, agreement on these should be reached in preparation for tackling the next step of Senate districts.

When Mr. Glover asked for comments from the audience, Mr. Alan Beck, Chairman of the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners, Chairman of the Nevada Association of Counties Reapportionment Committee, said that they were particularly concerned with what will happen to the rural counties. He indicated that, after working with all the numbers, the only solution that did not cause a problem was to increase the legislature to 25 senators and 50 assemblymen. He added that he did not know why this was not a popular concept. He noted that the Northern Nevada Senatorial district would encompass 32,632 people which would be over by .8%; the Western Nevada Senatorial District, 32,406, over 1.2%; the Central Nevada Senatorial District, taking out of Clark County the townships of Mesquite, Moapa, Bunkerville, Logan and Overton, 32,897, over 2.8%. He added that they made no attempt to redistrict Clark County, but there would be 14 senators representing an average of 32,661 each which would be over by 2%. He noted that they did not have census figures for Carson City, Douglas and Washoe Counties but that Carson City with a population of 32,114 would be ideal for one senator but Douglas with a population of only 19,000 would present a problem. He commented that with eight

senators in Carson City, Douglas and Washoe Counties there would be an average of 30,685 persons each which would be under by 4.15%. He said that in Assembly districts Mr. Marvel's district would be over .7%; Mr. Rhoads, over .9%; Nye, Esmeralda and Mineral Counties, over .3%; Churchill and Pershing Counties, over 1.6%; Storey and Lyon Counties plus 1,000 people from Churchill, over 1.6%; White Pine and Lincoln Counties, over 4%. He added that they made no attempt to district Clark, Washoe, Carson City or Douglas County.

Mr. Beck asked the committee to please take this proposal into consideration. He reminded the committee of the large areas that rural legislators must cover and asked that the rural counties be given some thought.

Mr. Glover said that the committee was well aware of the problems in the rural counties but reminded Mr. Beck of the political problems and physical space problems of the building, as well as the monetary problems.

Since there were no further comments, Mr. Glover adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Hatch
Secretary

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON.....ELECTIONS.....

Date MONDAY, MARCH 23 Time 3:00 p.m. Room 200

Bills or Resolutions
to be considered

Subject

Counsel
requested*

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF REAPPORTIONMENT

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.