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SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2002
3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
412 KNOTT BUILDING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:
KRISTEN L. BENTLEY
COURT REPORTER
Division of Administrative Hearings
DeSoto Building
1230 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida

1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
 2 CHAIRMAN JOHN F. LAURENT
 3 SENATOR LISA CARLTON
 4 SENATOR LEE CONSTANTINE
 5 SENATOR STEVEN A. GELLER
 6 SENATOR BETTY S. HOLZENDORF
 7 SENATOR JAMES E. KING, JR.
 8 SENATOR ALFRED LAWSON, JR.
 9 SENATOR TOM LEE
 10 SENATOR KENDRICK B. MEEK
 11 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.
 12 SENATOR KEN PRUITT
 13 SENATOR BURT L. SAUNDERS
 14 SENATOR ROD SMITH
 15 SENATOR J. ALEX VILLALOBOS
 16 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

17
 18 ALSO PRESENT:
 19 SENATOR BILL POSEY
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1 Senate District 5 which is Senator Smith's district and
 2 brought Senator -- and gave Senator Mitchell some
 3 additional voters that were in Senate District 5. I don't
 4 believe there is any significant changes to Senate
 5 District 6, 7 or 8.

6 The Volusia seat, we reduced the split from five
 7 Senate districts to four but this is still a majority of
 8 Volusia's Senate district. There were some significant
 9 changes in Senate Districts 16 and 17 -- 15 and 17. I
 10 can't see that that well. Is that focused? And that's the
 11 district between Senator Posey and Senator Futch to address
 12 some of their concerns. There was some significant
 13 differences on the west coast where the seat that's held by
 14 Senator McKay was brought down into Lee County which
 15 reflected the district, the type district that he was
 16 originally elected in and brought Senate District 23 which
 17 is Senator Carlton's district out of Lee County.

18 One of the major changes is in Palm Beach County. We
 19 had a lot of testimony from the folks in Palm Beach and a
 20 lot of the members had indicated that their primary concern
 21 was to have three Senate districts based in Palm Beach
 22 County and this plan has three districts which have a
 23 majority of their -- of the population located in Palm
 24 Beach County. There was not any significant changes in
 25 Dade County. There were some adjustments between Senator

1 PROCEEDINGS
 2 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Will the Legislative Senate
 3 Reapportionment Subcommittee on Legislative Apportionment
 4 and Redistricting please come to order. Will the
 5 administrative assistant please call the roll.
 6 (Whereupon, the roll was called.)
 7 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: There is a quorum present. We have
 8 one, two, three, four, five plans submitted as amendments
 9 to Senate Joint Resolution 580. The way I intend to handle
 10 this is to bring up plan S17S009 by myself. I'll explain
 11 the changes contained in that amendment and then we will
 12 take up the other plans as amendments to my amendment.
 13 If you go to -- if you look up at the screen, we made
 14 some changes in Senate Districts 1 and 2. We were trying
 15 to resolve an issue involving Bay County between Senator
 16 Clary, Senator Peaden, and Senator Lawson. We've not, I
 17 don't think, completely addressed their concerns but we do
 18 have a Senate district in Bay County right now which is
 19 right at 100,000 people which gives them the political
 20 muscle they were asking for.
 21 If you look at Senate District 3 and Senate District
 22 4, that is between Senator Lawson and Senator Mitchell,
 23 that was to address some concerns involving those two
 24 Senators in those districts, we've incorporated that.
 25 We've increased the portion of Putnam County that was in

1 Villalobos' district and Senator Garcia's. And those are
 2 pretty much the changes that we made to the map. Are there
 3 any questions from the members?

4 Is there going to be additional presentation?

5 First, why don't we take public input and then we'll
 6 do questions. I have three speaker's cards. And if
 7 anybody wishes to speak, they need to fill out a card. Roy
 8 Schleicher from Volusia Council of Governments.

9 MR. SCHLEICHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Roy
 10 Schleicher. I'm the executive director of VCOG, Inc. which
 11 is Volusia Council of Governments. And I'm here on behalf
 12 of the 16 cities in Volusia County government and thank you
 13 for the opportunity to be here this afternoon.

14 As you know, Volusia County had been divided into
 15 three Senate districts and now we're looking at proposals
 16 where it's divided into four and five. And I think simply
 17 put, we would of course prefer that it be a smaller number
 18 rather than a larger number.

19 The Senate districts that are shown on your map,
 20 Mr. Chair, which I believe is No. 9, which divides us into
 21 four but does give us one district that is something in the
 22 neighborhood of 53 percent of the population base --
 23 54 percent, thank you. And I can tell you that as we look
 24 at those, we find that to be the one that would certainly
 25 be most workable from our perspective.

1 We know everybody wants their own separate district.
2 And if you could do that, I'm sure you would. But we thank
3 you for the effort that you've made on that map that is
4 No. 9 and would tell you that that would be the one at this
5 point that we would certainly support. So thank you very
6 much.

7 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Thank you very much. Any
8 questions? Thank you very much.
9 James Ward representing Volusia County.

10 MR. WARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and members of the
11 committee. Thank you for your time. I'm Jim Ward. I'm
12 past chairman of Volusia County Council and still sit on
13 the Council. I'm here representing the position of the
14 Volusia County Council. We sent a letter out to every one
15 of you last week signed by Anne McFall, the chairman of the
16 County Council, that we would appreciate as near as you can
17 get to the three districts we currently have.

18 As Mr. Schleicher stated, the four is the best one and
19 your map No. 9 is the most acceptable to us. We would love
20 to see what we've got now to three Senate seats in the
21 Volusia County district if we could get it. But we
22 understand the position just going through our
23 redistricting that you have. But this would be the most
24 acceptable to us at this time. Like I said, we would
25 appreciate if you could get it down to three.

1 With some of the districts still represented, we
2 understand and appreciate some of the representation we've
3 got such as Senator King and those in our county now and we
4 appreciate that. We appreciate your time and we're just
5 here requesting you be as fair as you can and keep those
6 communities of interest intact. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Thank you. Jim Cameron
8 representing Daytona Beach Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

9 MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon. I'm Jim Cameron, vice
10 president with Daytona Beach Halifax Chamber here before
11 you today on behalf of Volusia County. And in reviewing
12 several of the plans we've seen that are before you, we've
13 had a concern with your previous Plan 5 in that it would
14 divide Volusia County up into five separate Senate
15 districts.

16 We understand that you have to take different growth
17 patterns into consideration. And, again, I'd like to add
18 that we think Leonard Zeiler here has done a fine job with
19 the computer drafts that he has made. But we would like
20 Volusia divided perhaps into more than three districts with
21 communities of like interest.

22 As previously said, your Plan 9 that you're
23 considering today, we see that as an improvement. We like
24 that more so. But still we would like perhaps more than
25 three Senate districts. We like some of the finer points

1 of Plan 10. But, again, we would appreciate your
2 consideration for Volusia County.

3 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Thank you very much. Todd
4 Bonlarron from Palm Beach County.

5 MR. BONLARRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is
6 Todd Bonlarron. I'm the Legislative Affairs director for
7 Palm Beach County. Again, I'd like to thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman, and the committee for allowing us to continue
9 testifying before these plans. And commenting on your Plan
10 No. 9, as you've indicated in your summary, what we have
11 been saying is that we would like in Palm Beach County at
12 least three seats that have a majority of their
13 constituency based in the county and we thank you for
14 listening to the comments of the many people that have come
15 up to Tallahassee to testify with that like message.

16 We thank you for working with us and for getting
17 towards a plan that has those three seats and we just hope
18 that we can continue working with you throughout the
19 process to make sure that we maintain a majority of those
20 seats in the county.

21 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Thank you very much. Any
22 questions? Wait one second, Todd. Senator Geller, you are
23 recognized for a question.

24 SENATOR GELLER: Thank you. Todd, you said something
25 today that I've heard for the first time when you said, "at

1 least three seats." What is the population in Palm Beach?

2 MR. BONLARRON: The population of Palm Beach County is
3 over 1.1 million.

4 SENATOR GELLER: Okay. It would be -- I've heard you
5 say before you'd like to see three seats. This is the
6 first I've heard you change it to at least three. You do
7 realize it's not completely impossible but almost
8 impossible to get four seats with a majority in Palm Beach
9 County certainly if you put one seat entirely within Palm
10 Beach that it becomes virtually impossible to do another
11 three with the majority. So when you say "at least three"
12 you do mean you'd like three seats in Palm Beach, right?

13 MR. BONLARRON: Well, we don't want to limit
14 ourselves. If you want to draw four seats in Palm Beach
15 County that have a majority of their population base in
16 there, we would accept that too. But from our county's
17 position, we've been wanting to see at least three of those
18 seats have a majority of their constituency based there
19 whether the number is six or seven. As far as total
20 Senators in there has not really been so much the issue as
21 just how many have been based in Palm Beach County with the
22 majority of the population there. Is that --

23 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: The Plan 9 does do that, but I will
24 tell you that it was not easy to get there.

25 MR. BONLARRON: We appreciate your work. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Any other public comment? Are
2 there any questions from the committee? Senator Geller.

3 SENATOR GELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to
4 have a couple of questions. Most of my questions I'll save
5 for full committee and I'll explain why in a moment. On
6 the three seats that have been drawn in Palm Beach County,
7 according to the computer Palm Beach County is 45 percent
8 registration Democrat. 35 percent registration Republican.
9 Is it accurate that two of the three Palm Beach seats would
10 be seats that are -- have Republican registration edges and
11 only one of the three is a Democratic registration edge
12 despite the 45, 35 registration in Palm Beach County?

13 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: The -- actually on the registration
14 of the three seats, I'm not sure. There are actually six
15 seats in Palm Beach County. Of the six seats, at least
16 Senator Pruitt has around 91,000 folks in Palm Beach County
17 who is a Republican. Senator Campbell who is a Democrat
18 has around 72,000. Senator Dawson who is a Democrat has
19 147,000, Senator Sanderson who is a Republican has around
20 220,000. Senator Rossin's seat which will be -- which I
21 think is a competitive seat now and would be a competitive
22 seat, has just over 200,000 in Palm Beach. And Senator
23 Klein who is a Democrat has 100 percent in Palm Beach.

24 I don't think it would be fair just to look at the --
25 those three seats. You also have to look at the balance of

1 the county because there is 250, almost 400,000 voters that
2 are in other Senate districts. And two of those districts
3 do contain a significant amount of Democrats.

4 SENATOR GELLER: Brief follow-up on that before I get
5 to my next question, Mr. Chair. My understanding, and I've
6 looked pretty closely at this as you know, Senator Rossin's
7 seat, while you say it is competitive, it actually has a
8 Republican performance majority.

9 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Well I was asked by the folks in
10 Palm Beach County to draw three seats. They didn't tell me
11 to draw three Democrat seats. They told me to draw three
12 seats.

13 SENATOR GELLER: Just asking a question. I had only
14 one last question, Mr. Chair, which is the same one I asked
15 on the Congress. We have pretty conclusively established
16 to the satisfaction of the entire world after our
17 presidential election that the state of Florida is 50/50 in
18 terms of voter performance. The way I have counted this
19 map, and, again, I looked pretty carefully. There are
20 probably 13 Democratic seats, probably 26 Republican seats,
21 and one seat where there is an incumbent Republican Senator
22 that's probably a toss-up but which, since there is an
23 incumbent there, will probably win. However you count it,
24 it's roughly two to one in terms of Republicans to
25 Democrats. Would you agree with that? And if so, do you

1 think that's really a fair breakdown?

2 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: No, I would not agree with that
3 assessment. One is you still have to have elections. Plan
4 No. 9, there are 21 seats that have a Republican majority
5 in registration. Nineteen districts that have a Democratic
6 majority in registration. And not only is there not 13 --
7 only 13 Democratic seats, there are 16 seats that the
8 Democrats have better than 10 percent advantage in
9 registration. And three other seats where they have an
10 advantage. But 16 seats where their advantage in
11 registration is better than 10 percent. We have to draw
12 plans, we still have to have elections, and --

13 SENATOR GELLER: You're looking, of course, at
14 registration and not performance, right?

15 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: That's correct. I'm basing, you
16 know, if you have a Democrat or Republican seat to some
17 extent it's based upon -- should be based upon -- it can be
18 based upon registration and the performance may vary from
19 that. But the performance also varies based upon
20 candidates and elections.

21 SENATOR GELLER: At the appropriate time, Mr. Chair,
22 I'd like to debate.

23 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Wasserman-Schultz.

24 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 I have two questions. Since all politics is local and

1 personal, I want to direct your attention to District 32.
2 And I just wanted to express my concern that currently
3 Senate District 32, which is the one that I represent, has
4 518,000 people in it. It's the biggest Senate district in
5 the state.

6 And under your proposed Senate District 32, which
7 looks drastically different than Senate District 32
8 currently looks, only 65,000 approximately of the people
9 that I currently represent would remain in the district.
10 And I know I've expressed that concern to you privately. I
11 haven't seen really any changes since I expressed that
12 concern to you and was wondering at some point if we might
13 move in the direction in which I would represent more of
14 the people that I currently represent. And then I have
15 another question, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: I've really tried to, and I think
17 most of the members in the Senate will say that we have --
18 I've tried to engage the members individually in reference
19 to their districts. And I'd be glad to work with you and
20 continue to work with you on what needs to be done in
21 Broward County.

22 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Just a quick follow-up and
23 I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman, and you've told me that
24 before and really have yet to see much movement in the
25 direction of my district including more of the people that

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1 I currently represent than it does in your proposed map.
2 So do you know at what point you might actually start
3 moving in that direction?
4 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: What I'd suggest is that you and I
5 get together with the reapportionment staff and we'll sit
6 down at the computer and try to work through the district.
7 Part of the problem is, and I found this in the past,
8 unless I do that, I'm working blind. I mean, if you
9 want -- I mean, I don't want to improve your district
10 without you being there telling me how to improve your
11 district.
12 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Oh, yeah. No, and I
13 appreciate it. And I'm happy to sit down with you. I can
14 give you a myriad of suggestions. And don't get me wrong,
15 this is not simply because I wish to represent more of the
16 people -- more of the people in the future than I do now in
17 this proposed map, we obviously have an expectation and the
18 people who we represent should have an expectation that
19 they shouldn't have a wholesale change after the
20 reapportionment process. I mean, I have to lose a lot of
21 people out of this district, so obviously about 118,000
22 people won't be represented by me anymore.
23 But to say that almost none of the people who I
24 represent now would continue to be represented by me would
25 be a little bit unfair to them in terms of them knowing who

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1 it is they should communicate with, who they should contact
2 with, who their state Senator is and keeping in touch with
3 their legislative Representative. So if you could help me
4 out with that, I'll do it in front of a computer, on top of
5 a computer, underneath one.
6 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: I'm serious, simply call in my
7 office and schedule a time and we'll sit down and do it.
8 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: And I just want to move to
9 another part of the state for one other question. And
10 thank you very much for your consideration, you have been
11 very accommodating.
12 In central Florida, if we could switch to that. It's
13 in the pictures in our booklet. None of these pictures
14 really focuses right on central Florida. But if you look
15 right around the area of Orange, Seminole, and Osceola
16 Counties, I'm sure you're aware there is large numbers of
17 Hispanics and African-Americans, registered voters in that
18 area that have moved to that area in the last number of
19 years. And from what I understand from the people in that
20 community, in those communities, it is possible to draw at
21 least one African-American district that would be about
22 37 percent African-American and a Hispanic district that
23 would achieve about a 32 percent Hispanic population.
24 And if it's possible to draw those districts within
25 the criteria that you're using, why haven't you made an

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1 effort to do that?
2 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: I believe of the plans that are
3 before us today, including yours and Senator Geller's and
4 Senator Holzendorf's, District Plan No. 9 does have a
5 district that has a larger number of African-Americans and
6 Hispanics contained in the district than any of the other
7 plans being proposed today.
8 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Follow-up, Mr. Chairman.
9 Yes, there is one district in which you combined both a
10 large number of Hispanics and a large number of
11 African-Americans in the same district yet it is possible
12 to achieve two separate districts, one that would be
13 considered a Hispanic access seat. One that would be
14 considered an African-American access seat is the seat that
15 Senator Dyer currently represents. I wonder why you chose
16 not to endeavor to do that.
17 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: I've not seen any plan or -- I
18 would be interested in seeing that map because I think that
19 would be a challenge to try to create two minority
20 districts in the Orange County area. And I've not seen any
21 plan that purported to do so.
22 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: While we're going over my
23 district, I can show you that one too.
24 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Saunders.
25 SENATOR SAUNDERS: Mr. Chairman, just a quick

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1 question. Looking at District 33 for a second. I'm
2 probably looking at this incorrectly, but when I turn to
3 the last page that has the numbers in each county, Collier,
4 Lee and Palm Beach Counties' add up to about 400,000 people
5 and then you have Broward in there with no population.
6 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: As difficult as it may be to
7 believe, that amount of land mass in Broward County does
8 not have a single person residing in it, that's the
9 Everglades.
10 Senator Constantine?
11 SENATOR CONSTANTINE: I don't want to belabor the
12 issue that Senator Wasserman-Schultz brought up in the
13 center part of the district but -- or center part of the
14 state but if she -- the three other plans that came up, it
15 actually dilutes tremendously the Hispanic population.
16 They are asking for an access seat. If you tried to do
17 that, you would have a very difficult time in Seminole and
18 Orange Counties to do that.
19 The primary western side or eastern side of that
20 District 13 is where most of the Hispanics live. And, in
21 fact, is a bulk of a House district that the House is
22 working on right now. The others are pockets that you
23 would have to have little -- if there is even
24 concentrations, that you would have to jettison -- I mean,
25 have little spokes coming out in all different directions

1 both for the African-American population which would go to
2 the northwest and all the way to the very top of Seminole
3 County. And for the Hispanic population, it is diverse
4 throughout Seminole County and the remainder of Orange
5 County. So I doubt very seriously if you would see
6 anything that would look contiguous or concentrated at all
7 to get to that level.

8 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Posey.

9 SENATOR POSEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want
10 to comment, of course, in the event the mousetrap gets
11 reinvented, I would have problems with you disenfranchising
12 my district the way some of these amendments have.

13 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Thank you. Any other questions or
14 comments on Plan 9? Senator Holzendorf, you are recognized
15 to present Plan S02S0010.

16 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: Mr. Chairman, could you
17 temporarily pass my amendment for right now?

18 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Okay. Senator Wasserman-Schultz,
19 you are recognized to present S32S008.

20 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 I'm sorry, let me get to that page so I can pretend I know
22 what I'm talking about.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendment that I have
24 filed, which is an entire state plan, is one that I
25 think -- well, for starters, in Senate District 32, I would

1 represent quite a bit more of the people -- that district
2 would include quite a bit more of the people than 09
3 currently does. It crafts districts that I believe are
4 more fair, that focus on communities of interest in quite a
5 bit of a better way than 09 does. But in talking with a
6 number of my colleagues, I think at this point we probably
7 need to do a little bit more work on this. So I'm going to
8 withdraw that amendment at this time.

9 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Thank you. Senator Geller, you are
10 recognized to explain your amendment.

11 SENATOR GELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Anyone that's
12 done a comparison between Senate bill 008 by Senator
13 Wasserman-Schultz and 007 by myself will find that they are
14 almost identical with some changes only in northeast
15 Florida.

16 As Senator Wasserman-Schultz indicated, I believe what
17 they do, again, in Palm Beach County which is a decidedly
18 Democratic county, they have two seats that are Democratic
19 Senate seats that are solidly within Palm Beach County, and
20 not 200,000 versus 199 or something like that, but which
21 are two solid Palm Beach based seats.

22 Candidly, there is a lot in Senate bill 007 that if I
23 were drafting it from the start I would have drafted it
24 differently. But I was trying to be cooperative and work
25 with you, Mr. Chairman, and Senator Webster, the big Chair,

1 and other members of Republican leadership. So there is
2 probably 15 or 20 seats on this map that are just cut and
3 paste from the way that you did it.

4 We have created a second seat in Polk County though,
5 that second seat goes to the south. Candidly, most of
6 these maps were drawn to your 006 bill and I would be happy
7 to spend a lot of time explaining why I think this is
8 better than your 006 bill. However, in your 009, which
9 unfortunately was not submitted until I already submitted
10 my 007 bill, you already made a lot of those changes.

11 One of the other big problems is when they updated my
12 FREDS computer on the day before I had to submit these, I
13 lost vast chunks of information. So when I submitted this
14 bill, I'm sure that was just an accident. Yeah, right.
15 (Laughter.)

16 When I submitted this bill, there were a number of --
17 I candidly didn't have the time in order to meet the
18 deadline to smooth out all of the variances that I would
19 have liked to have done. And candidly in attempting to
20 work with you, Mr. Chair, my next map, which I've already
21 prepared, is based on your 009 bill. So based on that, I
22 will, in a moment, be withdrawing this so that we can
23 continue to work.

24 But I did want to say something first and I guess I
25 can say it now or in debate on the bill, but since I'm

1 already talking -- I may be wrong here, I hope I'm not. I
2 have spent hundreds of hours working with you, Mr. Chair,
3 working with the big Chair, working with your staff,
4 working with other staff, Mr. Guthrie, et cetera, on maps.
5 I have done so in the belief that our extensive, extensive
6 negotiations that you and I have personally had and that
7 the other Democratic leadership has had with the other
8 Republican leadership -- I may be wrong and I hope I'm
9 not -- but I believe that we will ultimately reach an
10 agreement.

11 As of today, I will have to be voting against your
12 bill because we've not yet reached that agreement and most
13 of the changes that we've discussed have not yet been
14 incorporated into this bill. I have to thank you for my
15 personal district, you've given me whatever I've asked you
16 in my personal district. But in terms of the Senate map,
17 we've been negotiating in good faith. And I just hope when
18 push comes to shove at the end of the day, I have a strong
19 belief that we will be able to reach an agreement.

20 And I hope that you will show the flexibility and
21 other members of the Republican leadership will show the
22 flexibility that will enable us to have a map that at least
23 35 or hopefully 40 of the members in the Senate can vote
24 for in good conscience, that's one of the reasons I'm
25 withdrawing my bill, my amendment today. Because I'm

1 confident if you continue working with us in the spirit
2 that you've indicated that we will be able to reach that
3 agreement. I just regret that we have not yet been able to
4 incorporate that into the maps that are here. And I'm
5 hoping in debate that you will comment that you will agree
6 to continue to do this. And so at this point in time, Mr.
7 Chair, in the hope that we will have the opportunity to
8 work things out, I will withdraw my amendment.

9 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Yes, I intend to continue to work
10 with my colleagues, with you and the other Senate members
11 to try to come up to a plan that we can all agree on. But
12 what I want to emphasize to the members, I've tried to make
13 this into a member-driven process. And I've engaged
14 virtually every member in the Senate in trying to come up
15 with this plan. Sometimes members have different opinions
16 about what is good. And I've been -- and I've not gone in
17 with a map and just made huge or wholesale changes to
18 members' districts and say, This district is fine with me.
19 I like this district, without them saying, okay.

20 And there may be a member that covets another member's
21 territory or wants to give some of his territory to another
22 member. And in this process, that's not what happened
23 unless the members -- unless we can reach some agreement.
24 So when we do negotiating and we do do plans and maps, we
25 have to take into account we're talking about the Senate,

1 offered in the base bill was better than we ever saw in the
2 concluding bill.

3 Now, what you have before you from the Laurent bill to
4 my knowledge accommodates virtually -- I mean, there is
5 only one Senate district in the Democratic side that I know
6 has still had a person saying that they didn't want to live
7 with it or couldn't live with or didn't think it was as
8 well drawn as it could be and it's still a majority
9 Democratic seat. Virtually every one of the other people
10 I've talked to on the Democratic side that we tried to
11 accommodate has said, I like my seat. And we've gone
12 through the Palm Beach thing so many times. I mean, we've
13 drawn it every way that you could draw it without acquiring
14 another state.

15 But I'm beginning to wonder whether or not our
16 cooperation is ever going to be rewarded with anything
17 other than acquiescence and then finally saying, It's still
18 not enough. Now, you know, we've listened deliberately,
19 deliberately, and fairly to your concerns and we've gone
20 and drawn wiggles and squiggles. And I've gone in the map
21 room, I can almost memorize where lines were and where they
22 are. I have no idea how many maps that Senator Geller has
23 drawn but Rand McNally would be envious.

24 SENATOR GELLER: Will you send him a letter of
25 reference for me, sir?

1 the Senate as a body, and try not to just run roughshod
2 over members. Senator Posey.

3 SENATOR POSEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the
4 record. And Senator Wasserman-Schultz said, All politics
5 is local and you tend to take this thing personal. But I
6 didn't start out with a real great district and Holzendorf
7 has made it worse and Wasserman-Schultz has made it worse
8 and Geller has made it even worse. Just to share, the
9 pendulum swings both ways, I think we need to have that on
10 the record. (Laughter.) I'm sure it was unintended
11 consequences or computations.

12 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator King.

13 SENATOR KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just
14 basically a couple of comments. And I really do
15 congratulate you on having the patience of Job and the
16 ability to try to accommodate way above and beyond.
17 Because what I have been doing in the past two or three
18 weeks is sending folks who had problems to you and those
19 folks were then coming back and saying -- I said, Did you
20 get it worked -- Yes, it's all worked out and I'm happy
21 with my district and whatever.

22 Well, you know, at some point in time, you know, the
23 piper needs to be paid. We are at this point so much more
24 accommodating. And I know some of you weren't here in
25 1992, but damn it, I was -- dam it, I was. And what we

1 SENATOR KING: Yes. And I think what I'm saying here
2 is we've drawn it and we've done the best that we know how
3 at this particular point. And at some point we expect
4 those folks for whom we've drawn it to show a little bit of
5 appreciation and say, Okay, yes, this is a good district, I
6 like this district, I'm okay with this district.

7 Now I said two meetings ago, You are never going to be
8 able to draw a map that every Senator, Republican or
9 Democrat likes, that's impossible. You could not do that
10 if you wanted to. But we've tried to be accommodating and
11 we've tried to reward folks and say, Okay, we don't know
12 your district as well as you do. If you think you need
13 this suitcase city or whatever the thing is over here, we
14 can draw that in. If you think you want to represent
15 Bethune-Cookman because a black should represent
16 Bethune-Cookman, we'll draw that map so that we can have
17 the kind of representation that we needed or that you
18 wanted.

19 Now, Mr. Chairman, I congratulate you for doing more
20 than most would ever have tried and certainly more than was
21 ever attempted in 1992. And I'm not saying that
22 because it happened then it needs to happen that way again.
23 I still remember how poorly I felt to be so completely out
24 of the loop as it was drawn. But I'll tell you, there is
25 no -- there isn't any sneaky, underhanded plan that the

1 Republican Senate has tried to draw. There isn't anything
 2 that gives us a monstrous windfall.
 3 There isn't anything that shows one of your members or
 4 one of our members running against another member in the
 5 same district. We had that happen six times. So the point
 6 is, enough is probably enough. We've accommodated. If you
 7 don't like it, then don't (sic) vote against it -- then
 8 vote against it. But if you do like it, at least give us
 9 the credit for knowing that we tried to accommodate. Thank
 10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Villalobos.

12 SENATOR VILLALOBOS: Thank you. I just want to say
 13 actually I believe the Democrats draw some pretty good maps
 14 because back in 1992 when they drew them they were in
 15 control and as a result of their map drawing we're now in
 16 control. So I just wanted to say thank you and you guys
 17 did a great job.

18 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Holzendorf.

19 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And
 20 just to follow-up on Senator Villalobos, we just don't want
 21 to do the same thing to you. That's why we're offering
 22 better maps because we don't want you to come back and then
 23 we are in control with the maps that you have drawn.

24 Senator King, I simply want to say that I understand
 25 your frustration, but I was also here in 1992 and we voted

1 on maps many, many times. This is our first time having an
 2 opportunity to present an amendment and to attempt to vote
 3 on a map and I think that's something we owe to our
 4 constituency. It doesn't make any difference whether a
 5 black represents Bethune-Cookman College because it's a
 6 historical black college or a white represents the
 7 racetracks down in Daytona. We're willing to accommodate
 8 that and cut it out so we don't have those things to do.

9 But what we do need to look at is the representation
 10 of this state. Now I've worn out two pairs of glasses
 11 reading the testimony of the 24 meetings that was held
 12 around this state. I didn't attend them all because I had
 13 made up my mind, spoken to Senator Laurent that my concern
 14 was Senate District 2. And I work with Senator Laurent to
 15 get that Senate district into the shape that I thought
 16 would best represent the people in Senate District 2 whom I
 17 felt had some common interest. That in turn, however,
 18 messed up somebody else's district so now you've got to
 19 look at the other.

20 We were told and we have complied with the fact that
 21 if you draw an amendment to the map you have to draw the
 22 entire map. Now I'm not a map drawer, as Senator Geller
 23 is, but I am a Senator who has a responsibility before this
 24 body. And I did attempt very diligently to address those
 25 issues that was referenced in those hearings relative to

1 those citizens in the district that Senator Laurent drew
 2 for me and in the district that the others have drawn. I
 3 rode that district in the past four days. I talked to some
 4 people in that district. I know some people have come up
 5 here and said they don't want three or four Senators
 6 representing them in the Volusia County area.

7 But the area drawn in the map that would go into the
 8 Senate district that's tied to Duval County, those people
 9 in that area do want to be represented by a Senator of
 10 color, a minority Senator or black Senator, whatever you
 11 want to refer to us as.

12 So that's the kind of work that we all have to do if
 13 we're going to adjust to these districts. So no one is
 14 sitting up here attempting to do anything underhanded as a
 15 Democrat either. And I want to say, you have 25
 16 Republicans up here and 15 Democrats. So every map is
 17 going to show 25 Republicans and 15 Democratic seats. I
 18 mean that's a given, no one is going to give up those.

19 Now what happens, as those of us who are term limited
 20 out, we tend to be the ones that are focused on the most as
 21 to what the changes are going to be. I came into a Senate
 22 district where the number was changed and it ran 101 miles
 23 because I was not a Senator and the Senator in the district
 24 was leaving. I didn't like it when it was done to me and I
 25 don't want to do it to someone else.

1 So, you know, I enjoy the comments and the
 2 editorialization but we ought to be realistic about this.
 3 The Democrats drew seats they thought they could win.
 4 Republicans are now drawing seats they think they can win
 5 and that's a natural phenomenon.

6 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Meek.

7 SENATOR MEEK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want
 8 to make sure that since we're tearing up Bibles now, you
 9 know, in the Book of Genesis it says, In the beginning.
 10 And I just want to say that I hope you keep the patience of
 11 Jobe. I hope that we're not just saying this is an open
 12 process and then turn it around, look like you're walking
 13 around with some sort of weapon of saying that we need to
 14 start closing the door on this process. I know that you
 15 have gone back and forth with some members. And I heard
 16 some comments earlier about we and our leadership from the
 17 Democratic side.

18 We just need to make sure every member has great input
 19 in this process and I don't want it to -- I'm looking at
 20 the schedule here that says we have until the 22nd of this
 21 legislative session to move this. So I'm hoping we keep an
 22 open-door policy and that we continue to welcome proposals
 23 to make this plan better.

24 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Thank you. Senator Holzendorf --
 25 wait one second. Senator Lee, you're recognized.

1 SENATOR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I've heard
2 part of the discussion here. And as pieces of legislation
3 go, I've been pretty interested in the outcome of this
4 Senate map. And, you know, I just think it would be -- it
5 wouldn't be right for me to let this meeting go by and not
6 personally thank you for the extent to which you have gone
7 above and beyond in my opinion the call of duty to try to
8 address everyone's concerns individually with regard to
9 their district.

10 I have been surprised as someone that has not been
11 involved in reapportionment in the past that the forces
12 that come to play in the crafting of these Senate districts
13 in terms of individual member priorities. And the feedback
14 that I have gotten from most of the members individually
15 and I know there is a certain element of partisanship to
16 all of this, but when you talk to these members
17 individually, really with the exception of maybe one or two
18 members, everyone believes that -- everyone kind of marvels
19 at the ability to draw a map that essentially addresses the
20 issues that the members have raised with regard to their
21 district.

22 And knowing that some people have sort of waited until
23 very late to come to you after, you know, 20-some-odd
24 public hearings and months of drawing a map and, you know,
25 late in the process try to come in and suggest a brand new

1 way to skin the cat, and the fact that you've sort of
2 maintained your composure and all that, you're a better man
3 than I am. And I think constructive criticism is always
4 welcome in the Senate but I can't imagine you having done
5 more to react to the interests of the members and respond
6 to the testimony that we've had throughout the state than
7 what you have done.

8 And that doesn't come from me and my personal
9 observation. I've had my discussion with you about things
10 that were important to me. But that comes as a result of
11 individual member contact that I've had throughout this
12 Senate and the appreciation that members have expressed to
13 me as I've asked them how things were going with regard to
14 reapportionment from their personal perspective.

15 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Thank you very much. Senator
16 Pruitt.

17 SENATOR PRUITT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lennie, can
18 you go to District 26, please? Mr. Chairman, let me offer
19 my appreciation to you too. I have the fortunate
20 experience of living with Senator Laurent as well. And I
21 can tell you many late nights he's worked on this. And I
22 know personally from Palm Beach County's perspective giving
23 three seats, which you have done, and the discussion we've
24 had. I've got Hendry County now that I've never had
25 before. And you did that to accommodate District 33 so you

1 would have three predominant seats coming out of Palm Beach
2 County and I offer my congratulations to you for that.

3 This is a process of give and take. I know in terms
4 of your minority access districts and your protection of
5 those how you tried to accommodate every member. It's been
6 very open. You know, I don't want to relive the history of
7 1991 but I was there as well and I can well remember the
8 lack of access that we had and your door has always been
9 open, anytime any members -- you shared, not to give -- not
10 to embarrass you, but you have shared your frustration with
11 me at home in terms of members not coming to you and giving
12 their input to you.

13 But I want to say to you that the message that I would
14 hope, unlike the other body, but the message I would hope
15 this committee would give is one of unity to where we know
16 that perhaps this won't be the end product. But at the
17 same time, I've always been taught that glass is half full
18 and I would say, members, if you're satisfied with 75-plus
19 percent of your district in here -- well, 75 percent-plus
20 would mean you'd want to vote yes for this and obviously
21 there would be some tweaking to do. So my congratulations
22 to you, Mr. Chairman.

23 SENATOR GELLER: I just want to tell Senator Pruitt
24 that you'll love representing Hendry County. Be good to
25 those people.

1 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Holzendorf.

2 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: Are we on the 010 map now,
3 Senator?

4 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Yes, your map.

5 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: Okay. We're on the 010 map.
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Mr. Chairman, I too want to thank you for your access
8 to the process. But I also want to say that in public
9 testimony there were a lot of things that were said that's
10 not being said in the halls of these chambers. As someone
11 who is not going to have to run for one of these seats, I'm
12 going to look at what was being said and how we could come
13 up with a plan.

14 The plan that I have proposed is not that much
15 drastically different from the plan that you have but it
16 does take into consideration those areas that were
17 mentioned in those public hearings. It brings about some
18 responsible diversity in there and it really is a plan that
19 I think that the committee needs to look at.

20 I'm going to withdraw the plan because I will resubmit
21 a plan. I will resubmit a plan at the full hearing. But I
22 want to say that there are two things about this plan.
23 Number one, I kept the same numbers so that you would not
24 get confused with your districts as you tried to move about
25 it. And the second thing was to try to expand on the areas

1 that were there rather than trying to create new plans.
2 And the third thing is to look at the central Florida
3 area. And the plan that you've drawn and the plan that we
4 have here where we tried to keep as many Representatives,
5 Senators and Representatives to a county as they currently
6 have. So I want to withdraw the plan. But I just wanted
7 to say that we need to work on some of the things in the
8 plan that you have particularly in north Florida.

9 If you look at north Florida Senate District 4, those
10 are the counties that Senator Mitchell currently represents
11 other than going into Alachua County. And I think those
12 people are used to him and his representation. And I think
13 if we can do that we ought to do that.

14 If you look at my district, Senate District 2, which
15 goes into Daytona, you will see that it is not that much
16 different from the current Congressional district which has
17 performed well. So I think if you start -- if everyone
18 would stop concentrating on the partisan politics' issue
19 and look at the districts, you will see that this district
20 is -- this map is better planned. So with that,
21 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to withdraw the map and just say
22 that we will be forthcoming.

23 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Holzendorf, I would suggest
24 if you do another map, it does appear that in this plan
25 Senator Futch and Senator Posey are in the same district,

1 We've tried to look at the current district, who
2 represents who. We tried to maintain communities of
3 interest. We've looked at minority districts that have
4 been represented by their Senators and taken input in those
5 minority districts from their Senators. I do want to thank
6 everyone for their input and work on the plan.

7 Senator Meek?

8 SENATOR MEEK: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, and I
9 apologize. But there are several things that are going on
10 here and I'm trying to talk to another chairman back there
11 about a bill to get agendaed, we're trying to work on that.
12 But you mentioned the issue of the whole pairing issue in
13 the districts. I think there is a lack of information as
14 relates to having the precincts in the zip codes so we
15 don't run into that problem. And that can be made
16 available to everyone, I mean everyone even outside of the
17 districts where the members are not -- we're not putting
18 members in the same district.

19 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Excuse me, what information is it
20 that you want?

21 SENATOR MEEK: Let's just put it this way. Any
22 information that's dealing with zip codes, precincts for
23 future drawings so we don't have the kind of running in the
24 districts. I just want to make sure that that's made
25 available to not only members of this committee but, for

1 as Senator McKay and Senator Miller are, Senator Lee we're
2 not sure, he may be in the same district. And that Diaz de
3 la Portilla and Senator Villalobos are in the same district
4 and would appreciate -- and Constantine and Webster are in
5 the same district. So I would like you to tweak those
6 before you come back. Those are some significant issues.

7 Members, is there any other public -- we don't have
8 any other cards. I'm going to close on my amendment. I
9 don't want to belabor this point. But one of the reasons I
10 asked for this job and I wanted to do it was that I was
11 here in 1991 and I didn't want the process to go through
12 what we went through then. When we ended in 1991 I was put
13 in a district with another freshman Republican. I could
14 not drive out of my driveway and stay in my district. And
15 my district ran from southern Polk County to Tampa Bay.

16 But be that as -- that's ancient history and I've
17 tried to work with the membership so that this process was
18 more open and was not -- and we didn't go through what we
19 had to go through in 1991. But the members have access to
20 all the input from the public. We've tried to incorporate
21 the testimony in the transcripts of all the public
22 hearings. We've had correspondence on the web. And just
23 as important -- and I don't want to underestimate this, the
24 membership of the Senate has had input from their
25 constituents as to what they want in their districts.

1 instance --

2 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Okay --

3 SENATOR MEEK: -- other folks that want to --

4 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Let me show you something. Senator
5 Meek, what's your street address?

6 SENATOR MEEK: Can I come over and tell you? Some
7 people might like to have that information. I don't know.

8 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: I'll give you mine. 3041
9 Woodlawn Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32209.

10 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: I want to make sure everybody
11 understands we have this capability on FREDS.

12 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: We couldn't pull it up.

13 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: The zip?

14 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: 32209.

15 SENATOR MEEK: While we're doing this --

16 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: See that flashing light, that's
17 your house.

18 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: You tried to draw me out of the
19 district too, didn't you?

20 (Laughter.)

21 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: I want to make sure everybody
22 understands that capability is there. You can put any
23 street address with a zip code and it will show you where
24 it is on the map.

25 SENATOR MEEK: Mr. Chairman, follow-up. How do we get

1 a copy of everyone's address so that we don't -- that's
2 what I'm trying to say. How do we get a copy of everyone's
3 address so we don't draw Senator King out of his district?

4 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: To be honest with you, we don't
5 have everybody's address. Not everybody has wanted to give
6 us their address. But if you take their filings for
7 election, there should be -- they have to have their
8 residence registered with the Secretary of State's office
9 and that should be -- should be available on the Internet.

10 SENATOR MEEK: Okay. You just answered my question.
11 Okay. Very good. We just didn't want to -- you know, we
12 have a lot of love in the Senate and my good friend Senator
13 Villalobos, I love him, and I don't want him having to go
14 buy a new house and all of those things.

15 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Senator Wasserman-Schultz.

16 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 And I'm feeling the love too. And I mean this question in
18 the most affectionate way. Do you have plans to take this
19 map on the road, either between now and when it comes
20 before the full committee or after the full committee, once
21 it comes a product of the full committee to do public
22 hearings on the proposed map that eventually is voted out
23 of the reapportionment committee?

24 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: I'm not aware. I mean, that's
25 something I can talk to Senator Webster about. But I'm not

1 aware of any specific plans to take this on the road
2 between now and the full committee or now and the floor.

3 All right. We're closed on questions. I've already
4 closed on the bill and would ask the administrative
5 assistant to call the roll. Excuse me, show the amendment
6 adopted and then we'll vote on the bill as amended.

- 7 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Carlton.
- 8 SENATOR CARLTON: Yes.
- 9 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Constantine.
- 10 SENATOR CONSTANTINE: Yes.
- 11 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Geller.
- 12 SENATOR GELLER: No.
- 13 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Holzendorf.
- 14 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: No.
- 15 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator King.
- 16 SENATOR KING: Yes.
- 17 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Lawson.
- 18 SENATOR LAWSON: Yes.
- 19 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Lee.
- 20 SENATOR LEE: Yes.
- 21 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Meek.
- 22 SENATOR MEEK: No.
- 23 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Peaden.
- 24 SENATOR PEADEN: Yes.
- 25 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Pruitt.

- 1 SENATOR PRUITT: Yes.
- 2 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Saunders.
- 3 SENATOR SAUNDERS: Yes.
- 4 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Smith.
- 5 SENATOR SMITH: Yes.
- 6 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Villalobos.
- 7 SENATOR VILLALOBOS: Yes.
- 8 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Wasserman-Schultz.
- 9 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: No.
- 10 CHAIRMAN LAURENT: Please make this a committee
11 substitute. And by your vote the bill passes -- joint
12 resolution passes, excuse me. Unless there is any further
13 business, we stand adjourned.
14 (Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.)

1 CERTIFICATE
2 STATE OF FLORIDA:
3 COUNTY OF LEON:
4 I, KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, Court Reporter, certify that I
5 was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing
6 proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete
7 record of my stenographic notes.

8 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2002.

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