

10/11/01
SPEAKER
#2
BCC

MY NAME IS JACK MERKL.
I AM A REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
EXPLORING THE UNSEATING OF THE
HON. ROBERT WEXLER IN DISTRICT 19
OF ^{FLORIDA} ~~THE U.S. CONGRESS~~. REDISTRICTING
IS KEY TO THIS EFFORT.

ON SEPT 5, I PRESENTED A QUANTITATIVE
REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR SOUTH FLORIDA'S
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
TO THIS GROUP. I DO NOT PLAN TO
REPEAT THAT TODAY

INSTEAD I WISH TO SPEAK TO ~~THE~~ **(2)**

RELATED ISSUES:

- ① SHOULD THERE BE MORE PUBLIC HEARINGS
ONCE THE LEGISLATURE DRAWS PRELIMINARY
MAPS? — MY SUGGESTION IS NO!
- ② SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE ESTABLISH
CRITERIA TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE
MAPS — MY SUGGESTION IS YES!
- ① I OPPOSE MORE HEARINGS BECAUSE IT WOULD
PROLONG THE PROCESS AND DELAY ACTIVE
CAMPAINING. FURTHERMORE IT IS THE
LEGISLATURE'S JOB, ESPECIALLY THE REPUBLICAN
MAJORITY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DO THIS ~~JOB~~
REDISTRICTING
- ② SECOND I FAVOR THE USE / AND PUBLICATION

OF CRITERIA TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES
THIS WILL MAKE THE LEGISLATURES WORK MORE
TRANSPARENT AND THUS REDUCE COURT DELAYS

I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING FOUR
POINTS AS A FIRST DRAFT OF CRITERIA
FOR REDISTRICTING THE U.S. CONGRESS.
THEY ARE IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

1. MEET LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

SOME OF THESE ARE SIMPLE - LIKE ^{MAKING} ~~MAKING~~ ALL
DISTRICTS EQUAL IN POPULATION

OTHERS ARE MORE COMPLEX - LIKE ~~MAKING~~
MAXIMIZING MINORITY VOTER POWER AS
REQUIRED BY THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT

2. GIVE INCUMBENT REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN AN
ADVANTAGE OF LANDSLIDE PROPORTIONS OF
~~REGISTERED VOTERS~~ (THAT IS, A 10% POINT
ADVANTAGE IN EXPECTED VOTE RESULTS)

3. LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR REPUBLICAN
CHALLENGERS IN DEMOCRAT MAJORITY DISTRICTS
AND LAST

4. K.I.S. KEEP ^{AS} ~~IT~~ SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE - AVOID
DISTRICTS THAT JUMP OVER OTHER DIST. AND ADHERE
TO CITY AND PRECINCT LINES WHEREVER POSSIBLE

GOOD EVENING,

MY NAME IS FRANK PUMILIA. I AM A RESIDENT OF THE CITY OF MARGATE. FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS I SERVE AS CHIEF EXAMINER AND CHAIRMAN OF THEIR CIVIL SERVICE BOARD. IN THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME I SERVE AS THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MARGATE ASSOCIATION OF CONDOMINIUMS REPRESENTING ABOUT 12,500 RESIDENTS. FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS I SERVE AS THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COALITION OF FLORIDA CONDOMINIUMS ASSOCIATION. FROM 1991 TO 2000 I SERVED AS PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBER OF HOLIDAY SPRINGS CONDOMINIUMS 1 & 2. FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS I SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE MARGATE DEMOCRATIC CLUB. LAST YEAR I WAS ELECTED DEMOCRATIC AREA LEADER DISTRICT 3 WHICH INCLUDES THE CITIES OF MARGATE, COCONUT CREEK, DEERFIELD AND POMPANO.

THE PURPOSE OF MY APPEARANCE HERE THIS EVENING IS TO SPEAK TO THIS HEARING BOARD OF THE FOLLOWING:

THE LAWS OF OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY MANDATES THAT A CENSUS OF OUR POPULATION BE TAKEN EVERY DECADE TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANY POPULATION CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE IN ANY OF OUR CITIES, COUNTIES, AND OR STATES.

AS WE ALL KNOW, FEDERAL REVENUE ALLOCATED TO CITIES, COUNTIES, AND OR STATES IS ON A PER CAPITA BASIS.

THE OTHER VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR OF THE CENSUS IS THAT THE TOTAL POPULATION OF A STATE WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF CONGRESSIONAL SEATS THAT STATES WILL HAVE.

THE CITIES, COUNTIES AND STATES ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY POPULATION CHANGE, THEREFORE NEW LINES ARE DRAWN SO THAT EVERYONE RECEIVES EQUAL REPRESENTATION AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT THIS BOARD SHOULD BE DOING.

THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT METHODS OF DRAWING NEW LINES. ONE IS THE PROPER WAY. THE OTHER WOULD BE THE IMPROPER WAY. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A SCENARIO OF WHAT I AM ALLUDING TO.

THE PROPER WAY WOULD BE TO BASICALLY LEAVE THE LINES AS THEY PRESENTLY ARE DRAWN. IF A POPULATION CHANGE HAS BEEN DETERMINED, YOU WILL EITHER ADD TO, OR DEDUCT FROM THE PRESENT LINES. IN SO DOING YOU WILL LEAVE THE COMMUNITY PRETTY MUCH INTACT.

THIS IS THE ACCEPTABLE WAY.

THE IMPROPER WAY WOULD BE TO DISMANTLE THE PRESENT LINES AND MAKE CHANGES THAT WOULD SEPARATE THE COMMUNITY COMPLETELY. SOME COULD MISINTERPRET AS POLITICAL AND CALL IT GERRYMANDERING.

THIS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

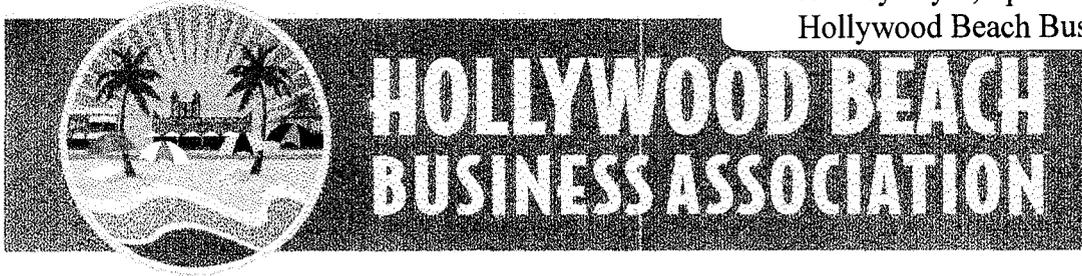
I WOULD FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT YOU DRAW THESE LINES IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND SHOW THEM TO US AS SOON AS THEY ARE DONE.

IN CLOSING - BECAUSE OF THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, WE AMERICANS, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION, HAVE CHANGED OUR WAY OF THINKING AND LIVING. WHAT SEEMED IMPORTANT BEFORE THIS TRAGEDY NOW SEEMS VERY UNIMPORTANT.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TODAY IS FOR OUR PRESIDENT TO SECURE PEACE FOR US, OUR FAMILIES, OUR FRIENDS, AND OUR NEIGHBORS THROUGH OUT THE WORLD. ALL AMERICANS MUST RALLY AROUND OUR PRESIDENT TO HELP HIM ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. YES, IT TOOK A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY TO RE-UNITE US. I BEG YOU- PLEASE -DO NOT DO ANYTHING TO JEOPARDIZE THIS.

THANK YOU.

Audrey Joynt, Speaker #33
Hollywood Beach Business Assoc.



309 CAROLINA STREET HOLLYWOOD, FL 33019

House Redistricting Committee
203 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Members of the House Redistricting Committee:

My name is Audrey Joynt and I am the President of the Hollywood Beach Business Association. I have lived in Hollywood for over 25 years. Our 100 members are all business owners and all of our businesses depend on tourism.

Some of our major concerns are environmental; beach erosion and beach renourishment. Our Representative, Eleanor Sobel, has done a fine job for tourism and for the business and residential beach community along A-1-A and we want to keep her there.

We would like to see District 100, Hollywood and Hallandale Beach kept whole. We're happy with our District. It encompasses our entire beach community of interests.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey Joynt".

Audrey Joynt, President

Lori Gold (speaker number 52)

1504 Washington Street, Hollywood FL

Good afternoon honorable committee chair and members. I am Lori Gold of Hollywood. Thank you for taking time away from your lives and families to meet with us on the redistricting issue.

Occurring once every 10 years, the redistricting process is a critical, integral cornerstone of our definition of democracy. Another critical attribute of our democracy is fairness. And fairness belies several principles that must be employed in the redistricting process:

- Frequency, timing, location and access to meetings – There are only 24 meetings being held across the entire state of Florida, of which 7 are at a time when working people can attend; In populous south Florida, a total of 5 meetings are scheduled for the four counties, and only one is accessible to working people. This is the one.
- A level playing field – We, the citizens of Florida who are the people to be served from this process, have not been treated to the “guiding principles” of this redistricting session. In other words, you, our elected officials, will be making decisions on the design, size, configuration, density and other factors of our representation, without giving us a clue as to the rhyme or reason behind the decisions. If our elected officials intend to make redistricting decisions that affect us – we the represented – then the credibility of the decision-making process depends upon the guiding principles used. If we are not “permitted”, in this democracy, to analyze the situation based upon a common set of “guiding principles”, then your credibility falls by the wayside.
- Review and input to the process – In the interest of fairness, credibility and democracy, we need, request, are entitled to and must be afforded an opportunity to review and provide input to redistricting decisions made on our behalf. Otherwise, the process would be less than fair, less than credible and less than democratic. In short, it would be a sham.
- Specific to the community, I urge you to serve the best interests of our communities – in Hollywood and elsewhere – in enabling district designs that are contiguous and compact, and that respects the needs and common interests of our respective communities. Specifically, leave district 100 (Rep. Sobel’s district) as it is; leave district 101 (Rep. Gottlieb’s district) alone, save the exception of the Miami-Dade county section that shares little in common with – but is overwhelmed by – the Broward portion. In the interest of configuring according to contiguous, compact districts of community interest, reconfiguration is needed for Congressional District 22, which currently spans 90 miles, across 3 counties, but is only 1 to 1 ½ miles wide. Likewise, state senate district 29 (Sen. Geller’s district) includes Collier and Hendry Counties, neither of which shares community interests with Broward County.

Stated positively, the recommendations are to have:

- More hearings, at accessible times and locations, to enable citizen input.
- Distribution of those guiding principles that applies throughout the state in the redistricting process.
- Citizen opportunity to review redistricting designs, and further opportunity to provide meaningful input thereafter.

- Ensure configuration that is contiguous, compact and respects communities of interest common to Broward communities, to ensure representation by officials who know us and understand our issues.

In closing, in this hour of horrific events that have attempted to challenge the ideologies of our democracy over the last few weeks ... even before the acrid memories of the last general election have faded, I appeal to your interests of fairness, credibility, democracy and bipartisanship in honoring these requests on behalf of the people of Broward.

*Respectfully submitted 10/1/01,
Lori Gold
1504 Washington Street, Hollywood FL*

Speaker #56

Joel Fass, Speaker #56

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joel Fass and I live at 2955 Luckie Road in Weston.

I have been a resident of the City of Weston for over ten years. I have watched the influx of people into what was originally part of unincorporated Broward County and, for the last several years, has been a City. I have also watched the growth of population along the entire I-75 corridor from Miramar to Sunrise. The neighborhoods that abut this corridor are populated by a culturally, racially and aged diverse population who have common concerns on issues such as education, health care, the environment and the economy. As a resident not only of the City of Weston but of Broward County, these concerns relate to both my City as well as my County.

I am disturbed at hearing that the proposed redistricting may result in all or part of my community being divided and attached to a district perhaps even in Palm Beach County. I do not believe that this makes any practical or rational sense and, accordingly, can only conclude that the drawing of lines in such a manner is a product solely of a political agenda.

I am appearing today to voice my objection to any gerrymandering at the expense of my community. Communities in other counties have completely different needs and interests and would be best served by representatives who understand and share their concerns. Similarly, we would best be served by representatives who understand and share our concerns. I urge you to protect our communities of interest and maintain the integrity of our communities, our cities and our county and I ask you to be

fair, honest and objective and to ensure that the citizens of Broward County are represented fairly regardless of party affiliation.

Thank you.

REDISTRICTING PROCESS FOR FLORIDA
October 1, 2001

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Joint Committee for Redistricting. My name is Marilyn Robinson. I live in Fort Lauderdale and I am president of The Older Women's League of SE Florida.

The members of our organization are deeply concerned that the redistricting in Florida be absolutely fair to all and that the gerrymandering of districts goes the way of the old R carpetbags into oblivion. We are also working in coalition with many other groups who share our concerns. We recognize that the final decision for redrawing political boundaries will influence public policy decisions over the next decade *and* that it is one of the most important duties of the State Legislature.

I join with others that are here today to urge you to adopt a set of guiding principles that incorporate the basic elements of fairness into the process of receiving public input, developing maps, and allowing for timely feedback from the public prior to final adoption of any plans.

We ask the following:

That a standard of fairness be adopted to insure that all new districts meet all legal and Constitutional requirements

That no plan be prepared or debated until after a full public debate of specific guidelines is held and guidelines are adopted and published

That the districts be as compact as possible and not split communities of interest and unnecessarily divide political subdivisions like counties, cities, and neighborhoods

That the population of each district be as nearly equal as possible

That the plan not attempt to "pack" minorities into a few districts thus reducing their influence in other districts that fragment minority communities by dividing them up and reducing their power base

That the Redistricting Plan be presented to the public and that hearings

be held *after* plans are released so that the public can react to actual proposals

That all legislative actions on redistricting and reapportionment take place at times and in locations that maximize citizen participation

That sufficient time be provided before any legislative action to allow the public to respond to all proposals that are to be considered at all legislative meetings, including committee meetings and floor votes

It is the people who live in communities that will be the best informed on what their community of interest is and how it will be affected by the lines that have been drawn. Fairness means that the public has the tools to review and understand the redistricting plans and can comment accordingly - and - in a timely manner.

Thank you for listening.

Good Evening: Roland A. Foulkes is my name.

I am a native Floridian, born and raised in Fort Lauderdale.

And currently live in un-incorporated, not yet annexed, Broward County: Where I have maintained residence since 1966.

Though I have lived and worked in over 50 nations, Fort Lauderdale has been my permanent / legal address for over forty years. My Congressional District is 23; State Senate District is 30; House of Representatives District, 94; and Precinct, 32 - Z.

I am an American of African descent. *My ancestors were slaves on this continent and in the Caribbean.*

A seventh (7th) generation Floridian on my mother's side. Long before Florida was a state. Both of her grandmother's, my great grandmother's, were non-reservation ~~Seminole~~ *Creek* ~~Indians~~ *Seminole (1770s)* Indians.

And I am a third (3rd) generation Floridian on my father's. His father, my grandfather, born in the Bahamas, is a recognized official pioneer of this Broward county. My Spanish-speaking paternal great grandfather arrived in the Bahamas from Honduras.

[PAUSE....LOOK ACROSS THE PODIUM]

I have served as a:

Legislative Page in the Florida Senate in Tallahassee.

**Legislative Staff Member in the United States Senate in
Washington, D.C.**

**Legislative Researcher and Staff Member in the United Nations
World Health Organization, in Geneva, Switzerland.**

**I am a Medical Anthropologist by training and a Political
Anthropologist by interest.**

**I am Founder, President and CEO of Global Solutions Unlimited
and Vice-Chair of the Multi-Ethnic Advisory Board to the Broward
County Commission.**

**So I am sensitive to, and aware of, the many issues that define
the political process --- of which re-districting is but one.**

[PAUSE....LOOK ACROSS THE PODIUM]

“Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits...by keeping abreast of the facts,” counseled King Solomon (Proverbs 24:3-4, *The Living Bible*, 1971)”.

Both “wisdom” --- knowing and doing what is right --- and “common sense” were his professional and personal goals (Proverbs 3:21-3).

From governing a far-flung 10th century B.C. kingdom, to constructing opulent palaces and a Great Temple. From commanding armies, caravans and shipping fleets, to mining copper and gold. From stewardship of billions of shekels in silver, ivory and gems received from such distant monarchs as the Queen of Sheba, to parlaying 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 lyrics into a publishing empire (1 Kings 4-10).

[PAUSE....LOOK ACROSS THE PODIUM]

“Common sense is,” regrettably, “not so common,” noted (Francois Marie Arouet de) Voltaire.

His *epa-na-lep-sis*, figure of speech, notwithstanding, *Webster's Dictionary* defines common sense as sound, prudent practical judgment that is independent of specialized knowledge, training or the like --- Normal native intelligence, if you will.

People with common sense tend to work problems out in real time by the application of simple reasoning.

Common sense was the "measure of the possible" for Swiss philosopher Henri Frederic Amiel (1852).

"All truth is, in the long run only common sense clarified, wrote Thomas Henry Huxley in his "Study of Biology" published in the 1893 edition of his *Collected Essays*.

To Disney's Michael Eisner, common sense is "the innate ability to stop, stand back, and ask, 'Does this make sense? Will it work?'" (he asked in a 1995 *Harvard Business Review* interview of CEOs).

It is “the place where intellect, intuition, integrity, and passion come together in application,” wrote Gary English in his 1998 book, *Phoenix Without Ashes*.

Philip K. Howard described it as the **“sunlight [that] shines high above us ...,”** that which **“is right and reasonable...not the parsing of legal language”** in *The Death of Common Sense* published in 1998).

[PAUSE....LOOK ACROSS THE PODIUM]

“Horse sense” is what my grandfather called *that* **applied native intelligence found in the mind’s deepest recesses.**

For me, **common sense is a storehouse of treasures hidden in the depths of that mind, an oracle, Socrates’ genius.**

[PAUSE....LOOK ACROSS THE PODIUM]

Similarly, wise planning, common sense and facts are necessary for the enterprise you, your colleagues, your constituents, my neighbors, are undertaking today:

Namely, the drawing of lines to establish legislative districts.

Districts that can be drawn --- regrettably --- in such a way that they discriminate against a voter's racial, ethnic, social, political, or economic group.

Some, such as Constitutional scholar, Alexander J. Bott, in his 1990 *Handbook of US Election Laws and Practices (Political Rights)*, call it gerrymandering, "the districting or redistricting that is discriminatory and operates to inflate unduly the political strength of one group and deflate that of another."

He adds: "The right to fair and effective representation is protected by a number of provisions of the U.S. Constitution, but the principal provision is the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

“On the question of reapportionment of state and local legislative districts, the Supreme Court uses the equal protection clause to insure that each legislator represents a district of constituents ‘as nearly of equal population as is practicable.’”

“Whether gerrymandering is practiced by a majority party against minorities, or incumbents against challengers, or factions within one party against factions in the same party,” he continues, “it dilutes the value of the right to fair and effective representation and robs ethno-cultural minority groups or opponents of political power.”

“Historically, the Supreme Court has addressed two main types of gerrymandering --- racial and political.”

Hopefully, in 2001, and throughout this decade, the citizens and leaders of this great state will witness neither racial nor political nor religious nor any other form of inequitable non-wise non-common sense, non-fact-based gerrymandering.

[PAUSE....LOOK ACROSS THE PODIUM]

I urge you to use, as did King Solomon, *wisdom, common sense* and the demographic and ethnographic *facts* that emerge from Census 2000 to do what is right. As you --- AS WE --- complete this process of re-mapping the legislative future of our great *and* overwhelmingly diverse state.

Speaking of diversity, King Solomon himself valued diversity. This son of an interethnic couple --- King David, the Jew and Bath-Sheba, Uriah the Hittite's wife --- married a Pharoah's daughter. He made 700 other women his queens, and cultivated 300 concubines from Moab, Edom, Sidon and other nations (1 Kings 11:1,3.)

As you re-create our legislative map

for the remainder of this decade,

as you look at it,

as you ponder it,

as you study it,

as you debate it,

as you vote on it,

as you approve it

I urge you to draw on “the innate ability given to each of you by your creator, “to stop, stand back, and ask,”

like Eisner,

‘Does this make sense?

Will it work?’”

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I urge you --- *IN CLOSING* --- to recall not only the wisdom, the common sense and the facts of King Solomon, but of Amiel, Huxley, Eisner, English and Howard. And, above all, that of the American revolutionary, Thomas Paine, who ended his brief yet powerful pamphlet, published in 1776, and aptly named *Common Sense*: With these words:

“Instead of gazing at each other,
with suspicious or doubtful curiosity,
let each of us hold out to his neighbor
the hearty hand of friendship, ... and unite,...”

Thank you. And May God guide and order your steps.

My name is Stephen Davis. I have been a resident of Hollywood, Fl. for 23 years. While I am currently Professor of Chemistry at Broward Community College, I have been involved in many community service related activities over these many years. For example, I was President of my local chapter of the American Chemical Society which has over 1000 members (mostly retired) in South Florida. More recently, I was President of my local Kiwanis club, The Kiwanis Club of Hollywood, where we were primarily focused on the well being of the children both here in this country a well as abroad. I am also a concerned citizen who is committed to preserving our environment as well as our quality of life in general.

To this end, I appear before you today. I live in Rep. Sobel's district. I have known the representative for many years. And while we have not always agreed on every issue, I can assure you that I have nothing but the highest respect and admiration for her. She is in public office for all of the right reasons...a selfless dedication to improving the quality of all of our lives. I ask and pray of you, ladies and gentlemen of legislature, that you preserve the present boundaries of Rep. Sobel's district. I know that many of her constituents feel the same way as I.

Well, I will finish my rather short presentation with a prayer for all of us in this trying time of danger and sadness for our nation. May God Bless America! Thank you for listening and best wishes to all of you.

ISADORE NACHIMSON

800 SW 137 Av
Apt G312
Pembroke Pines, Fl. 33027

Phone: 954-438-6093
FAX:
email: inachimsono@prodigy.net

Sunday, September 30, 2001

Committee on Redistricting
Broward Community College
Pembroke Pines, Fl.

Gentlemen:

I request that consideration be given to the makeup of our district. As a resident of Century Village, which has a population of 15000, our interest is on condo laws and senior citizen benefits. I believe we should be in a district with similar needs. Our present district 101 of the House of Representatives is one of such districts and wish to be as similar as the present distric.

Very truly yours:



Isadore Nachimson

801 S.W. 138th Avenue
Pembroke Pines, Fl. 33027
October 1,2001

Gentlemen:

I am sorry that I am not available for the meeting on redistricting today, however I will forward my message in writing. I am a resident of a condominium in south Broward surrounded by upscale private homes and expensive rental apartments. The result is that we have a nice mix of senior citizens and younger working familys with school age children, which provides for a lovely neighborhood with its' own needs. Most of these communities are gated and are maintained under "Condo Law" or "Homeowners Associations".

We are very fortunate to enjoy these conditions because our present district is well balanced with good schools, good transportation, and a low crime rate. These issues are the result of a very active State Representative who works diligently to maintain this way of life for his constiuents.

I therefore request that you keep us together as a district and a neighborhood represented by State Representative Ken Gottlieb. Thank you very much,

Repectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Durst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Durst