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REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 6, 2001 - 6:00 P.M.

WJCT-TV

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

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1 REPRESENTATIVE DON DAVIS
2 REPRESENTATIVE TERRY FIELDS
3 REPRESENTATIVE ANDY GARDINER
4 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HOGAN
5 REPRESENTATIVE ED JENNINGS
6 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER
7 REPRESENTATIVE DICK KRAVITZ
8 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN
9 REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS RICHARDSON
10 REPRESENTATIVE DOUG WILES
11 REPRESENTATIVE FEDERICA WILSON
12 REPRESENTATIVE DENISE E. LEE
13 REPRESENTATIVE LOIS FRANKEL
14 REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK BRUMMER
15 REPRESENTATIVE JOE PICKENS
16 REPRESENTATIVE RON GREENSTEIN
17 REPRESENTATIVE STAN JORDAN
18 REPRESENTATIVE AARON BEAN
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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
2 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER
3 SENATOR JOHN F. LAURENT, JR.
4 SENATOR GINNY BROWN-WAITE
5 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN
6 SENATOR MANDY DAWSON
7 SENATOR BETTY HOLZENDORF
8 SENATOR DARYL JONES
9 SENATOR RON KLEIN
10 SENATOR JIM KING
11 SENATOR JACK LATVALA
12 SENATOR KENDRICK MEEK
13 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN
14 SENATOR DEBBY SANDERSON
15 SENATOR ROD SMITH
16 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ
17 CHAIRMAN JOHNNIE BYRD
18 CHAIRMAN MARIO DIAZ-BALART
19 VICE CHAIRMAN SANDY MURMAN
20 CHAIRMAN BRUCE KYLE
21 CO-CHAIRMAN RANDY BALL
22 CO-CHAIRMAN LARRY CROW
23 REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS BAXLEY
24 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL
25 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK

1 PROCEEDINGS
2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Good evening. If the members
3 would take their places, we'll call the meeting to order.
4 Good evening. Good evening. Ladies and gentlemen, my name
5 is Johnnie Byrd. I'm a Representative of House District 62
6 and chairman of the Procedural and Redistricting Council in
7 the Florida House of Representatives. It's my pleasure to
8 welcome all of you today to this public hearing.
9 Representatives and Senators are here to listen to the
10 residents of this area and to consider your input in this
11 very important process.
12 Since these are joint meetings we've divided our
13 responsibilities throughout the many public hearings that
14 we will be holding around the state. This meeting will be
15 chaired by Senator Dan Webster. And it's my pleasure at
16 this time to introduce Senator Webster who is the chairman
17 of the Senate Redistricting Committee. Chairman Webster
18 will preside over today's public hearing. Senator Webster.
19 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my
20 pleasure also to welcome you to this one of many public
21 hearings that we will be holding around the state this
22 summer and fall. Let me first explain the procedure we
23 will be using throughout these public hearings. This is a
24 public hearing, the sole and only purpose of which is to
25 hear from the public on matters of redistricting.

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1 This is not a committee meeting. This is not a
 2 meeting where we'll be taking legislative action. Instead,
 3 it is the public forum where we have an opportunity to
 4 receive citizen input about their electoral districts.
 5 It's not time for legislative debate, those will come
 6 later. All the Representatives and Senators will have
 7 numerous opportunities in subsequent committee meetings and
 8 floor debates to address all the members' concerns and
 9 wishes.

10 Today, however, it is for our constituents. We must
 11 not diminish the voice of the people, taking up their
 12 valuable time with debate among the members. Following my
 13 brief remarks counsel will give a general overview of the
 14 legal considerations in redistricting and Senate staff will
 15 provide some specific information about census results in
 16 this region and in the state as a whole.

17 The rest is reserved for you, the citizens. Every ten
 18 years after the compilation of an updating of the national
 19 census the Constitution requires that the Florida
 20 Legislature redraw boundaries for districts in the House of
 21 Representatives, the Senate, and the United States
 22 Congress. The Legislature will take up this task beginning
 23 January 22nd, 2002 and ending March 22nd, 2002.

24 The districts that we draw will be used at the first
 25 election, general election, which will be September/October

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1 and November primary runoffs -- well, actually, won't be
 2 run-offs now for one time, primaries in September and
 3 general in November.

4 Redistricting is an essential element of our
 5 Representative democracy. We take this on with humility
 6 and due regard for the importance and difficulty of the
 7 job. We are also committed to the process, that it will be
 8 fair and open and inclusive. These public hearings
 9 represent a crucial first step in that process. We
 10 appreciate that we are -- we appreciate the fact that we
 11 are getting ready to do the work of the people. We want to
 12 hear from you and help you participate in a meaningful way.
 13 To encourage public hearing participation, Senate President
 14 John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney have scheduled at
 15 least 20 public hearings throughout the state.

16 All members of the Legislature redistricting
 17 committees as well as local delegation members have been
 18 invited to these public hearings. This hearing will be
 19 taped and shown live tonight. The House and Senate have
 20 designed web sites as a tool for public input and will
 21 broadcast select hearings on Florida's public television
 22 stations. The web address for the House and Senate
 23 legislative redistricting are available at the sign-up and
 24 information table. A link also will be available from the
 25 Florida Legislature's web site.

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1 The redistricting plan for the State, House, and
 2 Senate will be passed in the form of a joint resolution
 3 which will not be subject to the Governor's veto, however,
 4 will be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. The plan
 5 determining congressional districts will not be reviewed by
 6 the Supreme Court but will be subject to the Governor's
 7 approval or veto. I encourage everyone to carefully review
 8 the 2000 census. It is the essential building block of
 9 which Florida's redistricting plans will be built. The
 10 United States Census web site is available also at the
 11 sign-in table.

12 We are here to listen and consider your voice. We
 13 encourage each member of the public to testify and help us
 14 craft our legislative districts, your legislative
 15 districts. We also encourage written submissions in
 16 addition to the testimony during the public hearing.
 17 Everyone who wishes to speak must make sure that they fill
 18 out a speaker's card which are also available at the
 19 information table. This is the only way we will know who
 20 wishes to speak and after the hearing, who actually spoke.
 21 Speaker cards are available, like I said, at the sign-in
 22 table. And we will be taking people first come, first
 23 serve.

24 In addition, we want to hear everyone so we have
 25 committed to limit the testimony to four minutes for each

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1 person that signs up. On behalf of Senate President John
 2 McKay, House Speaker Tom Feeney and I, the members of the
 3 Florida Legislature, I look forward to working with all of
 4 you in this historic and important historic task. At this
 5 time, I recognize former Senator Jim Scott who served
 6 during the previous reapportionment process and is the
 7 Senate lead counsel on reapportionment and redistricting.
 8 Senator Scott.

9 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And as I
 10 indicated, I'm Jim Scott with the law firm of Tripp, Scott.
 11 I also have with me tonight my partner and president of our
 12 firm, Ed Pozzuoli. Some of the members may not know him
 13 yet. I'm here tonight with my colleague, Miguel DeGrandy,
 14 who is my counterpart House counsel. And pursuant to the
 15 protocol that we've established, I'll make a short
 16 presentation.

17 My job is to give the members and especially the
 18 members of the public an overview of the law regarding
 19 redistricting and reapportionment. This presentation is by
 20 no means a comprehensive or a complete review of all the
 21 legal issues which are quite complex but it's intended to
 22 give you a basic introduction to the principles that are
 23 involved in reapportionment. As you know, the legal
 24 requirement to reapportionment every ten years comes along
 25 after the census. And it's a constitutional requirement of

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1 both the Florida and the United States Constitution.
 2 Because Florida's population has increased over the
 3 last ten years, Florida will now have two additional
 4 members of the United States Congress, a total of 25
 5 instead of 23 that we have now had and the Legislature's
 6 job in that area will be to draw these 25 contiguous
 7 districts that cover the entire state and all of the people
 8 and voters.
 9 The Legislature will also need to divide the state
 10 Senate into 40 districts and the state House into 120
 11 districts. Although, of course, they may choose to reduce
 12 this number under the Constitution to as low as 30 Senators
 13 and 80 House members. But no one has proposed that in my
 14 experience in the past.
 15 (Laughter.)
 16 The Florida Constitution also requires that the state
 17 House and Senate districts be consecutively numbered and
 18 either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory. In
 19 Florida, as we've already discussed, the task of
 20 redistricting is entrusted to the State Legislature
 21 commencing with, as the chairman has announced, this public
 22 hearing throughout the state where all the citizens will be
 23 heard.
 24 After that, the committees will convene this fall and
 25 begin the process of redistricting. The session starts in

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1 January. It's moved up from the traditional start in
 2 March. If the regular session ends without a plan of
 3 redistricting, then the Governor reconvenes and there is a
 4 special session for up to 30 days. If that session ends
 5 without a plan, then the Attorney General goes to the
 6 Supreme Court to commence -- the Florida Supreme Court --
 7 to commence deliberations on the establishment of a
 8 redistricting plan. Within 60 days then the Court would
 9 redistrict in the event the Legislature was not able to do
 10 so.
 11 The Congressional plan, as I know the members know, is
 12 reviewed and subject to gubernatorial veto because it's a
 13 law that redistricts the United States Congress. However,
 14 the plans for the Legislature are not subject to
 15 gubernatorial veto. These go to the Florida Supreme Court
 16 for a determination. The Attorney General files a petition
 17 after a plan is enacted.
 18 If they find the plan is acceptable as is, then it
 19 goes forward. If not, it's sent back to the Legislature.
 20 If the Court finds something is wrong with it, that it
 21 doesn't meet some legal requirement, then the Governor then
 22 convenes the Legislature within five days and there's an
 23 extraordinary session to try to fix whatever the problems
 24 were.
 25 In adopting a redistricting or reapportionment plan

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1 the Legislature guided by factors including the principle
 2 of one person, one vote and the requirements of the Florida
 3 Constitution and the United States Constitution and federal
 4 statutes. I know you're familiar with the one person, one
 5 vote, the principle that was developed in several landmark
 6 cases in the 1960s which at that time the Legislature, for
 7 example, was apportioned -- well, every county I think had
 8 one Senator no matter if they had 5,000 people or 100,000
 9 people in the district. I think Dade County had the same
 10 number of Senators as perhaps Holmes or wherever. And
 11 these cases determined the one person, one vote and that's
 12 what we're basing all of the actions on now.
 13 The one person, one vote doesn't have to be as precise
 14 in the legislative side of the redistricting as it does in
 15 Congress. The cases have held that in Congress that you
 16 should go for as much as possible mathematical certainty or
 17 equality. They have allowed on occasion as much as a
 18 1 percent deviation. On the state legislative, however,
 19 under certain circumstances, you can have a larger, up to a
 20 10 percent deviation under certain circumstances. In
 21 Florida also and everywhere there's the Voter's Right Act
 22 and the Equal Protection clause, they're important elements
 23 in the legislative deliberations.
 24 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any
 25 practice or procedure including certain redistricting

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1 practices that impairs the ability of a minority community
 2 to elect candidates of choice on an equal basis with
 3 nonminority voters. Florida is also one of the states
 4 containing certain jurisdictions that are subject to review
 5 under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 of the
 6 Voting Rights Act which provides that jurisdictions -- a
 7 state that contains those jurisdictions must submit any
 8 proposed changes to the Justice Department and those
 9 changes have to be approved either by the District of
 10 Columbia Court or by the Attorney General. And this is
 11 known as a preclearance.
 12 And in Florida the covered counties are Collier,
 13 Hardy, Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe Counties. The vast
 14 majority of preclearance requests go to the Attorney
 15 General's office and that's what we would intend to do.
 16 And that is an additional time frame. So when the plan is
 17 completed, it's sent to the Justice Department along with
 18 all of our files and proceedings and then reviewed by them.
 19 The -- we bear -- the covered jurisdictions bear the
 20 burden of demonstrating the proposed voting change does not
 21 have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or
 22 abridging the right to vote on account of race or color or
 23 membership in any language minority group. And that's in
 24 Title 42 of the United States Code.
 25 In conclusion, the legal rules are somewhat

1 complicated. There's serious changes in the past ten years
2 and this is just a short presentation of the -- some of the
3 legal issues. And, Mr. Chairman, I with my House
4 colleague, Miguel DeGrandy, will be able to provide you
5 with any assistance that you need tonight or in the future.

6 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you, Senator Scott. Okay. At
7 this time, I'd like to recognize John Guthrie, staff
8 director for our technical portion of the Senate
9 redistricting who is our chief number cruncher. And,
10 Mr. Guthrie, you are recognized to give us information on
11 the census.

12 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you. Good evening, Chairman
13 Webster, Chairman Byrd, and members of the committee. To
14 provide a contextual framework for the public hearing in
15 Jacksonville tonight, I'm going to consider for the next
16 few minutes the 2000 census and its implications for
17 redistricting in Florida.

18 Florida, the first thing is undeniable -- and by the
19 way, we only have one screen for this Powerpoint. You can
20 either watch me or watch the screen but they put us on
21 opposite sides today.

22 The obvious conclusion is Florida is a growing state.
23 Between 1990 and 2000, Florida's total population increased
24 by more than 3 million people or 23.5 percent. In 1990 the
25 population was almost 13 million. By 2000 it was almost

1 16 million people. As a result of this significant growth
2 Florida's delegation in the United States House of
3 Representatives will increase by two to 25 starting with
4 the election in 2002.

5 The other major thing that we need to observe about
6 the census is that Florida's growth is not uniform.
7 Different areas experience different rates of population
8 growth. As an example, we had some very fast-growing
9 counties in Florida. Flagler grew by 73.6 percent.
10 Sumpter County grew by 68.9 percent. Collier County by
11 65.3 percent. Wakulla County by 61 percent. And Osceola
12 County by 60.1 percent.

13 On the other end of the spectrum, Monroe County, the
14 slowest-growing county in the state, grew by 2 percent in
15 the past decade while Pinellas and Putnam County grew by
16 8.2 percent and Gadsden County grew by 9.7 percent.

17 As Senator Scott mentioned, the Article I of the
18 United States Constitution provides for decennial census
19 for the express purpose of ensuring equal representation.
20 Congressional, Senate and House districts in Florida will
21 be adjusted based on the 2000 census. Districts that now
22 have substantially too many people will become smaller.
23 Districts that are substantially underpopulated will gain
24 territory. The biggest city in Florida, no surprise to
25 this crowd here I'm sure, is Jacksonville with 735,617

1 people. Jacksonville also has the largest land area of any
2 state in Florida.

3 But it is not the most dense town in Florida. The
4 community of Sweetwater in western Miami-Dade County is the
5 most densely populated. It has more than 15,000 people per
6 square mile. Pinellas County is the most densely populated
7 county with more than 1,300 people per square mile. And
8 Liberty County with just over seven people per square
9 mile -- Liberty County is in the Panhandle -- is the least
10 densely populated county in Florida.

11 Based on the 1990 census, the population per
12 congressional district in Florida was 562,519. Based on
13 the 2000 census this is going to increase by 14 percent to
14 639,295. Looking at House and Senate districts, the
15 average Senate district during the '90s or the beginning of
16 the '90s was just over 323,000. And the average House
17 district was almost 108,000. Based on the 2000 census,
18 these will both increase by 23.5 percent to almost 400,000
19 and 133,000 respectively.

20 The little chart here shows in a graphic form the
21 number of people per district in Florida both based on the
22 1990 census and the 2000 census. The striking observation
23 from this chart is that because Florida will pick up two
24 additional congressional seats the pressure or the number
25 of increase in constituents for each district

1 proportionately is growing much smaller for Congress than
2 it is for Senate and House districts.

3 This graphic shows for the northeast Florida region
4 areas that grew more quickly and areas that grew less
5 quickly. It shows the change in population density with
6 darker colors of blue indicating the areas where the
7 population density increased the most and the darker colors
8 of red indicating the areas with where the population
9 density decreased less than the state average.

10 So what we see from this chart is that the downtown
11 areas of Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Palatka, Gainesville
12 and Lake City grew below the state average whereas the
13 beaches and Ponte Vedra area southeast of Jacksonville, a
14 little bit north of Jacksonville, the Palm Coast area in
15 Flagler County, and the areas north and west of Gainesville
16 grew much more rapidly than the state average.

17 Because of these district growth patterns, the
18 districts will need to be adjusted in order to comply with
19 the one person one vote requirement that Senator Scott was
20 referring to. This graphic shows the same information
21 except instead of looking at density, this map shows the
22 percentage growth of population. So block groups or areas
23 that grew faster than the state average again are shown in
24 blue. Areas that grew slower than the state average are
25 shown in red. And what we see here is about the same -- is

1 about the same pattern.

2 The last thing I want to do is take a brief look at
3 the legislative districts in northeast Florida which are
4 currently in effect. There are five Congressional
5 districts that touch on this region. Congressional
6 District 6 presently has 116,000 more people than it will
7 need in order to be a -- to meet the average district size.
8 So that district is significantly overpopulated. Also,
9 Congressional District 4 has 95,000 too many people
10 presently.

11 Congressional District 2 has 39,000 too many people.
12 And Congressional District 3 has 50,000 -- 53,000 too few
13 people. So that's the outline for the current
14 Congressional districts in northeast Florida.

15 Turning to the Senate, we see a bit of a similar
16 pattern. Here again we have five districts in northeast
17 Florida. The Senate District 8 along the coast of
18 Jacksonville, St. Johns and Flagler Counties and going on
19 to Marion County, is significantly overpopulated by about
20 56,000 people. Congressional District 4 which includes
21 Fernandina Beach goes west to Tallahassee and south to
22 almost Citrus County is slightly overpopulated by about
23 88,000 people.

24 Districts 5 and 6 are very close to the required
25 population and Congressional District 2 about 69,000 people

1 short on population. Excuse me Congressional -- Senate
2 District 2, excuse me.

3 And again with House districts, we see the same
4 pattern again, with the coastal districts being
5 overpopulated, the downtown districts in Jacksonville and
6 Gainesville being underpopulated and the districts in
7 between being somewhere in between. And that, Chairman
8 Webster, concludes my presentation.

9 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie. Ladies and
10 gentlemen, as we stated earlier, I will be using the
11 speaker cards. If you filled one out, if you look in the
12 bottom right-hand side corner, there is a number. We said
13 we'd go first come, first serve. So we'll start with
14 Number 1 and go. So we have right now about three hours
15 worth of testimony signed up. So I would suggest the first
16 three, and then it will be Number 1, Number 2, Number 3,
17 and then Number 4, Number 5, Number 6 and so forth. If
18 you'll by threes come up so we're ready to go and I'll just
19 call on you by number. And we'll try to use most of the
20 time not for calling names or getting people out of the
21 crowd but to actually take testimony.

22 Number 1, you're recognized.

23 MR. ADKINS: Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time
24 today. Chairman Byrd, it's nice to see you again. Also
25 nice to see our friend Senator King and our own hometown

1 Representative, Aaron Bean. My name is Doug Adkins. I am
2 here in my capacity as chairman of the Nassau County
3 Republican ad hoc committee on redistricting and
4 reapportionment.

5 Our county chairman Jim Adams had asked that we set
6 this committee up. It's composed of about 16 members of
7 our local Republican executive committee. Our purpose was
8 to examine redistricting and have a look at its impact for
9 Nassau County.

10 As you heard in your presentation earlier, growth is
11 going to be a big theme. Well Nassau County is in the
12 throes of growth. In fact, growth is overtaking our county
13 by leaps and bounds. And in the not-too-distant future,
14 Nassau County will become a county confronted with major
15 issues that now affect other Florida counties.

16 I'd like to today bring you up to date as to where our
17 committee's work is in progress. We're not prepared to
18 make any recommendations today because we have not
19 completed our work but we are prepared to identify some of
20 the issues that we do expect to affect Nassau County.

21 I'd like to start with the Florida House of
22 Representatives. The Florida House represented by our own
23 Aaron Bean has historically been a rural district. We have
24 common interests through the agricultural areas and the
25 tourism in the large geographic area that surrounds House

1 District 12 and we feel like these areas have been
2 effectively represented by the current configuration.

3 The Florida Senate, however, appears to be more of a
4 controversial issue within our county. Clearly there are
5 issues that confront us in that our current configuration
6 of the Senate district is very, very large. That clearly
7 becomes a theme that affects how we would choose to be
8 represented in the future.

9 The Florida Senate, there is essentially two
10 discussions going on. One talks about splitting the county
11 in two, the east side and west side. Another discussion is
12 about keeping Nassau County as one whole, as part of a
13 north Florida rural Senate district. I think that's going
14 to be a very contentious issue and hopefully we'll come
15 forward with some reasonable recommendations.

16 The United States Congress is also very important to
17 us. Historically Nassau County has been represented by one
18 United States congressman. We believe that there are some
19 common issues that join our county together and creates
20 some common interest with our friends to the south.
21 Nassau, believe it or not, 56 percent of the people that
22 live in Nassau County work outside of Nassau so therefore
23 Nassau County has become a growing residential
24 neighborhood.

25 The issues in Nassau County that I think you will have

1 to take up as time goes on are this. Single district
2 versus multi-district representation. East side versus
3 west side issues. Clearly in Nassau we have two emerging
4 populations, one on the east side and one on the west side.
5 They don't always agree. Clearly this is a point of
6 contention for us as we embark on many, many issues.

7 Coastal issues, clearly we have a large coastal region
8 alone that borders our county that deserves and needs
9 attention. Agriculture issues, Nassau County is a large
10 timber area, has lots of agriculture interest throughout
11 the county.

12 Infrastructure, Nassau County is growing by leaps and
13 bounds by 30 percent according to the last census count.
14 We are now at 57,000 people. The county is already facing
15 financial hardship due to the rapid growth throughout the
16 county. Clearly restructuring how we finance public
17 services will become a growing issue.

18 Environmental issues due to the presence of marshes
19 and ecosystems that are sensitive and important to the
20 people in the community. Education, as a fast-growing
21 county, funding education is going to become a growing
22 priority for us. Economic development is another that we
23 discussed. Already residential housing developments are
24 being planned for what was once called the rural west side
25 of the county. So clearly economic development is a major

1 in Jacksonville for 54 years. So you might say I've seen
2 the good and the bad of our community.

3 As a union steward, I've also heard the views of
4 others and generally those of us in the African-American
5 community have often felt left out. And recently in the
6 2000 election, disenfranchised. It is critical that our
7 voices be heard and that the special bonds and interests of
8 our community be recognized.

9 The 1982 redistricting gave African-Americans a voice
10 in the creation of Congressional District 3. While the
11 shape of the district is not pretty, it's north, south
12 squiggly, manages to bring together a community of
13 interests. The majority of voters in Congressional
14 District 3 not only have race in common but also churches,
15 universities, schools, experiences and families.

16 These communities of interest are no less important
17 than those found at the beaches or Avondale. Congressional
18 District 3 makes sense to those who lives within its
19 boundaries. And we are very proud of our Congresswoman
20 Corrine Brown.

21 Congresswoman Brown is of our community. She knows
22 the people, she knows our interest and she has been a true
23 Representative. That's why we keep getting -- she keep
24 getting reelected. And that's why I urge you to keep
25 Congressional District 3 along the same lines as presently

1 issue along with the A1-A corridor that joins west Nassau
2 and the growing Amelia Island.

3 Tourism is finally probably one of our biggest issues
4 in Nassau County. It's a growing interest in Nassau County
5 that needs to be addressed because Nassau County has Amelia
6 Island. And those of you who have been to Amelia Island
7 I'm sure will agree, Amelia Island is clearly a Florida
8 gem.

9 I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak
10 with you today. We look forward to bringing back to you
11 some solid recommendations as to where we believe Nassau
12 County should fit into the Florida redistricting process.
13 And we thank you for coming to Jacksonville and thank you
14 for your time today.

15 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. I want to
16 remind members that we will have an opportunity for them to
17 ask questions and make statements at the end starting with
18 the delegation and then others who would like to make
19 comments.

20 Number 2. If you would come up maybe as they are
21 finishing up, that would be good, Number 3.

22 MS. McQUEEN: Good evening. My name is Luella McQueen
23 and I reside at 6918 Cocktail Circle in Jacksonville,
24 32208. I work at Shands Jacksonville Hospital and have 28
25 years of service. And despite my girlish face, I've lived

1 drawn. Thank you.

2 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Third
3 speaker.

4 MR. NEIMEISER: Mr. Chairman, I waive my time, Mark
5 Neimeiser.

6 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 4.

7 MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, rest of the committee.
8 I'm Reverend Jackson, St. Augustine. And I do want to say
9 that although you're in Jacksonville, I used to be from
10 here and I want to say that I want to speak about St. Johns
11 County and some of the things that we need there which is
12 economic development on the west side as well as housing
13 and our septic and our streets are deplorable. And I'm
14 also president of a group in St. Augustine that deals with
15 trying to reset and refocus on the mind-set of the people
16 there to try to help drive out crime. And I must say that
17 there's been a lot of improvement in the area since
18 Congresswoman Brown has been in there. And we need her
19 continued support because no one ever done it before in
20 that area.

21 Even as I speak in that area, she was down there, one
22 of the projects there don't even have screened doors with
23 mosquitoes out there killing people. The tenant (sic)
24 there won't let the people put in ceiling fans. And how
25 can you keep flies and mosquitoes out if there is no

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1 screened doors? So these are the things that we're talking
 2 about and the septic tanks.

3 But I must say that there's never been a time that I
 4 called on her or her staff that they wasn't responsive and
 5 that is the reason that I am here today is because I want
 6 you to consider everything that I am saying and I know
 7 you've heard about it and I wish you would come and visit.
 8 I see Mr. Wiles there and he knows about that side where my
 9 church is located and we need your support as well as your
 10 finances. If you'll give me \$15 million today, I don't
 11 think I could fix it but I sure could patch it. Thank you.

12 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 6.
 13 Sixth appearance.

14 MS. HAWKINS REED: Number 5. Thank you very much,
 15 Mr. Chairman -- Mr. Chairmans. Members of both committees.
 16 My name Karen Hawkins Reed. I'm with the League of Women
 17 Voters for Jacksonville First Coast. The League of Women
 18 Voters Jacksonville First Coast covers four counties, Clay,
 19 Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns, which represents a
 20 significant proportion of Florida's population.

21 We would like to thank the leadership on
 22 reapportionment for extending opportunities for public
 23 comment across the state of Florida. These district
 24 groupings represent the cornerstone of our Representative
 25 democracy. It is only fitting that the public have

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1 significant input into the process.

2 In the past reapportionment has taken place behind
 3 closed doors, in closed rooms with little input by the
 4 citizenry. Incumbent legislators monitored the process to
 5 make sure that their districts guaranteed their reelection.
 6 This political gamesmanship resulted in what is known as
 7 gerrymandering. It resulted in ridiculous looking
 8 districts that broke up communities solely for the benefit
 9 of incumbent legislators and the political party in power.

10 Therefore, the process that's going on now, the
 11 process of these 20 regional meetings designed to gather
 12 public comment on a fair, equitable reapportionment process
 13 is hardly welcomed. The League of Women Voters Florida
 14 believes that the reapportionment process needs to be open
 15 and accessible as possible to both the public and to the
 16 press. We'd like to extend our appreciation to WJCT for
 17 helping make this possible in Jacksonville.

18 In addition to these public hearings, we believe
 19 additional steps should include: Sufficient time between
 20 what is known as markup sessions should be created so the
 21 public can examine any amendments and provide testimony.
 22 And each committee chair should hold at least two workshops
 23 or markup sessions available to the public at least 14 days
 24 prior to full committee action.

25 In addition, a policy should be adapted giving

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1 legislative members sufficient time to prepare amendments
 2 to the committee product and sufficient time for the public
 3 to analyze the maps and amendments before a final vote is
 4 taken. I saw you have that schedule. I see that there is
 5 the session for public hearings which is marked in green,
 6 thank you very much.

7 In addition to these recommendations on
 8 reapportionment processes, the League of Women Voters
 9 strongly recommends the following fair redistricting
 10 standards: The districts should be drawn as equal in
 11 population as possible. The district lines should be drawn
 12 to form districts that are compact, composed of contiguous
 13 territory. The districts should be drawn as to not dilute
 14 the voting strength of any racial, ethnic or language
 15 minority group.

16 The districts should not be drawn to favor any person
 17 or political party. The districts should be single-member
 18 districts including 25 Congressional districts, 40 state
 19 Senate districts and 120 state House districts.

20 In conclusion, the League of Women Voters is a
 21 participant of people over politics. It's a coalition to
 22 introduce two constitutional amendments on reapportionment
 23 to a statewide vote.

24 The first amendment would create an independent
 25 citizen-based reapportionment commission to draw the

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1 Congressional legislative district lines. And the second
 2 amendment will create fair standards to guide the
 3 commission as it draws the districts. We've included these
 4 fair standards in our recommendations to you tonight.

5 Once again, the League of Women Voters Jacksonville
 6 First Coast highly congratulates you for organizing these
 7 public hearings and we'd like to extend our appreciation to
 8 WJCT for helping sponsor the hearing in Jacksonville
 9 tonight. I also have a written statement. Should I just
 10 leave that here?

11 SENATOR WEBSTER: Yes. Thank you for appearing.
 12 Number 6.

13 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Mr. Chairman, can I ask
 14 the lady a quick question?

15 SENATOR WEBSTER: I don't see how we can.

16 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: She testified on the
 17 League's position. I just wanted to ask her a quick
 18 question about the League's position.

19 SENATOR WEBSTER: We need to go on. We have lots and
 20 lots of people to testify.

21 MS. HAWKINS REED: On the copy here is our E-mail
 22 address.

23 MS. THOMPSON: Members of the committee, good evening
 24 and welcome to Jacksonville. I'm Deborah Thompson with the
 25 First Coast African-American Chamber of Commerce. The city

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1 of Jacksonville owes a great deal to our community
 2 leadership, particularly those who have helped create the
 3 political and legal environment in which our businesses can
 4 flourish, creating jobs and employment and economic
 5 opportunity for thousands in this region.
 6 Two particular initiatives deserve special attention
 7 because they have borne (sic) on the redistricting task
 8 that you have ahead of you. The first initiative is a
 9 better Jacksonville plan. It has resulted in
 10 identification of small minority and women owned businesses
 11 in the Jacksonville area for whom we have conducted
 12 workshops and facilitated economic development partnerships
 13 with other's enterprises throughout the region particularly
 14 in the area of Orlando.
 15 The second initiative has been the effort to pair
 16 businesses from Jacksonville and Orlando to submit and win
 17 competitive bids from the Army Corps of Engineers as it
 18 brinks on the restoration of the Everglades. The
 19 partnering between Jacksonville and Orlando has resulted in
 20 numerous business opportunities for the people in
 21 Jacksonville. These initiatives would not have been
 22 possible were it not for the fact that Orlando and
 23 Jacksonville are linked in the same Congressional district.
 24 Because both cities are represented by the same
 25 Congresswoman, Corrine Brown, we have been able to bring

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1 people together, attract grants at the federal level and
 2 build a regional network that has helped our region gain
 3 the tools that it needs to prosper economically.
 4 A case in point is the League of Cities' workshop that
 5 was handled some years ago was a workshop where over 1,000
 6 people attended. That resulted in the Cops Program being
 7 brought to the areas in the Third Congressional District.
 8 Many sheriffs and community police departments have
 9 benefitted from that program.
 10 As a result, a strong commercial tie has been
 11 developed between Jacksonville and Orlando. The two
 12 communities become commercially intertwined. Our interests
 13 are their interests. Issues important to them are also
 14 important to us. This partnership is well served by having
 15 the two communities represented by one member of Congress.
 16 By sharing a Congressional district and by knowing that the
 17 interests of our two cities are closely intertwined and
 18 signed we continue to build economic partnerships for the
 19 betterment of both communities and all of the state of
 20 Florida.
 21 For that reason I ask you to maintain Orlando as a
 22 part of the district represented by Representative Brown
 23 and I ask you to refrain from drawing any district that
 24 would disrupt this synergy. Do not break our community
 25 apart and deprive us of the leadership that we have gained

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1 together. Thank you for your time. And I also have a copy
 2 to give.
 3 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 7.
 4 SENATOR DAWSON: Mr. Chairman, is it your wish that
 5 the Senators and the House members not ask questions at
 6 this time? Should we hold them for later and should we
 7 perhaps get the number so we'll remember the question the
 8 person we may have a question with?
 9 SENATOR WEBSTER: I think that will be okay. But I
 10 think the time here is best spent hearing the public. Once
 11 we've heard the public we're going to have plans, we're
 12 going to publish them. We're going to have an opportunity
 13 for everyone to have input on this but we don't even have
 14 any plans before us.
 15 And I think the time spent now as opposed to the way
 16 it was before when we spent most of our time asking
 17 questions among the members 10 years ago and 20 years ago,
 18 I've set out on a course to say let's listen to as many
 19 people as we possibly can and then we'll have plenty of
 20 time in the fall later on even to talk about our plans,
 21 what they look like, and how they match up with the
 22 testimony and even calling people and asking them to come
 23 back and talk about what we did.
 24 SENATOR DAWSON: But therefore, Mr. Chairman, you
 25 would rather that we not ask the question at this time.

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1 However we will be able to get the number of the individual
 2 and perhaps at the end of the forum if we refer back to
 3 that question that we may have. Is that appropriate for
 4 you?
 5 SENATOR WEBSTER: Or talk to them afterwards, yes.
 6 SENATOR DAWSON: Thank you.
 7 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 8.
 8 MR. ARGRETT: Mr. Chairman, committee, my name is
 9 James Argrett. I live in Jacksonville but I work in
 10 St. Johns County. I would just like to kind of show you
 11 how the current district with which Congresswoman Brown
 12 represents. We're a number of minority communities
 13 together from Jacksonville to Orlando.
 14 And the point I want to make here, the district is
 15 compact. It is underpopulated. And I would suggest that
 16 as you try -- as you bring the population up, that you
 17 don't destroy the integrity or relationship of the minority
 18 communities, African-American communities, Hispanic
 19 communities in that district because we're trying to get
 20 some things done right now and I'll be very specific to
 21 St. Johns County.
 22 In St. Johns County we have an area that three of the
 23 speakers have formerly spoken about. It is deplorable.
 24 And I would suggest to you if you'd like to come down,
 25 please come down and see for yourself. But that's not the

1 point I want to make. The point I want to make is that
2 based on what's happening in Jacksonville, what's happening
3 in Orlando, you have some counties in between that are
4 really trying to do some things.

5 For example, in St. Johns County we embarked in the
6 last three years on what's called the west Augustine
7 community. And in the west Augustine community as we speak
8 there are houses without sewer lines. There is a sewer
9 line which runs through the area. And at one end of it
10 there are two schools.

11 The line passes by many houses and those houses are
12 not hooked up to it. There are unpaved streets, plotted
13 but unpaved streets. There is standing water. Luckily no
14 mosquitoes because the County does a good job of spraying
15 but we worry about mosquitoes. We have water -- water
16 comes from two sources, from wells or the City provides
17 water. And there is water now for about -- of those two
18 types to about half the homes. But the majority of the
19 homes don't have any sanitary sewer and are on septic
20 tanks.

21 So we've embarked on what we call a community
22 redevelopment in our area set up about the state Statute
23 163 and it has three components; black, black influences,
24 affordable housing, community policing, and we've added
25 another one, economic development.

1 And we added economic development because it is
2 impossible to put anyone in a house, home ownership or
3 rental if they don't have a job. So one of the problems we
4 have in the west St. Augustine area is unemployment.
5 Unemployment and under-employment. There is no such thing
6 as over-employment in the area I'm talking about.

7 We also have an abundance of a black influence --

8 SENATOR WEBSTER: Can you finish up in ten seconds?

9 MR. ARGRETT: Meaning lots of -- okay. I thank you
10 for your time and I've got more to say but I'll have to
11 talk to you later. Thank you.

12 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 9.

13 MR. MULDREW: Mr. Chairman, and your other leaders, I
14 certainly appreciate this time. My name is Samuel James
15 Muldrew, 5909 Scott Street. And I'm here to say for the
16 veterans that what Ms. Corrine Brown -- Representative
17 Brown rather -- has done for me and others. And I think
18 that should be considered because I want to tell you she
19 have certainly done a job for me and I know that she have
20 done a job for others.

21 And I might mention just a few of these things that
22 she have done for me, that is the Purple Heart and French
23 Community Award and also the French government award. And
24 I want you to know I certainly appreciate what she has done
25 and what she done for the other veterans. And I think all

1 of us if you have one time written to the government about
2 a -- any kind of a situation, they will say your record
3 might have gotten burned up in the St. Louis file. But
4 anyway, she have done great things for me and for others
5 and I want to thank you, Ms. Brown. You've done a
6 beautiful job and thank you so much for listening.

7 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 10. Number 11.

8 MR. BROWN: Good evening, Chairman, and
9 Representatives. I'm Bill Brown. I'm representing the
10 African-American Chamber of Commerce. My concern is that
11 the plans indicated you're going to have a reduction in the
12 city of Jacksonville. We've had a very successful effort
13 in building the business community in the Jacksonville
14 area, primarily in the African-American community. We hope
15 the deduction in population is not going to affect the
16 redistricting boundaries in that area.

17 We've had a lot of help from Representative Corrine
18 Brown and also Ms. Holzendorf. We hope when you do your
19 considerations you will try to maintain those boundaries in
20 that area. And my concern also is the concern for funding
21 for those areas, state, federal, local and it will
22 definitely affect the communities' economic growth and
23 development and we are concerned with that. We have a lot
24 of business individuals who are doing well and they are
25 making a lot of progress. We'd like to see that progress

1 continue and it's going to depend upon finding resources
2 for that area. Thank you.

3 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 12.

4 MR. SANDS: I'm Gordon Sands, mayor of Welaka. A very
5 small community in the back corners of Putnam County. Ten
6 years ago in your wisdom your predecessors saw fit to make
7 Putnam County a major portion of both a Representative
8 district and of the Senate district. Previously it had
9 been a fragmented county.

10 We are like many other rural poor communities. We
11 would ask even though we are very close with our Senator
12 Jim King who we feel extremely close even though he is not
13 elected from our district, we would ask you to look at
14 this. We have survived the term limits. We always felt
15 that we had a wonderful voice in Senator Kirkpatrick and
16 what was going to happen when that curmudgeon retired.
17 Wonderful Kelly Smith who was a leavening factor. And we
18 did receive much. And let me tell you it did benefit that
19 we had someone serve the entire county.

20 We did not lose out because we cultivated. We have a
21 wonderful, wonderful Senator here named Betty Holzendorf
22 who really does serve our whole county there even though
23 she has a limited section. And as I said, we do have Jim
24 King. In spite of the fact he does not become elected from
25 Putnam County he serves us strongly. And, you know, cream

1 does rise.

2 I'm a Republican and we elected a Republican House Rep
3 this year and we wondered -- and I tell him about it
4 everywhere -- we wondered if he had what it took to get out
5 there in the trenches and fight and get elected and he sure
6 has and he has done a wonderful job. Joe Pickens, keep it.
7 Try and keep our district compact, that Putnam County has a
8 voice that can be heard. We've had the Miami delegations.
9 We've had all these live cities but we do have a wonderful
10 delegation that serves this county.

11 Rod Smith, a Democrat, came down there and had the
12 answers for the problems we thought we had. And Welaka had
13 juvenile crime problems. Here's a man that we can talk to
14 that listens and hears. You know, please, think about that
15 in all these rural communities. Make sure that we do not
16 lose our delegations that represent these areas. Several
17 years ago, and I just want to bring this to mind, Welaka,
18 after 1968 elected the first minority majority government
19 and yet today the first person freely elected after 1968
20 sits yet on our council and we still have a minority
21 majority in Welaka.

22 We are very, very proud of what we've done. The help
23 of our delegation has helped us obtain grants. We ask
24 anybody that would so desire to come down and see what we
25 offer. It's a wonderful little place on the river.

1 We helped push for the American Heritage River and
2 that brings me to a final statement here. You've heard
3 many people from the minority community extend what
4 Congresswoman Brown has done. Over five years ago a very
5 good friend of mine, Mary Lawson-Brown from Palatka one day
6 put a telephone number in my hand and she says, You've got
7 a new Congress Representative. You've been redistricted
8 through the Court. She says you probably ought to take
9 this number and get to know that person. So I called
10 Jacksonville and we have had nothing but wonderful
11 relations with Congresswoman Brown. Please do not destroy
12 that district. Thank you. Number 13.

13 MR. RUMLIN: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.
14 My name is Isaiah Rumlin. I'm a local business owner, 5600
15 New Kings Road. And I also serve as the president of the
16 Jacksonville branch NAACP. A couple of months ago I was
17 fortunate to serve on the Duval County election reform task
18 force which came up with recommendations as a result of
19 what happened back on November 7th, 2000.

20 As we remember during last year's painful election
21 results of Florida, especially in the African-American
22 community both in Jacksonville and around this great state,
23 we are still aware of what happened when the doors to
24 political power are shut in our face.

25 This past election proved how groups of voters can be

1 systematically denied the right to participate and the high
2 price that we have to pay. The United States Civil Rights
3 Commission have found that Florida procedures and practices
4 during the last election did not allow Floridians to
5 participate fairly in the process. This reapportionment
6 should not repeat those mistakes. We should go out of our
7 way and you should go out of your way to be fair and to be
8 sure of inclusives.

9 I would like to raise a few important issues. I would
10 urge the committee to set public criteria for how districts
11 will be drawn. Many of these criteria will be -- or
12 directly will impact racial minorities. What type of data
13 will you rely on? Will it be census block data which only
14 tells you the race of the voter and therefore unlawfully
15 drawn lines based on race only? Will you rely on
16 inadequate census data from the census bureau? We all know
17 that the census undercounts minorities. How will you
18 compensate for that? Will you demand that the bureau
19 release its suggested data? Will you use your own data
20 that is more accurate? Will you dilute minority voting
21 strength? Will we hold to and on the political power we
22 have achieved or will you cause us to regress?

23 I urge this committee to tell the public how it
24 intends to proceed on these issues. Unless we can be sure
25 that this process is fair, it will be hard to convince our

1 families, our friends and our communities to continue to
2 participate in the political process. In closing, I think
3 the only thing all of us are saying is that we need to
4 maintain minority districts. Thank you very much.

5 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 14.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, Senators,
7 Representatives, members of the committee, ladies and
8 gentlemen. My name is Rahman Johnson. I'm the Group 5
9 at-large Representative for the Duval Soil and Water
10 Conservation district and the youngest African-American
11 elected official in our state.

12 Simply, redistricting is about the allocation of
13 political power and those who control how the lines are
14 drawn on the map. Now the control is put up on how the
15 power is given to different parts of the community, whether
16 disadvantaged communities will get what they deserve or
17 what they need or whether they will still be relegated to
18 sit at the back of the bus so to speak.

19 The minority communities look forward to choosing the
20 candidate of their choice. They want to be politically
21 significant throughout the state of Florida. You were the
22 one who controlled -- you are the ones who control these
23 boundaries, these lines to determine -- or to allow these
24 communities to have that power, to participate in the
25 political process. That power, that responsibility is

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1 truly awesome and it does rely with you, it is a
2 responsibility.

3 Now I'd like the record to reflect a few core
4 principles. First, the African-American community has
5 worked hard to achieve a level of power, respect, and
6 dignity not only here in Jacksonville but in Tallahassee
7 and in Washington as well. That power is something that we
8 do not want to see diluted. We want to go forward and not
9 backwards.

10 And we must make sure that as we go through this
11 redistricting process that it adheres firmly to the Voting
12 Rights Act which means minority votes shouldn't be packed
13 or fragmented, that less political power we have today
14 should not come about after the redistricting lines are
15 drawn.

16 Further, we must also make sure that our communities
17 are reflected by the leaders that are representing them in
18 the different elected offices and positions. The sad
19 reality here in Jacksonville as it is throughout Florida
20 and many other communities is that there is racially
21 polarized voting, that whites vote for whites and blacks
22 vote for blacks simply because some people feel as though
23 you can't represent me if you don't look like me. Well,
24 it's a fact of life. It's a sad fact but truly is a fact.

25 But we want to make sure that these lines are drawn so

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1 that the reality will be that everyone who needs to be
2 represented is represented. And unless they are drawn in a
3 way to protect the rights of minority communities, they
4 won't have access to power. They will definitely not have
5 representation. And they truly won't be able to be a
6 viable part and player on the scene in the rights that the
7 Constitution guarantees us.

8 Now we've benefitted greatly here in Jacksonville by
9 allowing the Jacksonville community to be included with the
10 minority community in Orlando. Our rights and interests
11 and some of the concerns we have are indeed similar. So
12 it's a great thing that we were able to come together in
13 that way that our district is drawn.

14 Our leadership even and Congresswoman Brown, Corrine
15 Brown, has been impeccable. She's not only fought for the
16 rights of our city but the other city. So we want to try
17 to keep as much as possible that district intact. Why?
18 Because we have a good thing. And, you know, I remember my
19 grandmother saying, If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

20 Further, I would like to leave and challenge your
21 hearts as we go into this process of redistricting let the
22 lines be drawn in a fair and impartial way for justice for
23 all the people not only of the Third Congressional District
24 but for the people of the state of Florida. Thank you.

25 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 15.

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1 MS. DANIEL: My name is Ruth Daniel. I'm switching
2 with Number -- I'm Number 29. I'm switching with Number
3 15. Thank you. Mr. Chairman -- I'm sorry, I live at 12851
4 Micanopy Lane in Mandarin, here in Jacksonville.

5 As president of the Mandarin Community Club which
6 happens to be the oldest community club in the state of
7 Florida, I hear the concerns of our residents concerning
8 the separation of communities through redistricting. When
9 families settle in an area with neighborhood schools, youth
10 activity programs, and recreation, these families expect
11 all these things to remain in place and not be broken up
12 and piecemealed away by redistricting.

13 Mandarin is a historical part of our city. The
14 neighborhoods of both Clair, Scottendale (phonetic),
15 Mandarin, Loretta, Jewlington and now our neighbor St.
16 Johns County, are an integral part of our community. Our
17 Representative Dick Kravitz is taking care of business in
18 District 19.

19 I would ask you to keep communities and neighborhoods
20 intact not only in Mandarin but in every other area of our
21 state as this will give strength in addressing local issues
22 and support to our Representatives addressing state and
23 federal concerns. Don't break down neighborhoods that have
24 worked together for the betterment of family life for
25 generations. Thank you.

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1 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 16.
2 Number 17.

3 MR. HODGES: My foot went to sleep while I was sitting
4 down. I apologize for being underdressed. I feel now like
5 the fellow who came to a gunfight with a knife. I don't
6 have my notes with me either. So I'm going to do like I do
7 my Sunday school class, I'm going to wing it. I want to
8 thank each of you that are public servants for serving us.
9 It's a sacrifice for you and for your families for you to
10 spend time taking care of us and our needs. And I'd like
11 to give you a standing ovation and I hope my fellow
12 residents of Florida will join me, but I thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 As part of my time, I'm not here to sing the same song
15 I've been hearing for the first 15 or so. If it takes a
16 worried man to sing a worried song, you'll get that later.
17 Draw the lines where the lines need to be drawn. Hear me.
18 Draw the lines where the lines need to be drawn and let the
19 chips fall where they may. If you know how I voted other
20 than I told you how I voted, shame on you for invading my
21 voting booth privacy. Shame on you. Draw the lines where
22 they need to be drawn and let the chips fall where they
23 may. Thank you.

24 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 18.

25 SENATOR KING: Mr. Chairman, did he state his name?

1 REPRESENTATIVE HOGAN: David Hodges.
 2 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 18. Number 19.
 3 MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chairman, I'm Jimmy Jenkins,
 4 President of Edward Waters College here in Jacksonville.
 5 I'm Number 25 but we switched. I'm taking 19 and she's
 6 going to take my 25. I appreciate the opportunity to be
 7 before this general assembly today and before the citizens
 8 of this community.

9 As president of Edward Waters College, I've come
 10 before you this evening to talk about what I consider to be
 11 the bedrock of our democracy. There is politics and there
 12 is fairness. Politics focuses on really expediency. And
 13 fairness focuses on what is right. In 1992 when the
 14 reapportionment took place creating District 3 and having
 15 the people of this area to have representation after 129
 16 years without such we had our congresswoman, Congresswoman
 17 Brown, who went to Washington to represent that district
 18 and has represented it ever since.

19 She has encouraged as a college president these
 20 institutions to work together for the good of this
 21 district. Edward Waters College has worked with the
 22 University Of Central Florida. Has worked with Florida A&M
 23 University forming collaborations that have created even
 24 greater opportunities and enhanced the quality of life and
 25 the educational process in this community and I think that

1 that is very important for us to be able to do that.

2 You know, fairness is what this democracy is built on,
 3 it's built on fairness. If you look at the revolutionary
 4 war, it really evolved out of the concept of taxation
 5 without fair representation. And so that's what this is
 6 all about. This is about making sure that those of us who
 7 need to have a voice, being able to say what we need to say
 8 and being able to reap the benefits of the political
 9 process must continue to have fairness.

10 And so we ask you today to please continue to hold
 11 onto our district, District 3, and please be able to give
 12 us the opportunity to have our congresswoman represent us
 13 the way she has. I can tell you I've been president of
 14 Edward Waters College for four years. I came here and we
 15 had a tremendous problem with over \$4 million that the U.S.
 16 Department of Education had against the institution as what
 17 is called exposed liability.

18 The institution was on the verge of actually closing
 19 because it could not address those issues. And I
 20 understand that there had been efforts made back and forth
 21 in various ways. Well I called upon the congresswoman and
 22 I went to Washington. And within a six-month period, we
 23 had that problem resolved. And I can tell you now, Edward
 24 Waters College has moved in the last four years from 319
 25 students to this fall we'll have 13- to 1400 students. And

1 all of this is because we've been able to address the
 2 problems and we've had a congresswoman who's been tenacious
 3 in making sure she represented this district.

4 And I want to make it very clear, she's not just
 5 represented us, she's represented everyone in this
 6 district, both black and white. I've seen Representatives
 7 from Labor, Representatives from various other
 8 organizations come and address problems to her and she has
 9 worked diligently to make sure she represented them and did
 10 what was right for all of us regardless of race. And so as
 11 president of Edward Waters College I call on you today not
 12 to talk just about politics but about fairness. That's
 13 what this democracy is all about and ask you to do that
 14 this evening. Thank you.

15 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 20.

16 MS. LOCKETT FELDER: Good evening, ladies and
 17 gentlemen. How is everyone? Wonderful. I stand before
 18 you today. My name is Pat Lockett Felder. I represent
 19 District 7 in Jacksonville, Florida in the bold new city of
 20 the south and I want to say to you, to all of you thank you
 21 for being here today and this is very, very important for
 22 me tonight.

23 Our transportation issues, I tell you, it has been
 24 very, very good. Very good because of the leadership that
 25 we have in this city. Congresswoman Corrine Brown has been

1 great. I would not stand here and tell all of you the same
 2 thing. She has been great. She has built a great
 3 relationship in the economic world between Orlando and in
 4 Jacksonville, Florida. She has allowed our standard of
 5 economics to build on what she had to offer to bring us
 6 back from Washington, D.C. I am so proud to stand here
 7 tonight to tell you that I have a Representative, you have
 8 a Representative, we all have a good Representative,
 9 Congresswoman Corrine Brown. She works very hard for the
 10 people in this district.

11 Let me tell you something. Because of the ties that
 12 she has in Orlando, Florida we are able to travel from
 13 Jacksonville to Orlando in expedient time. We are able to
 14 travel on good highway. And you know what, that's
 15 important because some of your wives, your daughters,
 16 significant others like myself we travel that same road
 17 sometimes and we are so thankful that we are being
 18 protected because of good roads.

19 And I tell you what, I think I heard a young person
 20 say tonight and I would hope that you would think about the
 21 same thing, If it is not broken, please don't fix it,
 22 because we have a good leader here. And when we have a
 23 good leader, we appreciate her. And I will appreciate you,
 24 I mean every one of you, for sending the message that
 25 District 3 of Congress, that nothing is wrong in our area,

1 that we have a good Representative here and I would trust
2 and I would pray that you-all would do the right thing for
3 the right reason. And again I want to say to you, sir, to
4 all of you, ma'am, thank you so much for allowing me, Pat
5 Lockett Felder, to speak to you tonight. And to God be the
6 glory to all of you for the great things that He has done
7 for this city and for your city and for all of you. Thank
8 you.

9 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 21.

10 MR. FULLWOOD: Good morning. My name is Reggie
11 Fullwood. I'm a councilman here in Jacksonville District
12 9. And I'm here today not so much as a councilman but more
13 as a constituent of the Third Congressional District.
14 There's an old saying that an army of sheep lead by a lion
15 can easily defeat an army of lion led by a sheep. And the
16 reason I say that is to say that in the Third Congressional
17 District we have a lion.

18 We have a lion that's a tremendous leader. We have a
19 lion that has delivered as her campaign slogan always says,
20 many things in this great city of Jacksonville. We have a
21 lion that has delivered throughout our state and a lion who
22 represents us well in Washington, D.C. And we have a lion
23 who if you call her, she'll call you back. And not just me
24 as a councilman, but an everyday constituent.

25 And to me this isn't about -- we're going through a

1 similar process here in Jacksonville but on a much smaller
2 level in dealing with the various districts, minority
3 districts and in trying to keep members correct. But to
4 me, it's not about protecting constituency -- excuse me,
5 about protecting incumbency. It's more so about protecting
6 constituency. And constituents want good leaders. And if
7 the leader has been good, they want to maintain that leader
8 and that's the situation we have here in the Third
9 Congressional District.

10 We have a leader who has been great. We have a lion
11 who has fought for us. And most people, the majority of
12 people in this district, I can guarantee, wants to keep
13 Representative Corrine Brown, so that's what we have here.
14 And although a lot of people think that things have changed
15 and times are different in 2001, I'm here to tell you that
16 things haven't changed a whole lot and it is important to
17 have equal rights and every person should have a vote, one
18 man, one vote should be maintained and that's extremely
19 important.

20 So I'm here today as a constituent again to say
21 Representative Corrine Brown has been great to the Third
22 Congressional District. She's been a fighter. She's been
23 a lion. She's been a true leader. And as you go through
24 this process, again, I want to remind you that it's not so
25 much about protecting incumbency but about protecting

1 constituency. Thank you.

2 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 22.

3 MR. COLLINS: Chairman Webster, my name is Clyde
4 Collins. I'm Number 27 on your list but Tom Sullivan has
5 asked me to take his place. Tom Sullivan is a former
6 candidate for the Fourth Congressional District. But my
7 name is Clyde Collins. I'm a former Attorney General,
8 Assistant Attorney General and I'm a member of the Florida
9 Bar.

10 I speak today in regards to, in light of the time
11 limitations, on the Third Congressional District. And I
12 want to say the minority setaside serves all the
13 constituents of Jacksonville and the surrounding counties
14 very well. The current district as set forth provides
15 services for veterans, services for seniors, services for
16 young and old, black and white to the best under the
17 circumstances that we can provide.

18 Let me say that Congresswoman Brown has provided
19 excellent Congressional constituent services and she and
20 her staff have provided, not only to Duval County
21 residents, but all the residents around. I might point out
22 the new Fuller Warner Bridge is a prime example of the work
23 she has brought to this district in providing excellent
24 work and transportation.

25 I also would point out the new federal courthouse as

1 an example of the services that she has provided that will
2 provide services for the constituents of Duval County, Clay
3 County, St. Johns County, Putnam County, Volusia County and
4 Clay County. Veterans, as I've said, have been well served
5 and also in the environment Congresswoman Brown fights hard
6 for all of us. I urge you to leave the Third Congressional
7 District as it is, intact. It provides services and well
8 serves all Floridians in our neighborhood. Thank you.

9 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 23.

10 MR. RANDALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is
11 Bill Randall and I'm representing myself. I live at 1976
12 Harbor Island Drive in Orange Park, Florida. Mr. Chairman,
13 I took the time to address you tonight because the process
14 of redistricting and reapportioning has such an impact on
15 all of us. And oftentimes the voices of many are not heard
16 or simply disregarded. Therefore, I've been chosen to come
17 and lift my voice to this group tonight.

18 Mr. Chairman, 2002 represents the first time since the
19 enactment of legislation of the reapportionment of the
20 states that Florida's redistricting efforts will be under
21 the leadership of the Republican controlled House, Senate
22 and Governor. The Republican party of Florida and you, the
23 elected leadership, will no doubt be the focus of the
24 nation's attention as you attempt to redraw House, Senate
25 and Congressional seats while attempting to maintain the

1 Office of the Governor.

2 The major challenge for you will be to draw districts
3 that reflect the 33 percent diverse minority population and
4 maintain the three Congressional black access seats
5 established in 1992 while also establishing two additional
6 Congressional seats that is not drawn based on race, party
7 preference or guaranteed election outcome and will endure
8 the scrutiny of the Justice Department while three of the
9 voting rights and civil rights act violations.

10 However, I believe that you are facing lawsuits
11 regardless of what you do. I have spent lots of time and
12 effort preparing a plan for all of Florida that is fair.
13 It recognizes community interest. It is contiguous with
14 natural boundaries, it does not dilute the black vote. It
15 is within the 1 percent deviation. It eliminates packing
16 and gerrymandering by race and party. It respects the one
17 man, one vote principle and it maintains the three black
18 access seats while increasing the minority-elected
19 representation to 28 percent of the Florida Congressional
20 delegation.

21 However, just as 1992, redistricting was a bipartisan
22 effort with Democratic leadership. This plan requires
23 bipartisan effort with Republican leadership. I recommend
24 that Congressional reapportioning and state House and
25 Senate seats be drawn by the following natural boundaries

1 regardless of race. However, I would recommend that black
2 access and minority access seats are maintained that
3 designate the candidates for those seats by certification
4 rather than certifying every voter that they are going to
5 vote for a black person. Therefore eliminating the need to
6 gerrymander and pack districts based on race and political
7 party.

8 The example that I'll give you for the Congressional
9 district, Mr. Chairman, looks like such. And I have done
10 just northeast Florida in dark colors so that you can
11 recognize it. The entire state is drawn. But you will
12 notice, they are all contiguous. They follow natural
13 boundaries and we also depict the black access seats, we
14 show each one of them and I'm recommending that the two new
15 districts be classified, declared as minority access seats.
16 Therefore, you will have seven minorities representing
17 Florida in Congress rather than the five that you have now.

18 SENATOR WEBSTER: You've only got about five seconds.
19 But if you want to post those so we can look at those after
20 the meeting. And you also can post that if it's in digital
21 form or some sort of form on the web and you can actually
22 E-mail it to us.

23 MR. RANDALL: I will do that. Thank you.

24 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 24.

25 MS. PARKER: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

1 My name is Ava Parker and I reside here in Jacksonville and
2 I'm very proud to say I'm represented in a council here by
3 Councilwoman Pat Lockett Felder who spoke with you
4 previously who was so polite too.

5 I'm honored to say that I'm also represented by the
6 Honorable Terry Fields in the House, the Honorable Betty
7 Holzendorf in the Senate and by Congresswoman Corrine
8 Brown. I stand tonight as a Representative of the Virgil
9 Hawkins (phonetic) Florida Chapter of the National Bar
10 Association. And contrary to the gentleman who stood
11 before you as Number 17, and maybe fortunately it is not as
12 simple as just draw the lines where they can be drawn and
13 let the chips fall where they may. Because if that, in
14 fact, were the case, that would mean we'd just go and
15 number each citizen and once we got to about 639,000 people
16 we'd say, Stop and draw the lines. If that were the case,
17 why would we, in fact, need you at all?

18 Certainly I think that in developing this process and
19 dealing with it we must, one, consider fairness. In fact,
20 fairness must be the central thing. When considering
21 fairness unfortunately we have to consider the mistakes of
22 forefathers. And by doing that we must ensure that we have
23 representation for all votes.

24 Fairness would suggest that the lines are drawn to
25 ensure that the mistakes of our past are amended by the

1 efforts of your precisionness and your procedures. I
2 suggest that when you -- I should say in my 13 years of
3 practice, I'm a lawyer here in the city, I've dealt a lot
4 with judges and a lot with juries. And what has been the
5 case is those judges and juries who we consider the best
6 are those who don't just look at the black letter of the
7 law but they consider the people who are going to be
8 affected by their decisions.

9 Thus is your task as members of this committee. You
10 can't simply sit back and say, Well, the lines have to be
11 drawn here because they must contiguous or they have to be
12 that way because that's the way it says, you must consider
13 the folks who live in those areas and make your decision
14 about the best way to draw the districts.

15 And certainly I would be remiss if I didn't take a
16 moment to talk specifically about my Congresswoman Corrine
17 Brown. She has very ably been a Representative for the
18 citizens here in Jacksonville as well as citizens in
19 Orlando. In the past someone tried to push her out of
20 Congress by trying to chop up our district. Ladies and
21 gentlemen, please do not let that happen.

22 The people in the Third Congressional District have
23 greatly benefited from the current configuration of the
24 district. We know that we need to add some 50,000 people
25 to the district and want to work with you to do that in a

1 way that preserves the essential characteristics of this
2 distinct.

3 A moment ago a lady sitting in front of me said, Gosh,
4 I didn't know this was a Corrine Brown pep rally. And it's
5 not. It's not a Corrine Brown pep rally. It is an
6 opportunity for us to express our appreciation for what has
7 been -- a district that's been driving an effort to in fact
8 represent all the concerns and issues of its citizenry. In
9 conclusion, I ask that you put people above partisanship
10 and keep our district intact so we may continue to enjoy
11 the representation that has so greatly helped our
12 community.

13 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 19,
14 Congresswoman Brown.

15 CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and
16 Mr. President of the Senate and distinguished members. I
17 would like an opportunity to revise and extend my remarks.
18 I want to give them to you in writing later.

19 First of all, let me just say I know this is a
20 Congressional hearing but it also deals with the state
21 Senate and I want you to know my Senator, Senator
22 Holzendorf, her district is very important to me and also
23 the two House members. And so when you draw, I have a real
24 concern when we talk about we have lost our membership in
25 the core areas. I am interested in knowing what data are

1 clearly not the area that I represent.

2 I represent areas that have been disenfranchised, that
3 have not been included in the process. And one of the
4 things that we've been able to do is to give the areas that
5 I represent empowerment and opportunity to be at the table.

6 Now let me just say something about the last election.
7 If you look at the last election, one thing is certain,
8 Florida is closer to 50/50 than anything else and it's not
9 reflected in the Congressional delegation. It's not in the
10 Senate or the House. So I'm hoping that we have a fair
11 process and we have an opportunity to elect Democrats, have
12 an opportunity to elect African-Americans and more
13 Hispanics.

14 So I'm looking forward to the process. I will be with
15 you in Daytona and I will be with you in Orlando and other
16 members of the Congressional delegation will join you. But
17 let me emphasize that it is not just the Congressional area
18 that I'm interested in, I am also very interested in what
19 happens in the Senate and what happens in the House of
20 Representatives because we work together as partners and
21 it's very important that we have all of the partners at the
22 table. Thank you very much.

23 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 26.

24 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: Mr. Chairman. I just want to
25 thank Congresswoman Brown for letting the people know that

1 you going to use to draw whether you're going to use the
2 census or we're going to get some revised numbers. How are
3 we going to access the process. That is very important.
4 Because I know we have not lost anyone. Maybe we haven't
5 grown as much so I'm very interested in that.

6 It's very important that 100, 129 years, 1992 was the
7 first time we elected an African-American to Congress. And
8 we elected three African-Americans, two Hispanics and
9 Florida's delegation really begins to reflect the diversity
10 of its people. Now my district, the Third Congressional
11 District that you've heard so much talk about, is the most
12 competitive district in the state of Florida. There's no
13 question about it. We have had races, every time it's been
14 redrawn twice. So it's not a question about whether or not
15 the district is competitive, it's competitive.

16 But one of the things when Mr. Muldrew got up and
17 talked about the veterans what he did not mention to you
18 and what was very important was that he had been trying to
19 get his medals for 50 years, 50 years. That's the most
20 important point. And when the people from St. Johns County
21 came here and talked, what they didn't mention to you, what
22 I want to share with you, was that I talked to the Governor
23 about my district, west St. Augustine, and he indicated to
24 me that St. Johns County was the richest county in the
25 state and they didn't need any money for sewer. Well,

1 we also represent this area.

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. HILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator
4 Holzendorf, I want to say thank you for your leadership and
5 the other two members of our Legislature as well as the
6 delegation. To the members and the chairman of the
7 committee, I want to extend my gratitude to the
8 reapportionment committee for allowing this hearing to take
9 place. This hearing is essential to the residents of Duval
10 County because their issues must be heard and their
11 communities represented.

12 Due to the population shift in Florida our districts
13 are being redrawn to include additional legislators. But
14 as lawmakers you cannot forget your primary purpose and
15 that is to meet the needs of the people. I want to focus
16 my attention and preface my remarks on the importance of
17 advocating race-conscious districts. In a perfect world
18 race-conscious districts would not be necessary. We would
19 all be perfect -- I mean, we would all prefer to live in a
20 color-blind society but that is simply not the reality.

21 The fact is that race has always mattered in this
22 society. Up until the middle of the century
23 African-Americans were locked out of the political process
24 and rendered second-class citizens solely because of their
25 color. And race-based problems require race-based

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1 solutions. The true race-conscious district is
2 controversial. Critics charge that it promotes racial
3 polarization, reinforced stereotypes and confirmed special
4 status on minorities. These charges do not stand up to
5 scrutiny. The reality is that race-conscious districts
6 work in the single-most effective means of remediating
7 (sic) the terrible legacy of discrimination against
8 minorities.

9 What we must do for the districts with the dominate
10 minority population is to increase minority voter
11 participation, lead to the election of minority officials
12 and force government to pay attention to the needs of the
13 previously ignored communities.

14 Historically the courts have approved all kinds of
15 districts that were drawn in odd shapes for partisan
16 reasons. Thus to call the dominate minority district into
17 question as the Supreme Court did in Shaw versus Reno while
18 accepting without question districts drawn to accommodate
19 other interests is to apply a discriminatory double
20 standard and redistrict.

21 Finally, there is no evidence that race-conscious
22 districts foster racial polarization. On the contrary, it
23 fosters the gradual breakdown of racial barriers in voting
24 and in society. In order for cross-racial coalitions to
25 develop within government there must first be minority

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1 officials and the creation of an environment in which
2 minorities can be elected with ultimately the encouragement
3 of the formation of cross-race coalitions outside of
4 government.

5 Justice O'Connor once wrote, The exclusion of
6 minorities from government not only promotes lack of
7 concern of minority problems but also creates a mistrust
8 and alienation, all too often hostility towards the entire
9 process of government. Mr. Chairman, I just want to close
10 as former president of the Senate, Attorney Scott
11 mentioned, and it goes to the Voting Rights Act, keeping it
12 intact and away from legal dismantling. The Voter Rights
13 Act is arguably the single most successful civil rights law
14 ever enacted.

15 The tremendous progress that's made to date would
16 never have happened if the Voting Right Act had not
17 existed. Voting is among the most fundamental rights in a
18 democracy. Without a meaningful vote, there could be no
19 equality before the law and no equal access and no equal
20 opportunity.

21 Mr. Chairman, and committee, we can either move
22 forward together or we can move back divided. I'm also
23 signed onto the fair statement that you'll probably be
24 hearing a little later. Thank you.

25 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 22. Number 28.

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1 MR. DECKARD: I'm Ron Deckard. I reside in House
2 District 19 in Mandarin. Mandarin has long been thought of
3 as a specific unit within Jacksonville having a common
4 history and interest. For some years I have been an active
5 member of the Mandarin Community Club and the mayor of the
6 Southeast Citizens Planning and Advisory Council. This has
7 put me in close contact with the mind-set and concerns of
8 the various neighborhoods that make up the Mandarin
9 community.

10 I've found such a unity among these neighborhoods that
11 Mandarin almost seems as though it is a town in its own
12 right. We hear so much today about citizen advocates but
13 you won't find that in Mandarin. This is such a plus to
14 the district that it should be kept intact and I would ask
15 that you do just that. Thank you.

16 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 15. Number 30.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good evening and welcome to the First
18 Coast. My name is Edward Rodriguez and I live in Nassau
19 County, Florida. I'm a resident of the city of Fernadina
20 Beach and I'm a small business owner there. My problem is
21 not with our current Senate -- our current Senator but
22 rather with our current state Senate district itself.

23 I believe that a Senator who represents a largely
24 rural district mostly on the inland cannot represent my
25 community as well as a Senator that would be a lot closer

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1 to my community geographically. My current Senator's
2 district covers portions for all of 18 counties.

3 The current situation that we have right now does have
4 one positive feature and that is our entire county is
5 represented by the same Senator. However, I think that can
6 be accomplished by drawing the map a little bit tighter and
7 still having that. That being said, I think there might
8 also be -- a lot could be said for having more than one
9 Senator in our county. I think that having a legislative
10 delegation of three might give it some more voice than
11 having a legislative delegation of two.

12 I was on the -- and really when you look at our
13 friends in Jacksonville, I think they know the benefits of
14 having a larger delegation where even the individual
15 members don't always agree with each other on everything.
16 They are still working pretty passionately for the people
17 in their county.

18 I was on the Internet the other night and I found some
19 interesting facts just by playing with Yahoo maps and
20 things like that. I realized that there are five Senate
21 districts in Florida whose boundaries are closer to me than
22 I am to my own state Senator who lives in Jasper, Florida.
23 Three of those Senate districts are right here in
24 Jacksonville. Two of the other ones, one of them is in
25 Ormond Beach. And the other one is in Gainesville. Both

1 of them are still closer to me in Nassau County than my
2 Senator who's in Jasper, Florida.

3 I also noticed on there, and not that it has anything
4 to do with Florida, but there are actually six Senate
5 districts in the state of Georgia, six of them, that are
6 closer to me where I live. And obviously that's because I
7 live in a county that's on the border, correct? But why is
8 that important? Well those six Senate districts in Georgia
9 represent 11 counties and yet every one of them is closer
10 to me than my state Senator who's in Jasper, Florida.

11 And finally -- well, one other thing. I noticed I can
12 get on I-95 and drive clear into Georgia, go all the way
13 through Georgia, and go into Jasper County, South
14 Carolina -- it's just a coincidence that it's called
15 that -- I can be in Jasper County, South Carolina and the
16 state Senator in Jasper County, South Carolina is still
17 closer to me than the state Senator for me.

18 Jefferson County, believe it or not, is in the same
19 Senate district that Fernandina Beach is in. Jefferson
20 County is 177 miles away from me. Volusia County, Orange
21 County and even Brevard County are closer to me than
22 Jefferson County. Eighteen counties is a pretty big
23 district. We are the only coastal county in our own Senate
24 district. We have the unique problems that coastal
25 counties face. And I think that my reason for coming here

1 today, just as a private citizen, is to encourage you-all
2 to hopefully draw the lines a little more compact so that
3 we can have more representation with communities that are a
4 little bit more like us. And, again, I thank you for being
5 here today and it's an honor to have all of you here and
6 thank you very much.

7 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 31. Thirty-two.

8 MS. WALL: Hello, this is my first time so I'm
9 nervous. My name is Patricia Wall. I live at 11358 -- my
10 name is Patricia Wall. I live at 11358 Jacksonville,
11 Florida 32218. I'm a single mom. I'm active in
12 neighborhood church and civic affairs. I'm in Senate
13 District 2, House District 14, Congressional District 3.

14 I'm an issues-driven person. I could care less about
15 parties but I do care about issues. For a decade or more
16 I've had no representation in Tallahassee that represents
17 my views. And I had one in Washington for awhile.

18 I mean no harm or ill will to the Representatives in
19 my districts but rather I respect you, I honor you, but I
20 need somebody to represent my views. You people are
21 lawmakers so I'd like to see you make a law to help me to
22 get some representation. All my districts are short,
23 according to the report we heard tonight, the population.
24 So that doesn't give me much hope. However, I am on the
25 top north tip of all three of these districts and I ask you

1 tonight to consider making it possible for me to get some
2 representation for my views again by shaving off the top of
3 the districts or something, you can do it. You're law
4 makers. You made a law to cause it, you can make a law to
5 help it.

6 I have a question for you. I'm asking you to do
7 something about it and if you don't, then am I going to
8 have to live out the rest of my life by being taxed but
9 without representation? So you think about that. I've had
10 it for ten years and before that too. I don't remember how
11 long because I wasn't that active in -- I was voting
12 forever but I wasn't paying much attention to what was
13 going on. But the last few years I have. And anyway, I'm
14 asking you to do something about it or I'm going to have to
15 live out the rest of my life if you leave me in these
16 districts without any representation. Thank you very much.

17 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 33.

18 MR. MEGONEGAL: Chairman Webster, honorable members of
19 the committee, I'm Russ Megonegal from Clay County. For
20 the past 20 years I've been politically active in Seminole,
21 Flagler and Clay County. The subject is redistricting, and
22 having had a military background, be clear, be brief, be
23 gone. Specifically, take a hard look at District 3. As a
24 candidate for that district, you've got a terrific job of
25 trying to do a job for all of those, I believe it's 14

1 counties. Take a hard look at that district. I think it
2 needs that look that you can give it.

3 Second of all, Clay County is represented by four
4 state Representatives. Sounds great but I think that is
5 difficult, very difficult and I would recommend that
6 section -- District 20 which spills across the St. Johns
7 River be pushed back to the east to St. Johns.

8 There is a great deal of argument for that, I think,
9 and I think you people understand the situation. That
10 would give us three state Representatives. I would also
11 suggest maintaining two Senate districts, state Senate
12 districts, in Clay County. I beseech you to act as
13 statesman and not politicians. Thank you.

14 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 34.
15 Number 35.

16 MS. FITZGERALD: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and
17 members of this committee. My name is Christy Fitzgerald.
18 I wear two hats in Clay County. I'm the county
19 commissioner for District 1 but I'm also the president of
20 the Federated Republican Women in Clay County. I feel that
21 it is extremely important that at least one state
22 Representative from Clay County should have their primary
23 geographical area within Clay County.

24 You have touched on the rapid growth that's occurring
25 here in Florida. Well let me tell you, growth is Clay

1 County's first name. And with this growth we have had many
2 blessings but also have many problems.

3 We need Representatives that will focus on the issues,
4 transportation, economic development, increased court costs
5 and increased Medicaid costs that face our county every
6 day. We currently have many capable legislators
7 representing Clay County and I appreciate all of them being
8 here tonight. It makes me proud to know that they care
9 about our county.

10 But these legislators are pulled in many different
11 directions. They are required to represent many diverse
12 areas with diverse needs. So in closing, I ask that you
13 consider Clay County as a whole community during this
14 redistricting process. Thank you for your time.

15 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 36. Number 37. Number 38.
16 Number 39.

17 MS. COURTNEY: Good evening. My name is Deborah
18 Courtney. And I'm here to speak to you tonight about
19 fairness. Tonight Senator Webster said in his opening
20 statement that this redistricting process will be fair,
21 open and inclusive. I can see that it's open because I'm
22 here tonight speaking to this committee. And I can also
23 see that it's inclusive. Now I'd like to make sure that
24 it's fair.

25 I'm a registered Democrat. And currently, as you

1 be made available to the public? Can the public have any
2 input into the drawing of the new boundaries for
3 redistricting? Thank you. God bless.

4 SENATOR WEBSTER: Number 41. These are the ones that
5 did not testify. If any of you are here, we'll let you do
6 it now: Number 10, Number 16, Number 18, Number 22, Number
7 15, Number 31, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 41. If you're here,
8 speak now or -- you don't have to hold your peace, talk to
9 us later.

10 Now it was mentioned by Senator Dawson and Senator
11 Wasserman-Schultz that they may have questions of the
12 people that were here and we would be glad to entertain
13 those questions now. Senator Wasserman-Schultz, you're
14 recognized for a question. If you'll identify the speaker
15 by either name or by number, then they can come to the
16 podium and answer the question.

17 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Fortunately for me, I wrote down the number and asked the
19 person to stay. So it would be Speaker Number 5.

20 MS. HAWKINS REED: Again, my name is Karen Hawkins
21 Reed, League of Women Voters, Jacksonville First Coast.

22 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you very much.
23 Ms. Reed, you talked about the League's position on the way
24 the process should be conducted.

25 MS. HAWKINS REED: Yes.

1 know, the Florida Senate and House have a majority of
2 Republicans. As a matter of fact, it's about two to one.
3 Now personally, I'm outnumbered four to one since my
4 Florida Senator and Representative are Republican and the
5 Governor is Republican and my U.S. Congressman is
6 Republican. So thank God for Bill Nelson or I'd really be
7 up the creek.

8 The point is that as a Democrat I feel there is not
9 that many people that are there to represent my interest.
10 So please don't forget me and my Democratic friends in the
11 redistricting process. So I'm here tonight to ask this
12 committee to draw the new district lines fairly and to
13 ensure that Democratic as well as Republican interests are
14 considered equally. And let's keep the fair in fair, open,
15 and inclusive. Thank you.

16 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 40.

17 MS. SCOTT: Good evening. My name is Arlene Scott.
18 And some of the presenters today and in Tallahassee have
19 discussed their concerns over minority vote dilution. How
20 will we seek access to and use the justice census data for
21 redistricting? If not, what is the justification or reason
22 not to? We'd like to request a review article concerning
23 undercounts. If no census tract, how can they be adjusted?
24 What is your criteria for making such adjustments? If
25 there are census tracts, where are they and when will they

1 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: What I wanted to ask you
2 and I asked this of the person representing the League in
3 the Tallahassee hearing, you mentioned that the public
4 should have an opportunity to review the plans that we
5 eventually will draw and I wondered whether you thought
6 that the public -- that while you've praised the public
7 hearing process that we're going through now, does the
8 League have a view on whether or not we should have public
9 hearings following the presentation of maps that are drawn
10 by the Legislature?

11 MS. HAWKINS REED: Yes. As I said in my statement,
12 the League has recommended that there be several periods
13 where the public and the press could make comment. One is
14 during the committee process before a final vote, before
15 amendments are discussed, that people would have the
16 opportunity to look at the proposed maps, that the
17 committee chairman should assure that there are at least
18 two workshops or markup sessions available to public
19 comment at least 14 days prior to the full committee
20 action. And that there also be some time available before
21 the final vote where the public could respond. And I
22 understand on the web site there is going to be the
23 proposal for the revised maps; am I correct about that? As
24 the process goes along?

25 SENATOR WEBSTER: Yes. Any maps produced by this

1 committee and the House or Senate will be available on the
2 web. Also you are allowed to send to us any proposals you
3 might have and we can pick those up also off the Internet.

4 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Since we had a few people
5 now, not just Ms. Reed but some other people at the
6 previous public hearing request, we hold public hearings
7 following the presentation of the development of maps, has
8 there been any decision yet on whether we are going to take
9 the maps out on the road and provide the public an
10 opportunity to give us input on those?

11 SENATOR WEBSTER: Well, we're into public hearing two.
12 All I want to do is get through the public hearings. I'm
13 not answering questions right now. I'm just listening.
14 Once we're done with those, then we'll decide what we're
15 going to do.

16 Senator Dawson.

17 SENATOR DAWSON: Actually my question is to, I think,
18 the last commissioner from Clay County. If she could join
19 me again.

20 MS. FITZGERALD: I apologize, I was kibitzing back
21 there and I didn't hear what you said.

22 SENATOR DAWSON: That's okay. That's what we elected
23 officials do all the time. Your comment was to the
24 population growth for Clay County. And I just had a
25 question. Because obviously there are -- is it Clay

1 County; that's correct, right?

2 MS. FITZGERALD: Yes.

3 SENATOR DAWSON: There are, what, 62, 67 counties in
4 the state of Florida and as we look towards the numbers of
5 Senators and Representatives I don't think we're going to
6 be adding any new chairs to the chambers. Is there a
7 particular population number because I'm sure everyone
8 would want to have their, I guess, what is it, a home seat
9 for that Representative. Is there a particular cap-off
10 number that we should consider when we consider where that
11 individual might -- who should -- which county should have
12 a Representative from that county, otherwise it might be
13 difficult? So I thought maybe you had a suggestion to a
14 particular number.

15 MS. FITZGERALD: I don't have a specific number. I
16 will tell you we are close to 150,000 population in Clay
17 County. Where we stand with the other counties, I can't
18 tell you that off the top of my head either. I should have
19 that. And maybe I misstated myself. I don't feel that we
20 need one single Representative in Clay County. I just feel
21 that one of the Representatives, the majority of their area
22 should be Clay County.

23 Currently in the House, the Representatives, we are
24 divided fairly equally geographically by four
25 Representatives. But populationwise, we are being pulled

1 to the larger counties. The votes are going with the
2 larger counties. The money is going to the larger county
3 and we all know that larger county is Duval since I'm in
4 northeast Florida. And not to demean Duval at all, and
5 that's the way it happens.

6 I just feel if we had someone that truly represented
7 the population in Clay County, had a large majority of
8 their district in Clay County, that they would be fighting
9 harder for us. And I don't mean to demean any of the
10 Representatives here that represent Clay County. They work
11 very hard. But, as I said, they are being pulled in
12 multiple directions with very diverse needs facing them
13 every day.

14 SENATOR DAWSON: Thank you.

15 SENATOR WEBSTER: Further questions? Senator King.

16 SENATOR KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question
17 is of Staff Director Guthrie if he'll come forward.

18 SENATOR WEBSTER: What I'd like to do is just do the
19 general public.

20 SENATOR KING: Well, I think the public out here would
21 like to know because they asked me when I went to the
22 bathroom -- well, not when I went to the bathroom.

23 (Laughter.)

24 When I left here to go do that. Are there other pods
25 in the state that have congressionally grown to the same

1 level as the chart that we have shown them here in? Are
2 all of our Congressional seats over the population required
3 for the new division? And I don't know the answer to that
4 and I don't know whether anybody else does.

5 SENATOR WEBSTER: Well I think the best thing to do
6 is, number one, we're trying to make the program and data
7 available. If you have \$20, you can sign up and purchase
8 it. If not, you can go to the library and check it out.
9 That is the easiest way to understand the full data of the
10 state. And I would suggest that would be the best thing.
11 If not, then we also could produce maps to give a statewide
12 perspective but that would be absolutely the very best way
13 to do it.

14 SENATOR KING: Which their interest is the fact that
15 there's two Congressional seats going to be drawn, what are
16 the potentials of a north Florida Congressional seat being
17 drawn from the standpoint of numbers. And I guess what
18 you're saying is you're going to have to take the counties
19 yourself and add them up to find out who is over.

20 SENATOR WEBSTER: Any further questions? I'm going to
21 get these Representatives right. Jennings. Representative
22 Jennings, you're recognized.

23 REPRESENTATIVE JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
24 guess one question, this is my first hearing. I didn't get
25 a chance to go to the one in Tallahassee. I heard Counsel

1 Scott's comments and I'm sure a lot of us don't know the
 2 full process. Maybe in future meetings if Counsel Scott's
 3 comments or whoever is going to make that presentation
 4 could give us something in writing so we understand, if
 5 that's possible. I don't know. I'm asking that question,
 6 just a request so that we can be doing the same thing at
 7 every hearing.

8 And my second question is really for the public
 9 because I know we will have an opportunity to have a lot of
 10 time to engage in conversations. But as people are asking
 11 questions, what process can they expect an answer? I
 12 assume they ask a question because at some point -- I mean,
 13 are we supposed to go individually and try to answer them
 14 or is counsel or staff going to take these questions and
 15 respond to them or how are they expected when they ask
 16 questions from the podium to get an answer from whoever? I
 17 don't know who that should be so I'm asking that question
 18 for them because they're not able to ask the question.

19 SENATOR WEBSTER: It's a good question. But I don't
 20 know the answer to that. We don't as a legislative group
 21 sit at a committee and answer questions. We usually listen
 22 to hearings and so forth and then they contact their local
 23 Representative and I think that would be the very best way.
 24 And then that Representative would reflect whatever it is
 25 that they believe and whatever question they might have.

1 constituents who come to the hearings a little bit better
 2 situation of awareness, better understanding of where the
 3 districts stand right now. Which ones have an
 4 overabundance of population, which ones have low
 5 populations that need to be added to so that they can
 6 understand basically the problem we are facing as we go
 7 back and redraw these districts.

8 SENATOR WEBSTER: We'll do that. Senator Klein.
 9 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Mr. Chairman, I guess we had at the last meeting a series
 11 of questions that were asked by members of the committee.
 12 And I think everyone in this committee and everybody in the
 13 public understands that this is a process of taking public
 14 input and that is under the way we conduct our legislative
 15 business. And for the public that doesn't come to
 16 Tallahassee, we have hearings all the time when considering
 17 legislation. And part of those hearings relate to taking
 18 public testimony, using our ideas and applying the public's
 19 ideas, there's give and take and questions and answers and
 20 amendments and lots of other things which we will
 21 eventually get to in terms of the actual bill itself.

22 But I do have concerns about the fact that there
 23 doesn't seem to be give and take in this process of people
 24 coming up. And I'm glad to see we had many people come out
 25 tonight. But I also look to see it's only 8:10. We

1 REPRESENTATIVE JENNINGS: Just to follow up,
 2 Mr. Chairman. And, again, I'm just trying to understand
 3 the process myself. This is such a new process for many of
 4 us at the table. It's only done every ten years so it's
 5 something we all come to -- I'll speak for myself -- with a
 6 lot of ignorance. So as people are asking a lot of
 7 questions, and I don't claim to be in the league of Senator
 8 King, but he didn't know the answer to a question and I
 9 might not know the answer to ten times as many questions he
 10 doesn't know the answer to, so we can be able to facilitate
 11 a conversation with our constituents across the state. So
 12 I'm just trying to -- as you are thinking, Mr. Chairman, if
 13 we can figure out a vehicle how we can respond to some of
 14 their questions as we go forward, I think that would be
 15 helpful.

16 SENATOR WEBSTER: Further questions? Senator Jones?
 17 SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just
 18 wanted to make a suggestion. When the people come to the
 19 hearings we have out front maps that they can take a look
 20 at that reflect our current districts, Congressional,
 21 House, and state Senate districts. What I'd like to
 22 suggest is for future hearings that we have the same maps
 23 that we received from our staff director that show the
 24 pluses and minuses of population in those respective
 25 districts. Because what that will do is give the

1 started at 6:00 which means everybody got the chance to
 2 speak which is good. I think, just like we do in
 3 Tallahassee when we give people a certain amount of time to
 4 speak and then there is a question and answer period if
 5 necessary that can be managed by the Chair. I know you're
 6 an expert being the former speaker and chairman of the
 7 committees in terms of administering the process so that we
 8 get it moving along.

9 But I think there is a lot of validity if somebody
 10 does raise a question that if a member of this committee
 11 has the chance to ask the question on the spot, there is a
 12 flow. There may be a couple of questions that go back and
 13 forth, and what we're doing is we're getting the maximum
 14 amount of information that the committee can consider when
 15 moving forward.

16 In addition, Mr. Chairman, there were, as I said, a
 17 lot of questions relating to the process for the hearings
 18 themselves. There were additional requests for locations.
 19 There were time issues that were questioned. There were
 20 hearing locations. I think somebody mentioned there were a
 21 number of Congressional districts that didn't have
 22 representation. There were a number of hearings, and I
 23 know there's even been some discussion since then about the
 24 fact there may be some additional hearings to be
 25 considered.

1 There were hearing times. I know in my community, in
2 Palm Beach County, there is a scheduled meeting at 5:30
3 which is the middle of rush hour. Our main artery is I-95
4 and it's under major construction. And I don't think
5 anybody is going to be able to get to the meeting so we
6 need to deal with that.

7 There was some questions about the software
8 redistricting plans. Everything from equal protection to
9 criterion on the population deviations. And these are
10 important issues that I think the public needs to
11 understand when they start drawing their maps. If, in
12 fact, we are going to have the public have a knowledge, a
13 base of knowledge, in terms of what the legal parameters
14 that are going to be used or the criteria that are going to
15 be used, I haven't heard any criteria. If we as members of
16 this committee haven't heard any criteria, I don't know how
17 the public is going to make any use out of the
18 ambiguousness of the process so far.

19 There's communities of interest, Voting Rights Act,
20 public service announcements that can be used to help get
21 the word out. I guess the bottom line is I suggested at
22 the end of the last meeting, because I know you had
23 presented the fact that we want to make sure when people
24 come to this public hearing they know that their time is
25 well spent. They don't have to wait for an unreasonable

1 amount of time.

2 But I also suggest if we have a meeting at 6:00, that
3 we publicize the fact that we're going to have -- the
4 committee process will start at 5:30 or 5:45 to give us the
5 chance to get -- and the public -- to get a full update on
6 what has happened. What questions are now answered from
7 the previous meeting.

8 You know, we've had three and a half weeks since the
9 last meeting and there hasn't been any communication about
10 any of the answers to the questions raised. And I'm not
11 sure when they are going to be answered. And based on the
12 way you reacted to Representative Jennings' question, I'm
13 not sure who to ask the questions of. So I'm not sure
14 where we go with this.

15 So as the Chair and co-chairs of the committee, we
16 need to establish a process by which we get answers to
17 questions. And I would also like to suggest as we go
18 through this process, because there are policy questions
19 about how we conduct this hearing. The Senate certainly,
20 as a committee, we go forward and adopt rules or procedures
21 or guidelines on how we're going to do things. And if it's
22 a question of what I raised earlier, about somebody speaks
23 for three minutes and then there's a question and answer
24 period, as a group here, we haven't had the chance to react
25 to that.

1 Maybe there's a majority of this committee that thinks
2 that's a good idea and maybe that should be expressed in
3 some. I know you said we're not operating under rules but
4 I think we should operate under some rules that the public
5 can understand. If they have questions they know when the
6 answers come about and we can have a reasonable set of
7 expectations as we move through 18 more hearings. This is
8 just the very beginning. I know we're feeling our way
9 through the process and I appreciate that but this is the
10 time to sort of get some policies, procedures on the table
11 so the public in the next 18 hearings, Ocala and on,
12 tomorrow will know how we go about doing our business and
13 everyone has a reasonable set of expectations.

14 So, Mr. Chairman, I put that out there for you and I
15 would ask that we begin to get some answers to these
16 questions so that we don't keep coming to hearings and the
17 public doesn't really know what to expect, doesn't know how
18 to engage us, doesn't know what the process is, when they
19 have to have their maps in, what the deadlines are. None
20 of that information has been circulated. The sooner we can
21 get that information I think the better the public will be
22 served.

23 SENATOR WEBSTER: Okay. We were asking questions of
24 the public. If the members are finished doing that, then I
25 would like to call on first the delegation members if they

1 would like to make comments before we leave. And then
2 after that, we'll ask for the general membership of the
3 committee to make comments. So we'll start with Senator
4 King.

5 SENATOR KING: Briefly, Mr. Chairman. As the
6 delegation chairman for Duval County, I first of all would
7 like to welcome each and every one of my colleagues from
8 the House and Senate. But more importantly, I'd like to
9 take this opportunity to thank the people who came tonight,
10 a working night, a Monday night. It is virtually 9:00.

11 I think it bespeaks the fact that this county in which
12 we live has a keen interest in what we are about to do
13 here. And I would also conclude that while everybody keeps
14 on talking about fairness in the lines that we draw,
15 remember, if you will, that the lines that are in existence
16 now were drawn when another party was in the majority party
17 and yet the turnabout as a result of those lines was the
18 fact that Republicans now are in control of the House and
19 the Senate and the Governor's mansion. Just because the
20 lines are drawn doesn't necessarily mean that's what's
21 going to happen politically. So when you ask for the
22 fairness, let's make sure everybody understands the lines
23 we serve in right now were drawn fairly and we're going to
24 try to do exactly the same thing.

25 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Davis.

1 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you very much,
 2 Mr. Chairman. I, like my colleague Senator King, I want to
 3 welcome my colleagues in the House of Representatives to
 4 Jacksonville and also our friends in the Senate. We're
 5 glad to have you here tonight and I also want to commend
 6 those of you in public who took the time and made the
 7 effort to be here with us tonight and we hope that you have
 8 learned something about how we're going to approach this
 9 redistricting process. It's a very complicated process but
 10 I think it will be fair. I hope it will be open and I hope
 11 it will result in the kind of redistricting that you are
 12 looking for.

13 But if I might, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take just a
 14 minute and a half. I had a conversation today with the
 15 mayors of Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, and Jacksonville
 16 Beach, a conference call, and they sent me one letter.
 17 They all had commission meetings tonight. They wanted to
 18 be here but they could not. So they sent a letter and
 19 asked that I read it for the public record. And with your
 20 permission, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to take 60 seconds to
 21 do that.

22 It has come to our attention that the state of Florida
 23 has taken up the issue of redistricting the state
 24 legislative districts. We have recently been in a
 25 redistricting situation in Duval County and have received

1 enormous support from our constituents in the three beaches
 2 communities, namely Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach and
 3 Neptune Beach.

4 It is our belief that these cities -- should these
 5 cities become separated in a redistricting process it will
 6 have a negative impact on our communities. The three
 7 beaches communities should remain in the same state
 8 district since they are geographically separated from the
 9 remainder of the county by virtue of the intracoastal
 10 waterway.

11 For many years the beaches have relied upon each other
 12 for mutual aid and support. They share a common bond
 13 namely being coastal communities that experience situations
 14 and conditions that are unique to being located on the
 15 ocean.

16 Now here is the best part. Representative Don Davis
 17 has been an outstanding Representative -- (Laughter.) has
 18 been an outstanding Representative to this area. We are
 19 very proud of his efforts on behalf of his constituents
 20 here at the beaches. For the reasons above, we would
 21 appreciate if Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach, and
 22 Neptune Beach were left in the same district. Thank you
 23 for your consideration.

24 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Lee.
 25 REPRESENTATIVE LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will

1 be very brief in my comments and ditto Representative
 2 Davis, welcome to Jacksonville. And I would just like to
 3 say from the meeting we had in Tallahassee, I would
 4 personally like to commend the committee and the leaders
 5 from the House and the Senate because it certainly is an
 6 improvement. I think there's been more public input and I
 7 think the committee members are a little more satisfied
 8 than they were in Tallahassee. You feel a little more
 9 inclusiveness and I think that's very important. So if the
 10 leadership is listening, then I'm sure the people will have
 11 a chance. And basically that's all I have to say.

12 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Kravitz.
 13 REPRESENTATIVE KRAVITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
 14 First of all, I'll be very brief. I want to thank everyone
 15 for coming. I want to welcome you to Duval, Clay and
 16 St. Johns Counties. That's the areas that I represent and
 17 welcome to the audience and we certainly appreciate your
 18 input. I know this is going to be a very imposing task
 19 after ten years with the growth we've experienced in this
 20 area. But this committee is up to the task. And I think
 21 as we move around the state we're going to get good
 22 direction from folks like you that have shown up tonight
 23 and we're going to come forward with a very good piece of
 24 legislation that will treat everyone fairly and equally.
 25 Thank you again.

1 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Hogan.
 2 REPRESENTATIVE HOGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too
 3 would like to welcome everyone that's attended tonight.
 4 Many of the folks that are here are folks that we serve and
 5 several of us have been on the city council together. And
 6 I wanted to add real quickly that I read the letter from
 7 the three mayors of the beaches and I read it in its
 8 entirety. I don't remember the last paragraph.

9 (Laughter.)
 10 If it's going to be entered into the record, I wonder
 11 if pencil counts. This is a very important process. I
 12 applaud what the two chairman have done as far as making
 13 these meetings open to the public. I believe the public
 14 has a good idea of what these are about, what to say, it's
 15 pretty evident to me tonight. Many of them were
 16 championing their current Representative but mainly the
 17 comments were about where the lines are drawn and how the
 18 lines should be drawn. And I believe that this committee
 19 is prepared to draw these lines fairly and I'm confident
 20 that we're going to follow the constitutional law and
 21 satisfy to the best of our ability those people that we
 22 represent. Thank you.

23 SENATOR WEBSTER: Senator Holzendorf.
 24 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And of
 25 course you know I'm going to say something more

1 substantive. I did not -- I know everyone was talking this
2 was the Corrine Brown Show. I did not invite my
3 constituents here because I didn't know exactly what to
4 tell them to come here to say. We are going to draw lines
5 and that's the key. I represent at this particular time
6 five counties: Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Clay, and Alachua
7 Counties. There is no hearing in Alachua County.

8 I heard someone from Fernandina talking about the
9 distance in their district. The distance in my district
10 from one point to the next is 114 miles. I am very, very
11 concerned that there was someone here with a map and had
12 some census data and I would like for my constituents to
13 have that same data because I think we have the wherewithal
14 to draw districts to make suggestions and to draw lines.

15 It's very, very important that our constituents
16 understand that this process determines for the next ten
17 years who their Representative will be. And we need to get
18 that message across to them. My constituents are calling
19 me saying, We've lost 65,000 people. We haven't lost any
20 people. It just takes that many to come up with the new
21 number, not the old number. So we have not lost any people
22 out of Senate District 2. It's just with the growth in
23 Florida the Senate districts are going to have to be
24 larger. So what happens is if we are going to make those
25 districts larger then we have to decide where those

1 constituents are going to come from and that means we have
2 to look at other areas that we do not currently represent.
3 And that means that we are going to do the drawing in
4 committee.

5 I would like to see a set of committees, working
6 committees, as was emphasized by the lady from the League
7 of Women Voters, whereby we talk about where those
8 constituents are, what are the common things that they
9 have. One of the things they have in common that makes
10 them work in one of these districts, somebody talked about
11 urban districts being joined with rural districts, we have
12 to make sure that the district you have you can represent.
13 The district I have currently, and everybody asks me, How
14 do you stay so thin? Try going 114 miles to represent your
15 district or try having five delegation meetings in one day,
16 it will take some weight off of you.

17 But, Mr. Chairman, I do want to welcome all of you
18 here and I do want to say to you that I look forward to
19 working with you. There are very few of us in the
20 Legislature, yourself included, that have gone through this
21 process and we know that we can have these hearings but
22 unless we get some meaningful kinds of comments, then we
23 are going to sit there and draw these districts without the
24 input of the constituents.

25 And I think that we have to plan for hearings in

1 Tallahassee and also to come back to our districts and hold
2 additional hearings to tell people what we are trying to
3 get to in Tallahassee. And that's the only way we are
4 going to be fair. Because what we heard here today, very
5 few people talked about, actually drawing a district or
6 where the districts would be or how the districts would be
7 formed. And that's a critical issue.

8 We drew districts last time and had people on one side
9 of the street in one district and people on the other side
10 of the street in another district and we had to go back and
11 correct those problems. So I think we need to make sure we
12 are giving out adequate information that results in the
13 kinds of comments that we want that would help us make some
14 of these decisions. If we don't, we are going to be in
15 court and we don't need to do that. We can spend the money
16 we're going to spend on attorneys having more hearings.
17 Thank you.

18 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Fields.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And
20 to all of the members of the House and the Senate and all
21 of the people in the audience, welcome to Jacksonville and
22 thank you for the participation this afternoon.

23 This meeting, I must say, we are growing as we pursue
24 with these meetings, it's totally different than the first
25 meeting over in Tallahassee. And there was significant

1 input tonight and I was very happy at the end that there
2 were some questions that were able to be asked and
3 answered. I think there are two things that are sort of
4 troubling to me. The gentleman that came up with the map.

5 First of all, if he's privy to information that others
6 are not privy to, then that's a little disturbing. Because
7 certainly for an individual to have outlined that map with
8 census data, he had to get it from someplace and I would
9 just like to know because I'm a part of the Third
10 Congressional District and District Senate 2 and of course
11 I represent state House District 14. And of course I'm
12 also interested in the other minority state House district
13 which is 15. So if somebody has numbers for those
14 particular districts right now then I think that those
15 numbers should be shared across the table.

16 There was someone that said that they didn't think
17 that their part of the community was contiguous with the
18 rest of the district. And, you know, I think there is
19 something that's very important and there's something that
20 I try constantly to articulate to my son. Martin Luther
21 King fought and died for the privilege of all citizens to
22 be able to represent communities, be it black or white.

23 I think as long as you represent a common thread and
24 we all believe in safe and healthy neighborhoods, and if we
25 all have a common interest in helping people, making sure

1 that our elderly is taken care of, making sure that our
2 state and federal highways are taken care of, I don't think
3 it makes a difference who that individual is and that is
4 sort of disheartening.

5 But, you know, I'm moved and I smile because when you
6 represent a district as diverse as mine and when you carry
7 out of 51 precincts, that means that a total community must
8 be behind you. So for whoever that individual is or
9 whoever those individuals are, I welcome you to get with me
10 and let's sit down and have a conversation because I think
11 that's what the American dream is all about, all of us
12 working together to make a better community. And the
13 bottom line isn't at all about helping all Floridians.
14 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, audience.

15 SENATOR WEBSTER: I would say this. There is
16 information available and I know the House staff and Senate
17 staff would work with you if there is anyone in your
18 constituency that did not have that information through
19 either checking it out at the library or the purchase or
20 other means by which it could be downloaded if you need
21 that help.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS: Thank you so much,
23 Mr. Chairman. I know that there are a lot of people that
24 are in my area that are interested in that particular
25 information.

1 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Bean.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BEAN: Thank you. Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, for the
4 right to speak and to participate tonight. You know, as
5 you may know I'm still finishing or just finished our first
6 year and did a lot of learning this year. And a lot of
7 times when I would ask for advice, I would go talk to my
8 good friend Johnnie Byrd that would say, Representative
9 Bean, it's only the fifth inning or the second inning or
10 the third quarter. And I think it would be safe to say as
11 we kick things off tonight, it's the top of the first
12 inning. And folks in the audience I guess I want to
13 encourage you to stay involved because we've got a lot of
14 ball game left to play so to speak.

15 And you may leave tonight saying when you go tell your
16 wife or husband tonight, Well, they didn't make any
17 decisions but, you know, I think they listened. And,
18 colleagues, on behalf of Nassau and Bradford and Baker and
19 Union Counties and Duval County, I thank you for coming
20 tonight and I thank you for listening.

21 SENATOR WEBSTER: I think that's it for the
22 delegation. Oh, wait. That's right. I'm sorry. We have
23 Representative Pickens and Representative Jordan. If
24 you-all would like to make comments. Representative
25 Pickens.

1 REPRESENTATIVE PICKENS: Thank you very much. Joe
2 Pickens, District 21 which is Putnam, Clay, and Marion
3 Counties. I do want to thank particularly Mayor Sands and
4 Russ and Christy for coming and testifying.

5 It is very difficult to get someone here. My mother
6 lives in the Jacksonville area. I strongly encouraged her
7 to come down and say something nice about me. She decided
8 she knew it was on television and she would watch it. So
9 Mom, thank you very much.

10 I know that I'll have the opportunity to talk to you
11 individually about the commonalities of interest that I
12 think exist across community lines. I can talk to Joyce
13 Cusack about the commonalities of Pierson and Crescent
14 cities on you-all's time and not the public's time. So I
15 just thank you for the opportunity to be here. I look
16 forward to listening in Marion County tomorrow and in
17 Volusia County later on in the month. Thank you.

18 SENATOR WEBSTER: Representative Jordan.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JORDON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
20 glad you recognize the peanut gallery out here. And it's
21 nice to be last. You know, it makes you appreciate the
22 Founding Fathers and the tremendous task they had in
23 putting this great country together. And I appreciate and
24 take great pride in being a Floridian and seeing this
25 process in place. It is a true honor and it's certainly an

1 honor to be a part of your membership. I did want to end
2 my statement tonight by telling you I have listened, my
3 ears are out of breath and I wish you-all a good night.

4 SENATOR WEBSTER: Members of the committee. Senator
5 Wasserman-Schultz, you are recognized.

6 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Just two quick things. Senator King mentioned earlier that
8 the maps we're operating under now and the district we
9 represent were drawn by the party not currently in the
10 majority. That's not exactly true just for the public's
11 benefit. The Congressional map was drawn by a three-judge
12 panel, not by the Legislature. And the existing House and
13 Senate maps were drawn by a coalition. They were drawn and
14 adopted by a coalition of Republicans and Democrats. It
15 was a bipartisan effort. So I just wanted to make sure we
16 set the record straight on that.

17 And very respectfully, Mr. Chairman, we've had a
18 number of members asking questions -- Mr. Chairman, we've
19 had a number of members ask questions, Senator Klein,
20 myself, and a few other members in the last few public
21 hearings. Many of which we've not yet had answers to. And
22 I was just wondering when we could expect answers to those
23 questions.

24 SENATOR WEBSTER: There are committee meetings and
25 there are public hearings. And my one goal in the public

1 hearing is to hear from the public, that's it. If the
2 members want to talk, I'll definitely accommodate them for
3 the time left. But I plan to hear from the public and
4 that's it. And I'm not going to answer any questions
5 dealing with all the things that you're talking about
6 because that would preclude some of the people who
7 testified tonight. There have been people testify -- so --
8 if you said, Okay, I've listened to this testimony and I'm
9 not for that. So if we were to adopt the first testimony,
10 then the second testimony would be of no effect. So I'm
11 just listening.

12 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Mr. Chairman, you're
13 misunderstanding me. What I'm asking you is, I understand
14 that you don't want to answer the questions. You may not
15 want to answer the questions on the record in the public
16 hearing. But in between if we ask you questions at the end
17 of each public hearing, couldn't we expect between one
18 meeting to the next or two meetings later that we'd get
19 answers to those questions? That's what I'm asking.

20 I understand you don't want to take up the public's
21 time and answer them. But when can the members expect
22 answers to those questions?

23 SENATOR WEBSTER: I can answer that, No. Because you
24 may preclude some of the public testimony by answering
25 questions in an affirmative or a negative. So we're going

1 to listen to the public and then we're going to determine
2 what we're going to do as opposed to determine what we're
3 going to do, explaining out the things, and saying, Okay,
4 if you can testify within these parameters, then you can
5 testify. If not, then we really don't want to hear from
6 you.

7 SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. Chairman, maybe the nature of the
8 questions that I think we're interested in really don't
9 relate to the substance of what the map will look like. It
10 relates to are we going to have additional public hearings?
11 Where are the public hearings? Are there going to be
12 features for people with disabilities? I mean, there are a
13 whole series of questions that we asked last time that I
14 think need to be answered because the public needs to know
15 and the members want to know. They don't relate to how the
16 public hearings, the outcome of what the maps will look
17 like. Some of the questions are very much related to the
18 timing, the elements of the hearings themselves.

19 SENATOR WEBSTER: So you're not aware of your office
20 being contacted to have another public hearing?

21 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: No. In Broward County?

22 SENATOR WEBSTER: Are you aware -- no, in Palm --

23 SENATOR KLEIN: In Palm Beach County my office was
24 contacted -- and I thank your staff -- and she said, Are
25 there two different locations? And I gave her a couple of

1 different recommendations. In the meantime, I'm getting
2 questions every day about when and time and supposedly
3 September 5th is the hearing coming up --

4 SENATOR WEBSTER: As I explained to you before, it
5 takes awhile to get it all worked out. Same with Senator
6 Geller we contacted. And we are going to do one hopefully
7 in Lakeland and one in Gainesville and we've been working
8 on that. But until we have a place and a time that matches
9 up with all the other things that are going on, we can't do
10 it. But we're in the process of doing it. And like I
11 explained at the first meeting, it's not just like setting
12 a date. There's lots of considerations. But once we get
13 it, there will be plenty of time so people can prepare.

14 Representative Richardson.

15 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 I have a procedural question, Mr. Chairman, if I might
17 because I'm getting questions from my constituents and they
18 want to know procedurally how this whole thing is going to
19 play itself out through the legislative session, for
20 instance. Inclusive of the public hearings, however many
21 that ends up, being -- because people who are coming now
22 and giving testimony, I don't think have an understanding
23 of where this is going.

24 Being new to the process, I don't really have an
25 understanding at this point of where we are going and I

1 don't know if you want to do that beyond the public
2 hearings but I think maybe the public needs to know that
3 because if the people from Leon and surrounding areas and
4 Duval and surrounding areas want to be involved in this
5 process beyond the public hearing, it might be to their
6 benefit to know procedurally -- I saw something earlier
7 tonight that spelled out the time lines and I guess how
8 this thing is going to proceed. And I had never seen that
9 before and I don't know if the public has seen that before.

10 So if they wanted to come to Tallahassee, if they
11 wanted to come and present before a committee they know the
12 time lines associated with that and how in the future they
13 can be involved in this process and it would benefit us
14 because we could also involve our constituents.

15 SENATOR WEBSTER: We have a time line and that's
16 posted on the Internet and it has been available. Should
17 have a copy of that. We've given out several different
18 ones in color to the Senators and I'm sure the House has.
19 However, as far as the rest of the process, you elected a
20 speaker, we elected a president. They are in charge of
21 determining the schedule by the rules, by your rules, by
22 our rules. And they're going to determine when we take up
23 bills, when we file bills, when we have committee meetings
24 and so forth. And those schedules are not completed. But
25 those are going to be presiding officer questions, not

1 chairman questions.

2 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON: Follow-up, Mr. Chairman.

3 SENATOR WEBSTER: You're recognized.

4 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON: I think generally we can

5 explain to the public, as you just have, that beyond the

6 public hearings there will be committee meetings where a

7 bill will be filed, people will have the opportunity to

8 come and testify before a committee if they wish. The

9 process of how that bill will move through the Legislature,

10 the general public does not know that. Everybody does not

11 have access to the Internet to be able to access maps and

12 time lines. So to spend ten minutes doing that at the

13 beginning of the public hearing, I think will benefit those

14 in the public who come to these hearings as well as the new

15 members particularly of the committee who have not been

16 through this process before.

17 SENATOR WEBSTER: Yes, I guess we could. We could

18 probably do that at every committee meeting before the

19 Legislature but we don't. And we don't do it before the

20 session. We don't announce to the public, This is what the

21 session is all about. But we'll try to do better. We'll

22 do as best we can.

23 However, I think the key right now is just the fact

24 we're having public hearings, and that's it. And that's

25 all this is for is to have public input. And once we get

1 that public input what we do with it we will be held

2 accountable for. And I think that's the point.

3 So we're going to receive as much as we can at the

4 public hearings and then, just like any piece of

5 legislation, there are notice requirements, there are bill

6 filing requirements, there are amendment requirements,

7 there are opportunities to debate which differ a little bit

8 from House and Senate. There are opportunities to talk in

9 committee. There's opportunities to offer amendments in

10 committee. There's opportunities to debate it on the

11 floor, House and Senate. There's opportunities to work it

12 out in conference.

13 No different than any other bill and yet I don't think

14 that that's what these hearings are about is to explain the

15 legislative process, I think it's to allow people to talk

16 to us so we can hear.

17 Senator Latvala.

18 SENATOR LATVALA: Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask, I

19 thought I heard Mr. Guthrie explain a number of those

20 things in his presentation basically going through the

21 timetable, through the whole process. It was fairly

22 extensive, not only talking about our end of it, but it

23 also talked about the court end of it. And maybe since

24 that was early in the meeting, it wasn't comprehended that

25 that's what he was doing. But perhaps that could be

1 amplified on some of these -- might answer some of these

2 fact questions.

3 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you. Other remarks by

4 members? Yes, Representative Cusack.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CUSACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At

6 the last meeting I asked about criteria and I still am

7 concerned, as a freshman and having not gone through this

8 process, I'm concerned that we have no criteria or

9 guidelines that we would use as we draw the lines and also

10 to provide the constituents the opportunity to have a plan

11 and will that plan have to be inclusive of the entire state

12 or can you draw a proposal for just a certain area in which

13 you might live.

14 And I don't know if everyone understands that. I

15 certainly am not clear on that and I was hoping that maybe

16 somewhere along the line we might be able to have some set

17 criteria as to what you would consider as a part of your

18 proposal. And if so, when is it due in, those types of

19 things so we would have something that -- substance to take

20 back to the constituents we represent.

21 SENATOR WEBSTER: Well, actually, right now we're just

22 hearing from them. And as we hear from them, we'll be able

23 to begin drawing. But I hope that you -- I have not

24 touched a computer and don't plan on it until these

25 hearings are over. I want to hear what the public has to

1 say. And this will determine communities of interest and

2 all the things that you're talking about. But I don't

3 think determining beforehand is a good, otherwise or

4 prudent idea.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CUSACK: Just to follow up. So you

6 don't think that there needs to be any set criteria that

7 the public needs to prepare or to have access to as to what

8 they should include in their lines?

9 SENATOR WEBSTER: No. I think what they should do is

10 tell us what they believe they think the lines should be or

11 the principles that would be behind those lines. And the

12 more we hear of that, the better off we are, I think, as

13 far as being able to meet the needs of our own

14 constituency.

15 But if we were to somehow limit those, then I think we

16 would end up not being able to even receive some testimony.

17 Because even tonight, in fact, there's conflicting

18 testimony. If we already eliminated part of that, then

19 that testimony would have been null and void. So I think

20 we listen now and we draw later.

21 Further comments by the members? Yes. Representative

22 Wilson.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've

24 heard this question asked before and maybe I didn't hear

25 the answer. But will there be hearings after we draw the

1 maps? Will the public have an opportunity for input or to
2 add what they would consider corrections to the maps that
3 we have presented?

4 SENATOR WEBSTER: We've never passed a joint
5 resolution nor a bill in the House or Senate that hasn't
6 had a public hearing. And I would assume the presiding
7 officers whose charge that is, to determine when committees
8 will meet, will determine that. And once they do, we'll
9 take up a bill or a joint resolution in both houses and
10 we're going to debate it, amend it, whatever else there is
11 to do with it. And have testimony and then we'll vote.

12 But right now we're going to focus on public hearing.
13 I think if you take a look at what I proposed versus what
14 used to be in existence in a former life of mine, you'll
15 see I was very open to fairness and to notice and to
16 allowing people to say their mind and say their peace and I
17 don't think that is going to change. Anyone else?

18 Representative Jennings.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JENNINGS: I want to follow up with a
20 question I asked earlier and hopefully we can have an
21 answer -- or I could have an answer in regard to when the
22 citizens ask questions or can we develop for tomorrow's
23 meeting or the next meeting after that a vehicle for those
24 responses, whatever under your and the chairman of the
25 House's perspective.

1 But if they're asking questions, as they're asking
2 should we say, Don't ask them or somebody is going to
3 respond? You said I asked a good question earlier and I
4 appreciate that but I'm hoping at some point we could give
5 them some kind of vehicle because it's your desire, and
6 it's an appropriate one, to hear from them.

7 And as they are asking questions of us, either we need
8 to be able to answer them or staff needs to answer them, or
9 somebody needs to answer them. So I'm sure other folks
10 want to know how we should facilitate those responses.

11 SENATOR WEBSTER: If there is a question dealing with
12 something that staff could answer in that, How many people
13 live in this city, and we can answer that, then staff could
14 do that. But for the most part, I think, again, we're here
15 not to answer questions because that tends to prejudice us
16 for the rest of the hearing the way we answer them.
17 Rather, I would rather them, and if they want to pose a
18 question, that's fine, in posing a question a lot of times
19 you're making a statement. And I think that to me is what
20 we are here to do, is listen to them.

21 There will be times and there will be answers. And if
22 you want to answer the question in your statement, you can
23 do that. But I think the point is we are not here to
24 answer questions. We are here to take public testimony.

25 REPRESENTATIVE JENNINGS: So I understand what you

1 said. So if there are objective questions asked like
2 numbers, if they asked an objective question, then staff
3 could answer that question. That would be okay? You would
4 not have a problem with --

5 SENATOR WEBSTER: But I wouldn't do it during the
6 hearing. I'd just say if it is something they could answer
7 later, great.

8 COMMISSIONER JENNINGS: They are going to seek out
9 those people in writing or something to respond to them.

10 SENATOR WEBSTER: Yes. Further? Meeting is
11 adjourned.

12 (Hearing adjourned at 8:50 p.m.)
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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
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8 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001.

9 _____
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