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FACT-FINDING MEETING ON
LOS ANGELES REAPPORTIONMENT

Held by the Reapportionment Subcommittee
of the California Advisory Committee
to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Wednesday, May 26, 1982
Federal Building, Room 8544
Los Angeles, California

APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the Staff:

PHILIP MONTEZ, Regional Director
LAURIE CAMPBELL, Regional Attorney
JEFFERY WALLACE, Field Representative

On Behalf of the Committee:

HERMAN SILLAS
LARRY BERG
ELAINE LOW
GRACE DAVIS
HELEN HERNANDEZ

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1982

9:15 A.M.

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MR. SILLAS: I am Herman Sillas, northern chairperson of the California State Advisory Committee. Let the record show that the meeting is officially beginning at 9:15.

We are convened here today to examine the relationship of reapportionment of Los Angeles City Council and School Board districts to opportunities for racial/ethnic minorities in voting, candidacy and election. The State Advisory Committee receives information and makes recommendations to the Commission in areas which the Committee or any of its subcommittees is authorized to study.

Other members of the Committee in attendance this morning are Mr. Larry Berg and Ms. Elaine Low. Also seated at the podium here is Mr. Phil Montez, Regional Director of the Commission's western office.

This fact-finding meeting is being held pursuant to federal rules applicable to State advisory committees and regulations promulgated by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The Commission on Civil Rights is an

independent agency of the United States Government
established by Congress in 1957 and directed to:

1. Investigate complaints alleging that citizens are being deprived of their right to vote by reason of their race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, or by reason of fraudulent practices;
2. Study and collect information concerning legal developments constituting discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the law under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, or in the administration of justice;
3. Appraise federal laws and policies with respect to discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws;
4. Serve as a national clearinghouse for information about discrimination; and
5. Submit reports, findings and recommendations to the President and Congress.

I would like to emphasize that this is a fact-finding meeting and not an adversary proceeding. Individuals have

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1 been invited to come and share with the Committee
2 information relating to the subject of today's inquiry.
3 Each person who will participate has voluntarily agreed to
4 meet with the Committee.

5 This is a public meeting, the press and
6 radio and television stations, as well as individuals, are
7 welcome. Persons meeting with the Committee, however, may
8 specifically request that they not be televised. In this
9 case, we will comply with their wishes.

10 We are concerned that no defamatory
11 material be presented at this meeting. In the unlikely
12 event that this situation should develop, it will be
13 necessary for me to call this to the attention of the persons
14 making these statements and request that they desist in
15 their action. Such information will be stricken from the
16 record if necessary. If the comments a person is offering,
17 however, are of sufficient importance, the Committee will
18 hear the information. In that event, the persons against
19 whom allegations are made will have ample opportunity to
20 respond by making statements before the Committee or
21 submitting written statements if they desire.

22 Every effort has been made to invite
23 persons who are knowledgeable about the progress in the area
24 to be dealt with here today. In our attempt to get a
25 well-balanced picture about reapportionment, we have invited

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1 members of the Los Angeles City Council and County Board of
2 Supervisors, as well as researchers, community organization
3 representatives, and concerned individuals. In addition,
4 we have allocated time this afternoon at 4:15 P.M. to hear
5 from anyone who wishes to share information with the
6 Committee about reapportionment. At that time, each person
7 or organization will have five minutes to speak to the
8 Committee and may submit additional information in writing.
9 Those wishing to participate in the open session must
10 contact Commission staff before 4:15 P.M. today.

11 Having stated that for the record, we are
12 prepared now to hear from our first presenter,
13 Dr. Richard Santillan.

14 DR. SANTILLAN: Mr. Chairperson, should I use the
15 mike?

16 MR. SILLAS: Yes, use the mike. And if you will,
17 for the record, Doctor, will you state your name and your
18 affiliations.

19 DR. SANTILLAN: My name is Dr. Richard Santillan,
20 and I'm Assistant Professor at California State Polytechnic
21 University, Pomona, and also Director of the Chicano-Latino
22 Study Project for state and local government at the
23 Claremont colleges.

24 MR. SILLAS: Do you have a statement to make to the
25 Committee?

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1 DR. SANTILLAN: Yes, I do. I just have a very
2 brief statement.

3 First of all, Mr. Chairperson, and members
4 of the Committee and staff, I would like to extend my
5 appreciation for inviting me, and allowing me to come to
6 speak to you about a very important subject, and that is the
7 upcoming City Council and School District redistricting
8 of Los Angeles.

9 As some of you are aware, for the last
10 three years I have dedicated most of my life to the State
11 reapportionment that has just somewhat concluded. As a
12 result of the high degree of political sophistication and
13 organization, the Latino community was able to extract
14 certain concessions from the Legislature, both in the
15 Assembly and Congressional. As a result of this
16 reapportionment plan that we perceive as being somewhat
17 more fair and equitable than ten years ago, forty Latinos
18 have filed for office for State and Congressional offices.
19 I should add that around seven of these candidates are
20 Latino or Chicano women, and I think that this is further
21 evidence that the Chicano community does desire to
22 participate in the political process.

23 When I testified before this body in
24 Sacramento on the state reapportionment I had stated that
25 there has been a myth that the Latino community is

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1 apathetic, and that the Latino community does not want to
2 participate in politics. However, as I shared with you at
3 that time, and indeed if we look at the history of the
4 lack of political participation by Latinos, you would find
5 that there has historically been policies and practices and
6 laws and racist attitudes that have discouraged and
7 excluded Latinos from participating in the political
8 process. However, in the last 20 years, as a result of a
9 number of fundamental changes within the election laws and
10 attitudes, we have seen that there has been an increase in
11 Latinos in political office and voter registration and
12 participation in both major parties. However, when we look
13 at Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, it is a very sad
14 episode, a very tragic episode that the city which has the
15 largest Latino population in the nation has no representation
16 in the City Council nor on the School Board, nor on the
17 Board of Supervisors, nor as a City Attorney, nor as a Mayor.
18 In fact, since 1881 only one Mexican-American has served
19 upon the City Council, and the same case for the School
20 Board of Los Angeles.

21 There have been a number of obstacles in
22 Los Angeles that have discouraged Latinos from participating,
23 and a couple of those impediments have been somewhat overcome.
24 One was ten years ago in terms of redistricting it was done
25 by voter registration, rather than by population, which

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1 created a disparity. But in one case of 1970-71 the courts
2 ruled that the City Council had to realign districts by
3 population, rather than by voter registration. In addition,
4 the Los Angeles School Board until a couple of years ago
5 had an at-large school district system, and in the last
6 couple of years it has been mandated, both by initiative
7 and by the School Board, to run single-member districts.

8 However, the major obstacle that has not
9 been overcome, or eradicated is that of racial gerrymandering.

10 I have just completed a report on the 1972
11 reapportionment plan that the City Council passed, and the
12 courts upheld to see what type of effect, if any, there was
13 on the participation of Latinos in the last ten years. In
14 1972 the then councilperson that chaired the City
15 Council [redacted] Administrative [redacted] Committee, who
16 is now County Supervisor Ed Edelman, proclaimed that the
17 plan that was passed by the City Council would increase the
18 chances of electing at least two Chicanos to the City Council
19 in the next ten years. However, the Chicano community
20 leadership at that time maintained that the plan passed by
21 the City Council in 1972, and upheld by the courts foreclosed
22 any possibility of any Chicano being elected in the next
23 ten years. So I think that history has vindicated, and has
24 proven that the Latino community in fact is correct; that
25 in fact the Edelman plan, in looking back on it in my

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1 research, was a classic example of racial gerrymandering.

2 Now, we can look at racial gerrymandering
3 and try to characterize racial gerrymandering in two or
4 three different ways. One is that gerrymandering has
5 usually been in terms of protection of incumbents. When
6 we look at the last ten years since that reapportionment
7 plan was passed in regular elections there have been
8 thirty-eight races. In those thirty-eight races only ten
9 incumbents have been forced into a run-off. So in 75 percent
10 of the time no incumbent has had to face a run-off. In
11 addition, of the 187 candidates since 1973 that have run
12 for office only 22 have been Mexican-Americans, 11.7, and
13 no Mexican-American in the last 10 years has been in a
14 general election. And lastly, is that in areas where
15 there has been a high concentration of the Latino
16 community in districts is that the Latino communities,
17 their perception that they cannot win, have decided not
18 to run for office.

19 I would like to, if I can, share with you
20 that since 1973 no Mexican-American has even filed for
21 office in districts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or 12, and only once
22 has a Mexican-American run in districts 2, 3, and 4. And
23 in District 5, only two Mexican-American candidates have
24 run for that office only as write-ins. So in the majority
25 in those areas where there is a high concentration of

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1 Latinos they have sensed that they cannot win because of
2 gerrymandering, and therefore have not run. The lack of
3 representation has denied Chicanos in the City of
4 Los Angeles the influence and the right to influence
5 public policy, educational policy, and community resources
6 which would result in social, economic and educational
7 upper mobility. A report by the Health, Education and
8 Welfare agency in the State of California has indicated
9 that in the last ten years that the representatives on the
10 City Council are totally delinquent, and totally lacking
11 in responsibility to the Latino community in Los Angeles.

12 When we look at the years of completion
13 in high schools, and the school system in Los Angeles, and
14 we look at the drop-outs, and we look at unemployment,
15 and we look at gang activity; when we look at unemployment
16 among women, among youths, and when we look at the under-
17 representation among Latinos in colleges; when we look at
18 the medium income, when we look at the poverty income of
19 Latinos in Los Angeles, they all fall far behind in the
20 Latino community. And while there are some representatives
21 who claim that they do not need Chicanos to represent
22 the Latino community, I would agree that that's not always
23 the case. In this case the representatives that we do have
24 have totally fallen short in their responsibilities to
25 their constituency in the Latino community.

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1 Lastly, I would like to make four
2 recommendations to the Commission, to this fact-finding
3 committee. Number one, that the City Council
4 Administrative Committee establish a Latino advisory
5 committee to work throughout the entire process of
6 redistricting the Latino community. Second, that there
7 be hearings after the City Council introduces their plan
8 in order to have effective input from the Latino community.
9 As some of you may be aware, one of the criticisms that
10 we had about State reapportionment was that there was a
11 number of what I considered token window-dressing hearings
12 before the plan came out before the Legislature, and a
13 few hearings immediately right after did not go back to
14 the Latino community. I think this is a very important
15 point. Third, that all hearings, all hearings by the City
16 should be well publicized to the media, to the community
17 agencies throughout the Latino community, and that this
18 information, as well as the hearings should be conducted
19 both in English and in Spanish. And fourth, that this
20 Committee recommend to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission
21 that a second hearing, or a subsequent hearing be held
22 after the City Council releases their plan.

23 Also in my study I provided approximately
24 ten recommendations to the Latino community as strategies
25 to at least attempt to insure a fair and equitable plan for

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1 Latinos in the forthcoming redistricting.

2 Thank you, very much.

3 MR. SILLAS: Thank you, Doctor.

4 Are there any questions from the members
5 of the Committee?

6 MS. LOW: I would like to ask, Doctor, have you
7 researched the impact of reapportionment on other minority
8 groups?

9 DR. SANTILLAN: No, my concentration was only in
10 the Latino community.

11 MR. SILLAS: Let me just ask a couple of questions.

12 You made reference to a study. Is that
13 study completed now?

14 DR. SANTILLAN: Yes, it is. I have it.

15 MR. SILLAS: And has that been provided to the
16 staff, so that we can have it?

17 MS. CAMPBELL: Yes.

18 MR. SILLAS: You indicated some statistics as it
19 pertains to the Hispanic candidates. You did not -- at
20 least I don't recall you mentioning District 14. What
21 number of Hispanics have run in the City Council from 14?

22 DR. SANTILLAN: That office has been the one
23 district in the last ten years that the Latin community
24 has run in. For example, the total of 22 Latino candidates
25 who have run for all the offices in the City, 7 of them,

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1 which is about 33 percent have run in just one district,
2 in the 14th councilmanic district. That district right
3 now has a population of 74.26.

4 MR. SILLAS: Hispanic?

5 DR. SANTILLAN: Hispanic population.

6 MR. SILLAS: Do your figures indicate what
7 percentage of that are registered voters?

8 DR. SANTILLAN: No, it does not. We don't have
9 that.

10 MR. SILLAS: Do you care to comment on the question
11 of Hispanics that are citizens and registered voters
12 versus the population?

13 DR. SANTILLAN: Unfortunately we don't have that
14 information. The census has not yet released any
15 information regarding people's place of birth, or how long
16 they have been here; levels of education, or income,
17 residency. None of that information has been available.
18 So it's very difficult to determine at the present time
19 in any given district what the voter registration population
20 is, or what the turn-out among Latinos has been.

21 MR. SILLAS: I gather from what you testified that
22 your conclusion is that Hispanics -- and you use the word
23 -- have been racially gerrymandered; that what you are
24 saying to this Committee is that their population, or
25 their communities have been divided, or placed in districts

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1 in such a manner so that the total impact of their numbers
2 cannot be expressed at the ballot box. Is that it?

3 DR. SANTILLAN: Yes, it has been done in a way that
4 the maximum political clout of the Latino community has
5 been diluted. And again we can measure this by the fact
6 of the number of incumbents who have not had to face
7 run-offs, the number of Latinos who have not made it to the
8 general election, and the fact that in districts that
9 have 37 percent, 38 percent, 25 percent, in those districts
10 no Latinos have run at all in the last ten years, which is
11 a perception of the fact that they are going to lose; that
12 there is not an opportunity. And so I think that all of
13 this criteria -- And plus the fact that the City Council
14 in 1972 refused to adopt, and look seriously at the
15 Mexican-American plan, which made some fundamental changes
16 which would have possibly elected Latinos. They didn't
17 even consider that. And I state in my report that the
18 City Council in 1972, Councilman Edelman stated very
19 clearly that he was only looking at votes that were going
20 to pass, and that was the major criteria. And I think
21 that in looking at the 1972 reapportionment process that
22 the Latino community has learned a lesson, and that is
23 all of the rhetoric, all of the deception of the City
24 Council stating over and over that this plan was the best
25 thing for Latinos, in reality it was not.

1 MR. SILLAS: Mr. Berg?

2 MR. BERG: Doctor, do you have any figures on
3 the difference between the percentage of incumbents forced
4 into run-offs in districts with a sizeable percentage of
5 Hispanic population in contrast with those who do not have
6 a sizeable percentage of Hispanics? In other words, are
7 more incumbents not forced into run-offs --

8 DR. SANTILLAN: I have that information. I don't
9 have it in that form, but I do have the years in which
10 there has been run-offs by incumbents, and I have the
11 information as to what districts they came from.

12 MR. BERG: And what is that?

13 DR. SANTILLAN: I don't have that with me. That
14 wasn't part of the report.

15 MR. BERG: Well, it would seem to me that if
16 we're interested in supporting and strengthening your
17 argument that would be a very useful figure to have. If
18 there's not a difference between the percentage of
19 incumbents being forced into run-offs in non-Hispanic
20 districts as opposed to Hispanic districts, then the
21 figures which you have really don't tell us very much.

22 MR. SILLAS: I take it from your comment that
23 that information can be easily pulled --

24 DR. SANTILLAN: Yes, it can.

25 MR. BERG: It would strengthen your argument.

1 MR. SILLAS: Your comment with the conclusion was
2 aimed at the City Council. Are you prepared to state that
3 your conclusion would also be applicable to the Board of
4 Supervisors and the school districts?

5 DR. SANTILLAN: Well, the school district in the
6 past has not been realigned by political factors.

7 MR. SILLAS: But the recent alignment?

8 DR. SANTILLAN: I haven't really looked that much
9 at the school district.

10 MR. SILLAS: What about as far as it pertains to
11 the Board of Supervisors?

12 DR. SANTILLAN: Well, that was also another activity
13 that I was involved in, that the report has presented
14 a plan to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.
15 And pretty much the plan that we had adopted, or at least
16 presented possibly could ensure a Latino in the next ten
17 years, as well as a district that the incumbent, whoever
18 it was, would have to take strong heed to the Latino
19 community in the district. However, the Board of
20 Supervisors optioned to just pretty much change some minor
21 district boundaries, and pretty much what we have ended up
22 with is pretty much what the Board of Supervisors wanted.
23 And in looking at the Board of Supervisors' redistricting
24 afterwards, many of the Californios who worked on the
25 Board of Supervisors' plan were not very happy with it.

1 And looking at it again I think it sort of foreclosed the
2 door for any Latino representation on the Board of
3 Supervisors for the next ten years. And again, I think
4 what has motivated the Board of Supervisors will again
5 motivate the City Council.

6 I think again regardless of all the
7 promises and all of the statements made by the City
8 Council that their No. 1 priority will be the protection
9 of incumbents, will be to maneuver their position in order
10 to possibly use that as a springboard to run for Mayor,
11 possibly even as a springboard to run for state office.
12 So I think that the concerns of the incumbents in this
13 year, especially in light of the fact that the present
14 Mayor is running for Governor, that there will be the
15 added dimension that their concern will be to develop a
16 plan that will put them in a better position to run for
17 office.

18 And I would like to also add that another
19 measure of the redistricting to protect incumbents in 1972
20 was the fact that in the last ten years only one incumbent
21 has been beaten in office. The other incumbents have
22 either gone for -- as Councilman Edelman did, Councilman
23 Bradley, Councilman Mills, but only one council member
24 has been defeated in the general election. I believe that
25 was Stevenson. I may be wrong.

1 MS. LOW: What about other minority communities,
2 have you had any input from them in terms of the last
3 redistricting policies?

4 DR. SANTILLAN: Well, I would like to possibly
5 defer that question to one of our other speakers,
6 Elaine Zamora, of The Californios, who have been working
7 on the plan, and who also have been working with various
8 committees to develop possible alliances and coalitions.
9 I think she would be in a better position to answer that
10 question than I would. Mine was primarily just in terms
11 of the research, and what the impact on the Latin
12 community was as a result of the '72 redistricting. But
13 as you can see, it was very devastating to the Latin
14 community.

15 MR. SILLAS: Any other questions?

16 MR. MONTEZ: It seems, Dr. Santillan, that there's
17 a variable here that is missing as relates to the Hispanic
18 community. In the past, you know, this Committee has been
19 concerned about reapportionment in the City as well as the
20 State for the last -- Well, this Committee was involved
21 as far back as in the '60's, when they had the special
22 reapportionment I think in 1966, '67, and there was
23 allocations made there for other in quotes minority
24 communities, and whereas you have now seen a great change
25 in the last 15 years of the City Council, for example,

1 that other minorities within the City or within the County
2 have. Why is it that the Hispanic community continues --
3 from your study, and your work continues to be
4 gerrymandered, and somewhat kept out of the political
5 process in Los Angeles County? That's a variable that
6 somebody hasn't been able to isolate, or try to find out
7 what the reason is. Because every other minority, with
8 the exception of the Asian and the Hispanic, are now
9 represented on official governing bodies of Los Angeles
10 County.

11 DR. SANTILLAN: Well, again, I think that the
12 position of the City Council members, especially in the
13 City of Los Angeles, wields a tremendous amount of political
14 power. It has also been used in the past as a springboard,
15 as I mentioned to you, to higher office, and therefore
16 when you have a situation of incumbents on the City Council
17 that they are not going to turn around and allow for
18 idealistic reasons or humane reasons the Latino community
19 or the Asian community to participate in that process. I
20 think that we have to clearly understand what the
21 self-interests of incumbents are.

22 MR. MONTEZ: My point is that it has happened in
23 the past for other minorities.

24 DR. SANTILLAN: Well, I think if you were to look
25 at for example in the black community, the black community

1 is somewhat consolidated, and therefore it's much easier
2 to develop districts. It's very difficult to racially
3 gerrymander the black community because of the fact that
4 they have so consolidated in a geographic area. The
5 Latino community, however, stretches throughout the
6 entire city, and therefore it is much easier to develop
7 a strategy to fragment and to dilute the Latino community
8 in the past.

9 I think also that there is a degree of
10 racism here towards the Latino community, and I think also
11 the Asian community. I think in the last election there
12 was a gentleman by the name of Mr. Wu, I believe, who ran
13 for office, and I believe his opponent, or somebody made
14 it quite clear to the voters that he was of Chinese
15 extraction, and that he was Asian I believe for the purpose
16 of polarizing people to the fact that this was an Asian
17 who was running. And I think that racial attitudes and
18 racial practices are very alive and very well in the
19 City Council. It may not be as overt as the statement
20 that Chief of Police Gates made about blacks and normal
21 people, but I think that kind of policy, and that kind of
22 attitude runs throughout the fabric of the City of
23 Los Angeles for minorities. And I would say that the
24 black community, if they were spread out as the Chicano
25 community, I would assure you that they too would not be

1 represented on the City Council. But again, it's very
2 difficult to gerrymander the black community when they're
3 so consolidated.

4 MR. MONTEZ: One other point. They will have
5 hearings for the City of Los Angeles reapportionment in
6 the first week or two of June --

7 DR. SANTILLAN: I heard June 2nd would be the first.

8 MR. MONTEZ: Yes. And according to the charter
9 regulations, I believe, in discussing it with our attorney
10 that they have to have a plan by July 1st presented to the
11 City Council. Doesn't it seem to you that that plan is
12 already pretty well set?

13 DR. SANTILLAN: Well, I would probably stake my
14 reputation on the fact that the plan has already been
15 developed, and in talking to some people within the City,
16 that several of the City Council members have been down
17 to the Planning Committee. Some of the places where I
18 got this information, and looking at their districts, I
19 think it would be very naive for the Chicano community to
20 believe again that, based upon the input that the Latino
21 community is going to have on the hearings, that that
22 input alone is going to influence. I think the plan has
23 already been made. I think what is going to influence
24 the City Council office is not only the plan, which is
25 extremely important, but also the ability of the Latino

1 community to mobilize its forces, and to put a lot of
2 pressure on the City Council to do that.

3 In my interviews with many people who
4 participated in the 1972 reapportionment there was no
5 mobilization. I mean in terms of press conferences, in
6 terms of mobilizing people to the City Council chambers,
7 those kinds of activities, which is within the realm of
8 traditional politics. There is nothing new or radical
9 in that. So I think that this time around that the
10 Latino community -- and which I applaud The Californios
11 in Los Angeles, the fact that they put together, I believe,
12 an excellent plan. But that must go hand in hand with
13 political pressure.

14 MR. SILLAS: I note from your comments, and your
15 recommendations that there is not included in your
16 recommendations any suggestion that reapportionment be
17 taken out of the hands of the City Council.

18 DR. SANTILLAN: Well, I have had sort of a change
19 of mind on that. I would say a few years ago that I
20 thought it was very important to take that responsibility
21 out of the hands of any legislative body because of the
22 fact of the self-interests of incumbents. Some of you may
23 be aware that Common Cause and California Round Table have
24 submitted their petitions to put on the ballot a commission
25 that would do the reapportionment, rather than the State

1 Legislature. And at a number of conferences that I have
2 attended with representatives of Common Cause and
3 California Round Table they still have not presented a
4 good argument that there is any assurance that there would
5 be any Latino or Asian or minority representative in that
6 commission, or in that process. So there is, I believe,
7 a token provision. But again, my major argument has been
8 that the commissioners, they are not elected, and therefore
9 are not accountable -- They're accountable to the people
10 who put that body together, and not the voters, and I
11 think that's the major difference. The City Council, they
12 are accountable for their actions, and when they come up for
13 re-election then throw the rascals out or not. But with
14 the commission, once they've done their work they are
15 disbanded; they go back to their regular occupations, and
16 that's it. And therefore the City Council just merely
17 wipes their hands and say that all they did was pass the
18 recommendations of a non-partisan commission.

19 And I think that it's sort of interesting
20 that at a time that the Latino community has been
21 developing over the years a growing political base,
22 political maturity, a much better understanding of how the
23 system works, that they're beginning to change the rules
24 of the game on us. And that is that it was fine for them
25 when they could use the California Legislature, but when

1 Latinos have learned about applying pressure to legislative
2 bodies, now they want to put it into the hands of a
3 very select group of people. And naturally, that select
4 group of people will represent the interests of the
5 Legislature anyway, and not the interests of the minority
6 community. And on those grounds I feel that the City
7 Council must go forward and should be held accountable
8 for any action, and let the voters decide at election
9 time whether they should be in there or not.

10 MR. SILLAS: Okay. I want to thank you for
11 appearing here this morning.

12 DR. SANTILLAN: And I want to thank you also
13 very much for inviting me.

14 MR. SILLAS: We would like to have as our next
15 presenter Laurie Campbell from the Regional Staff.

16 Laurie, would you state your name and
17 affiliation, please.

18 MS. CAMPBELL: I'm Regional Attorney for the
19 Western Regional Office for the Commission on Civil Rights.

20 MR. SILLAS: And, Ms. Campbell, you have, as part
21 of your duties as a staff person, attempted to prepare,
22 and make persons available from the Board of Supervisors
23 to present testimony before this Committee?

24 MS. CAMPBELL: Yes, we did.

25 We contacted Supervisor Edelman and asked

1 him to attend this meeting.

2 MR. SILLAS: And I understand that at the last
3 minute he was unable to make it?

4 MS. CAMPBELL: Yes; that's correct.

5 MR. SILLAS: I wonder if you might now for the
6 record, and for the Committee, state what your investigation,
7 or contacts did reveal?

8 MS. CAMPBELL: Yes.

9 When we interviewed Supervisor Edelman
10 we were curious to find out what had transpired during
11 the reapportionment [REDACTED] which took place in 1981, to
12 the end of September 1981. And he advised us that the
13 Board of Supervisors had put together a committee to make
14 recommendations to the Board on reapportionment, and that
15 their recommendations were not adopted by the Board because
16 they felt that these recommendations were not (inaudible)
17 minority representation. He then told us that if we were
18 interested we could listen to the tapes of the
19 supervisorial boundary committee hearings, public hearings,
20 to get the issues and information that were discussed at
21 those meetings. And we subsequently found out that none
22 of these meetings had been taped, so we were unable to get
23 any information.

24 MR. SILLAS: Let me see if I understand that.
25 Supervisor Edelman stated to you that you could listen to

1 the tapes of the supervisory boundary committee --

2 MS. CAMPBELL: Yes.

3 MR. SILLAS: And these were apparently public
4 meetings?

5 MS. CAMPBELL: Right.

6 MR. SILLAS: And that they were taped?

7 MS. CAMPBELL: Right.

8 MR. SILLAS: And you attempted to do that, and
9 found that they were not taped?

10 MS. CAMPBELL: Right. I spoke to an administrative
11 assistant in the Board's executive office and she informed
12 me that the tape recorder had broken down at the first
13 meeting, and there were seven meetings, and they never
14 purchased another recorder.

15 MR. SILLAS: Over what period of time did these
16 seven meetings take place?

17 MS. CAMPBELL: I think there were eight meetings
18 altogether, and they took place from July to August.

19 MR. SILLAS: July to August. And the recorder
20 apparently broke down at the first meeting?

21 MS. CAMPBELL: Correct.

22 MR. SILLAS: And it never was --

23 MS. CAMPBELL: No. They never purchased, or made
24 an attempt to find another tape recorder. So all we have --
25 All that they were able to provide us were minutes of each

1 meeting. The minutes of each meeting is a one-page
2 document. And I would like to just, if I could, read one
3 of the minutes to give you an idea of the information
4 that is available to the public.

5 MR. SILLAS: Certainly.

6 MS. CAMPBELL: These are the minutes of the meeting
7 of the boundary committee held July 29, 1981.

8 "The meeting was called to order by
9 Chairman Blake Sanborn. All members were
10 present except Bob Perkins.

11 "Representatives from the Regional
12 Planning Department presented statistical
13 material relating to the growth of
14 Los Angeles County.

15 "Interested members of the public
16 addressed the Committee on the redistricting
17 process.

18 "The Committee will meet Wednesday,
19 August 5, 1981, at 5:30 P.M. in Room 374.

20 "The meeting was adjourned at
21 2:35 P.M."

22 MR. SILLAS: And the other minutes that you have for
23 the other eight meetings are similar?

24 MS. CAMPBELL: Yes, correct.

25 MR. SILLAS: I wonder if we could have as part of the

1 material that's been presented to the Committee a copy
2 of the minutes for our records?

3 MS. CAMPBELL: Okay.

4 MR. MONTEZ: May I just ask for clarification,
5 the actual -- whatever was presented was supposed to have
6 been on tape, and that is not available?

7 MS. CAMPBELL: Yes.

8 What I found out from the executive
9 offices is that the Board -- We were discouraged by them
10 from listening to the tapes from the Board's meeting
11 which threw out the recommended plans of the Committee.
12 And the reason why is because -- Let me quote her.
13 She said that "Most of the detailed discussion in the
14 County concerning reapportionment occurred at the
15 boundary committee meetings, which weren't taped." And
16 she said that the issue of reapportionment only came up
17 twice in the Board's meetings, and they just basically
18 said that they were going to reject the boundary committee's
19 plan. And that was the extent of it.

20 MR. SILLAS: So presently then there's been this
21 committee that's submitted a report to the Board of
22 Supervisors, and that report has been rejected by the
23 Board of Supervisors?

24 MS. CAMPBELL: And to our knowledge, there's no
25 report of the discussion of why that was rejected, nor is

1 there a record of what happened in there.

2 MR. SILLAS: Is there a deadline that the Board
3 must have its new reapportionment plan?

4 MS. CAMPBELL: They've already passed their
5 reapportionment plan. That was passed in September 1981.

6 MR. SILLAS: September of 1981?

7 MS. CAMPBELL: And that plan basically was very
8 similar to their plan enacted in 1970. In fact their
9 racial-ethnic composition has changed very little. I think
10 the highest percentage in one district for Hispanics was
11 like 1.8 percent difference.

12 MR. SILLAS: In the adoption of the plan by the
13 Board of Supervisors, once it got in the hands of the
14 Board of Supervisors, was there any public hearings held
15 by the Board of Supervisors?

16 MS. CAMPBELL: No, not to our knowledge.

17 MR. SILLAS: So the only public hearings that were
18 allegedly held were conducted by this boundary committee?

19 MS. CAMPBELL: Yes, correct.

20 MR. SILLAS: Of which there is no record?

21 MS. CAMPBELL: Right.

22 MR. SILLAS: Any further questions by any members
23 of the Committee?

24 MR. MONTEZ: Did any issue of minorities come up in
25 the boundary committee in your investigation?

1 MS. CAMPBELL: Well, we weren't able to determine
2 that, because there was no record of anything that
3 transpired. The only thing that I learned was that the
4 boundary committee was first made up of seven members,
5 and they increased it to twelve, I believe, to add some
6 minorities on the boundary committee so that there was a
7 fair representation on the committee. But that was the
8 only thing.

9 MR. SILLAS: Any other questions?

10 Thank you, very much, Ms. Campbell.

11 At this time we will take a break till
12 10:30.

13 (Recess.)

14 MR. SILLAS: Let the record reflect that the
15 Committee is back in session at 10:30, and we have as our
16 next presenter Councilwoman Pat Russell.

17 I wonder if you might state for the record,
18 Ms. Russell, your name and your affiliation.

19 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I am Councilwoman Pat Russell
20 from the 6th District of Los Angeles. I am Chairperson
21 of the Elections and Charter Committee, and so we are
22 the committee which handles reapportionment of the Council
23 districts and the school district of Los Angeles. The
24 Charter requires that we do that between July 1st and
25 September 15th, and it's coming up in the summer 1982. We

1 have had a request from the County Registrar of Voters
2 that we do that as early as possible in that July period
3 so that they can use the data to get ready for the November
4 election. So the plans are to do it within the first ten
5 days of July. No guarantees on that.

6 I brought some of the press releases that
7 we sent out to announce the public hearings that we are
8 holding. I don't know if you've seen those. They're
9 right here.

10 What we're doing is to hold public hearings
11 scheduled for four different parts of the city on different
12 evenings starting June 1st, and then June 2nd, June 7th,
13 and June 11th, so that individuals and organizations who
14 are interested in the process can make statements to our
15 committee. And of course they will be speaking both on
16 the Council district and on the School Board. So they
17 are welcome to do that. And then after we have received
18 comments from different groups, then we will work on it,
19 on reapportionment within the Committee.

20 I've heard from some different organizations
21 -- California For Fair Representation, California
22 Pacific-Asian -- and then from some individuals and groups
23 who live around Hollywood and Mount Washington where there
24 is communities that are essentially split by the boundaries.
25 And they generally tend to think that they don't care

1 whose district they're in, but they would like to have
2 all of Hollywood and all of Mount Washington.

3 That's really the sum total of what we've
4 heard so far informally. That's one reason that I thought
5 it would be good to have public hearings, except for the
6 newspapers citywide and the groups that we've heard about,
7 and I think that's the best way for the word to get out.

8 MR. SILLAS: Are there any ordinances, or regulations
9 that set forth the procedure for the Committee to follow
10 as it pertains to reapportionment?

11 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Not really. One of the
12 reasons that I mentioned press releases is that the basis
13 for reapportionment changed ten years ago, up to which time
14 it had been based on the number of voters. And the fallout
15 of both the federal, and then the State decisions affected
16 the last reapportionment so that it's based on just the
17 number of residents. And that's it.

18 And then I have a letter -- I've asked the
19 City Attorney -- Generally, it should be within plus or
20 minus one percent, even among the districts, in terms of
21 numbers. And those are really the only guidelines.

22 MR. SILLAS: But as far as a procedure for the
23 purpose of conducting hearings, or the number of hearings,
24 or the location of the hearings, date for hearings, there
25 is nothing in the Charter, City Charter, or any ordinances

1 that require any committee to conduct that at all?

2 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: That's right. People
3 question me, as a matter of fact, on why I was doing that.

4 MR. SILLAS: So that your press releases here
5 indicating the dates and times and locations of hearings
6 are things that you're doing as the chairperson of the
7 committee which you feel are important, but there's no
8 legal requirement to do that?

9 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: That's right.

10 MR. SILLAS: Do you know whether in 1970 or '71,
11 '72, whether such hearings were conducted?

12 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I was on the council, and
13 I cannot remember. At that time Ed Edelman was the chair
14 of the committee, and they were working very hard then to
15 get the general Council, or Charter revisions. And part
16 of the revisions was to add two seats to the Council.
17 And the concern then was to get Latinos on the Council.
18 So a lot of emphasis at that time really did go on first
19 of all in trying to add those two seats, and that was
20 defeated by the vote. And then I think the public hearing
21 was in conjunction with that, is my recollection. But
22 whether there were public hearings conducted on the actual
23 reapportionment, I really don't remember.

24 MR. SILLAS: Since there are no ordinances, as
25 you have stated, what would be your position as it pertains

1 to having ordinances that would require such public
2 hearings? Would you be in favor of that, or leave it to
3 the whim of the chairperson?

4 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I would not strenuously
5 object to that. I am inclined not to put too many things
6 into ordinance, so...

7 MR. SILLAS: How many councilpersons serve on
8 the committee?

9 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Three. We have 15 committees,
10 3 members on each one.

11 MR. SILLAS: Is there any requirement, again by
12 ordinance, as to the number of times your committee must
13 meet?

14 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: There aren't any such
15 requirements. The requirements on the committees, as on
16 the Council, are to have announced meetings; 24 hours
17 ahead of time a notice.

18 MR. SILLAS: Now, I take it that your committee,
19 Charter and Elections Committee has a staff?

20 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: We have a clerk assigned
21 to us, and then we can ask the City Attorney for opinions.
22 And we have had some assistance from the Legislative
23 Analysts office.

24 MR. SILLAS: What about any study that pertains
25 to the population, census, et cetera?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: The Community Development Department, the CDD contains the -- is handling -- for the City is handling the statistics and the data. So they have given us the data which the City has available on the census. And some of the groups have asked for assistance from them, and I have asked the CDD to make any of that information that's public information available.

MR. SILLAS: Is there an actual point in time when the committee will actually review a plan, or will the plan have been drawn by your committee staff, or will it be drawn by the three committee members?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: It will be the committee members.

You understand that the regular City staff, I think, never has done that, and I think that's something you wouldn't call on City staff to do because of the nature of the concerns among the elected officials.

MR. SILLAS: What I'm attempting to determine, for example in the State Legislature they have contracted out to various consultants the job of getting the data and drawing lines to meet the Constitutional guidelines. And I'm inquiring as to whether or not your committee has done that?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: No, the City really has not spent the money to do that. That wasn't done 10 years ago

either.

What the City did 10 years ago was to have some consulting help, and I think it's -- As I recall, it was free. I don't think the City ever had the kind of money the State has to spend on those kinds of things. And as you well know, the big difference between reapportionment on the city level and the state level is that we're non-partisan. There's just a lot -- I think that's one reason there's not as much general public interest.

I have heard from consultants who would like to be paid to do the job --

MR. SILLAS: I'm sure you have.

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: -- on the basis of their getting the contract, and some of that kind of thing.

So the people who are interested, and what comes through to me, is they are generally interested from the viewpoint of the community.

MR. SILLAS: I wonder if you can, in as precise a statement as you can, state for us the procedure as you see it as to how these district lines are going to be drawn, and ultimately be presented to the City Council?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: We start on the premise that the districts need to be as nearly equal in numbers as they can be, and then we use the census data and see where

the numbers have changed since 10 years ago. And then we can see which districts need to take on more members, which districts need to have fewer members. And essentially it's an incremental basis, how much you take off -- where you take it off from the district, where you add it on. And the guidelines that we use then, although they are not formal guidelines -- they're not by ordinance -- they certainly are as much as possible to keep communities together.

MR. SILLAS: Now, in that process that you have described, will that be taking place in the Charter and Elections Committee?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Yes, it will go into the Committee.

MR. SILLAS: And in your considerations you will also be considering the impact as it pertains to minority communities?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I think without question.

MR. SILLAS: Am I correct in saying that the meetings that you have scheduled, or your hearings to be scheduled will then provide an opportunity for minorities, or any interested persons to testify and give their concerns?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Exactly.

MR. SILLAS: Then at that point in time your committee will have prepared a proposed district, which then ultimately will be presented to the City Council; is that

1 correct?

2 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: That's right.

3 MR. SILLAS: And then the City Council must vote
4 on the district plan?

5 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: That's right.

6 MR. SILLAS: Is it contemplated that there will be
7 any opportunity for persons, interested persons to
8 respond to the plan that's submitted to the City Council?

9 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I'm sure there will be.
10 The procedures of the Council are such that we do have
11 public hearings, and it's both for committees and for the
12 Council. And I have been in communication with the groups
13 that I have mentioned that are interested. They will get
14 notification of our committee meetings, as well as the
15 Council meetings so that they can come. But all of our
16 meetings have to be legally set with agendas and public
17 notification 24 hours ahead of time. And it's our practice
18 to notify them far enough ahead of time so they can come in
19 and comment.

20 MR. SILLAS: Would there be contact with the other
21 City Council members by you and the other two members of
22 your committee in terms of their input on the plan before
23 it's actually submitted to the City Council?

24 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Yes.

25 MR. SILLAS: Is that contact being made now?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Yes.

MR. SILLAS: So that you're getting benefit of the present incumbents' thoughts in terms of the districts?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Essentially the kind of contact I got on that is that very shortly after I was appointed to the chair of the committee, I talked to each member of the Council and pointed out what the time schedule was for the coming summer, and that I would be in touch with them, and I would be hearing from them anything that they had to say. The truth is that I have really not heard very much. Mostly what I've heard is, you know, how much longer is it, and a couple of them have said, you know, that there are areas that are important to them that they would like to keep. That's about it. I think it can be assumed that most Council members would like to have their home stay in their district.

MR. SILLAS: I would think that that would be the start.

Is there presently a draft, or planned proposal at this time?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Not a formal one. The CDD drew up one for -- at the request of Councilman Bernardi, which is a computerized one, and it's interesting. There aren't any formal ones. I'm sure there must be at least 15 different ones in the County, and I'm sure there must be

several of them in the Board of Education, but there isn't anything formal.

MR. SILLAS: How many votes do you need to have a plan approved by the City Council?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: It's eight votes.

MR. SILLAS: Just a majority?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Yes.

MR. SILLAS: Any questions by any other members?

MS. LOW: Yes, I have a question.

In terms of other minority groups that you have heard from, can you elaborate on what some of their concerns are?

COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Well, certainly I think it's clear that the Latinos in the city have wanted to have a district that they felt was winable for some time. And by the statistics we have one that if you simply go by registration would be winable now. And we have a couple of others which are getting to be over 50 percent Latino in terms of population.

From the Pacific-Asian, generally what their concern is is they don't see any way -- and it's logical -- that there will be a Pacific-Asian seat drawn in the City, or that you could draw one. But their concerns -- and this is really based on informal discussions -- is that their existing groups not be split by the boundary

1 lines so that they would lose their effectiveness in terms
2 of discussions in planning and community action.

3 MS. LOW: Are you having a lot of input, strong
4 input from these groups, or are they as concerned as you
5 think they should be, or would like for them to be, or what,
6 in terms of redistricting?

7 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I would say that I've had
8 thoughtful input, and I really respect what I've heard.
9 I have not had anybody say you've got to do this, or what
10 we really want is, or et cetera. I have had very thoughtful
11 comment from people who wanted to get the data, and looking
12 at it, and want to make sure that they can make a
13 presentation. That's really what I've had.

14 MR. MONTEZ: You mentioned that there was one plan
15 that was drawn up at the request of another Council person.
16 When that happens isn't there some reaction from other
17 Council members, positive or negative, that maybe I've got
18 too many minorities, or too few? Isn't that a trial
19 sort of thing? Or does it actually happen when it finally
20 goes to the City Council? The fight -- if I might say that --
21 is only when it comes to the total Council floor. There's
22 no real changes made prior to that?

23
24 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I haven't seen them this year,
25 Mr. Montez. But like 10 years ago there was alot of

1 deceiving going on, out of all of that background that I've
2 described. This time I've not seen or heard any of that.
3 And that one computer-designed map is interesting to look at,
4 but I haven't heard much reaction to it.

5 I've not heard anybody saying I have too
6 many or too few minorities.

7 MR. MONTEZ: Well, it's been said, you know, that
8 that happens; you know, what are you loading me up with
9 all these whatever they are, you know --

10 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Yes, I really know that in
11 the history of reapportionment of the State, the County,
12 and, you know, just in general. But the truth is that
13 has not started yet in the City Council. Probably I would
14 attribute that in part to the fact that we're really -- our
15 demographics have been changing over a period of years,
16 and as the census data comes out it's so clear that we are
17 a minority-majority city, and are moving in that direction.
18 My interpretation is that it's a question of accommodating
19 to that, and how you live with that.

20 MR. SILLAS: Your comment, I guess, leads to the
21 question that as you point out the population is changing
22 in the city so that it is becoming a city of minorities-
23 majorities, and yet the City Council -- and the largest
24 majority, again by the census is Hispanic, Latino, and yet
25 on the City Council there is not a Latino representative.

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1 The question becomes to what extent do you as chairperson of
2 the committee, and the other members of the committee feel
3 that it is important and necessary that that population
4 be afforded opportunity to represent or to have
5 representatives in a district, and perhaps even at the
6 expense of the incumbent?

7 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I think that it's very much
8 our job as a committee, and I feel as the chairperson to
9 make sure that we have representation of all of the groups,
10 to the degree that we can put that into the City. As you
11 look at the statistics right now we really ought to have
12 that representation right now, Latino representation right
13 now -- and since ten years ago there should have been. And
14 there was a district that could have been. I think now,
15 as you look at the figures right now there certainly is
16 one of our City Council districts that you would assume
17 just from simply reading the numbers would be a Latino,
18 and there are certainly a couple of others that certainly
19 verge on it.

20 MR. SILLAS: Do you have any number in your mind
21 that you would be shooting for -- and I use that in the
22 broad sense -- as a goal that perhaps your reapportionment
23 plan should provide an opportunity for Hispanics to be a
24 majority in the next ten years?

25 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: I haven't tried to do a

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1 number, I really haven't. My approach to that is really to
2 look at the numbers and make sure that we don't
3 divide any of the communities, certainly of Latinos, as
4 well as of other minorities, so that they are together as
5 a community and can work together.

6
7 MR. SILLAS: Earlier testimony that we had this
8 morning indicated that in the past the districting, or
9 reapportionment of the districts was done at the expense
10 of Hispanics, and that there was gerrymandering of their
11 communities so that in fact their numbers were diluted.
12 Having served on the City Council for a number of years,
13 would you care to comment on that allegation?

14 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Well, my recollection of ten
15 years ago was that there was a real effort to create -- an
16 intent of the chair of the committee to create an Hispanic
17 district, and I think it was created in terms of numbers.

18 MR. SILLAS: Any other questions from any of the
19 staff?

20 MR. MONTEZ: Have you polled the City Council and
21 said who wants to go --

22 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Well, it's hard to --

23 MR. MONTEZ: -- or you don't do that? I mean, you
24 might ask who wants to sacrifice a seat for Hispanics, or
25 doesn't it quite work that way? I'm not as politically

1 attuned as most people would think. Maybe there's a
2 sacrificial lamb there that... Well, there will be alot of
3 openings with everybody running for Mayor.

4 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: That may be the best
5 sacrifice.

6 You know, there are questions I think -- I
7 don't know at what point the Pacific-Asian will get somebody,
8 and in some ways women. It's very hard to get a seat for
9 women. I mean, if the numbers did it, we would have alot
10 of women, and we don't. So I think there's two seats.
11 I think what our job is, in terms of the reapportionment,
12 is to do it as clearly as we can so that the opportunity
13 is there. And then I think the other part of it that really
14 makes it work is using the political process to encourage
15 people to be prepared to run, and all that kind of stuff.
16 And that is really one of my major reasons for going ahead
17 with public hearings in terms of somewhat political
18 education, public education so that the importance of this
19 process might mean something.

20 MR. SILLAS: Will your hearing be recorded or taped?

21 COUNCILWOMAN RUSSELL: Yes.

22 MR. SILLAS: On behalf of the Committee, I want to
23 thank you for appearing here this morning. You have been
24 very helpful.

25 May the record reflect that Committee person

1 Grace Davis has now joined the Committee panel.

2 Our next presenter is Councilman Ernani
3 Bernardi.

4 Would you state for the record your name
5 and your affiliation?

6 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: My name is Ernani Bernardi,
7 and I'm a member of the Los Angeles City Council, elected
8 from the 7th District. I'm a Los Angeles City Councilman.
9 And that's the central eastern portion of the San Fernando
10 Valley. I have been a member 21 years.

11 MR. SILLAS: Are you also a member of the Charter
12 and Elections Committee?

13 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: I am a member, and Vice-
14 Chairman of the Charter and Elections Committee.

15 MR. SILLAS: You were present during Councilperson
16 Russell's presentation --

17 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: A portion of it, yes.

18 MR. SILLAS: At this time I ask if you have any
19 additional information you would like to pass on to the
20 Committee?

21 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Well, the comment came up
22 about the plan that I have drawn. And it's true, I had a
23 computerized drawn because of the problems, all of the
24 publicity, and all of the rhubarbs surrounding the State's
25 redistricting of the plan, together with the fact that a

1 group of citizens in conjunction with Common Cause --
2 Common Cause is also interested in this, so I want to be
3 careful with my words -- were able to get better than
4 800,000 signatures for a proposal initiative measure on
5 the ballot that would take away the power, most of the
6 power from the elected officials to do anything about
7 redistricting.

8 I've been an advocate as far as a degree of
9 that for many years. There's been a proposal in the Council
10 with respect to that, so I wanted to test to find out if
11 we could put pertinent information -- and the key information
12 is one man one vote -- put it in a computer and see what
13 comes out; no hands touching, or drawing any of the lines.
14 I was kind of amazed actually to see what came out. And
15 the variance in the districts is less than one percent,
16 and the lines are, at least from an architectural standpoint,
17 let's put it that way -- maybe not from a political
18 standpoint -- seem to be fairly rational.

19 But we have a very serious problem this
20 year in redistricting. At one time we used to redistrict
21 every four years. And when I first was elected in 1961 to
22 the City Council, at that time we used to redistrict based
23 on voter registration. And the district that I ran from
24 in the San Fernando Valley had about 104,000 registered
25 voters. And some of the other districts had less than 1,000.

1 So I was one that spearheaded the changing on that to a
2 minimum variance of 5 percent, but that was still predicated
3 on registered voters. And that equalized the districts to
4 a certain extent. But then we found the situation where
5 some of the districts had a substantial number of people
6 in the district population because of whether it's the
7 number of children, or whatever factors, other factors
8 involved, there were fewer registered voters in some of
9 the more affluent areas. And then of course when the
10 important one-man vote decision came in predicated the
11 redistricting on population, then it equalized population.
12 So now we have just the reverse. We have some areas with
13 a high voter registration, and some areas with a low
14 voter registration.

15 I can recall going back not too many years
16 ago when the City Council, some of the members didn't
17 like a particular member of the City Council, so they
18 proceeded to move his district from the central portion of
19 Los Angeles way out to the west end of the San Fernando
20 Valley, and of course he wasn't able to survive. I don't
21 believe that attitude exists today. But we now, instead
22 of redistricting every four years, will be redistricting
23 every ten years.

24 I think that there's some concern about
25 the procedure that we use, and I advocated when I was

END OF MEETING

1 appointed a member of this committee that we not wait until
2 July 1st before we take any action, start doing something
3 about the redistricting, because if we follow the charter
4 provision -- And again, the charter provision was adopted
5 at the time we used to redistrict every four years -- that
6 indicates that you redistrict between July 1st and
7 September 15th. My concern was that if we waited until
8 September 15th before we adopted a plan, two things. One
9 of course is it might create a problem for the incumbents.
10 But I was more concerned that it would create a bigger
11 problem for people who might want to challenge the
12 incumbents if they were not aware of until about the 15th of
13 September, knowing they have to file for an election two
14 months later, as to the make-up of the district. So I've
15 suggested that we get into the issue much sooner. And we
16 are getting into it about a month sooner now. We'll be
17 starting hearings.

18 But the plan again, because of all of the
19 controversy going on now, the fact that there's a
20 Constitutional amendment on the ballot, State Constitutional
21 amendment, I thought see what would happen if we just put
22 the one man one vote -- almost three million registered
23 voters, and we had to stay within less than one percent --
24 and see what the computer would draw.

25 And the reason why we have a serious problem --

1 I brought along with me a small map. I'm sorry, I should
2 have brought more. Maybe you would be interested. And
3 you'll see that the concentration in the east and southeast
4 portion of the --

5 Do you have copies of this?

6 MR. SILLAS: I believe we have copies.

7 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: You have figures?

8 MR. WALLACE: We have a map.

9 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Do you have these figures
10 included?

11 MS. CAMPBELL: No.

12 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: -- they're going to have to
13 lose a substantial number of voters, a substantial number
14 of citizens to equalize.

15 And then you have sort of in the west,
16 and even going down into the San Pedro area, where we
17 have districts where they're under the average, almost
18 200,000 average by as much as -- In Pat Russell's
19 district it's almost 19,000, and in John Ferraro's
20 district -- that's the 4th District, that's a heavily
21 Hispanic and heavily Asian and Philippine -- where he has
22 to lose 38,000, almost 39,000 population. So you can see
23 over in the east side in Snyder's district he's overpopulated
24 by 1900. That's not a tremendous amount, but right next
25 door in Peggy Stevenson's 13th District it's more than

1 18,000 over the ideal number, or the required number. And
2 in Gil Lindsay's district it's almost 12,000. And of
3 course in Bob Farrell's district and Joan Flores', going
4 down to the San Pedro, and then coming up through the Watts
5 area, between the two of them they're more than 30,000
6 people they have to pick up in their districts. So when
7 you look at a situation such as that I think you can
8 appreciate the problem we're going to have this year in
9 drawing a map.

10 Then when you get up into the San Fernando
11 Valley, into my district, which I'm going to have to lose
12 almost about 7,000, and in Hal Bernson's district -- that's
13 the northwest portion of the Valley -- he's going to lose
14 about 8,000. And in the Sunland-Tujunga-Pacoima area,
15 Howard Finn's district, he's going to have to pick up about
16 14,000. And in Joy Picus', strangely enough, in the
17 fairly affluent area, she's going to have to lose fifty-some
18 hundred population -- Well, she's going to have to pick up.

19 So the map is going to dictate to a large
20 degree just exactly what we can do, particularly if we're
21 going to try to keep from gerrymandering -- a minimum
22 amount of gerrymandering.

23 So that was the reason for having the plan
24 drawn up by a computer -- I guess probably it was the first
25 time it was ever done -- to see just exactly what's

1 happened. I'm sorry, since the question was raised, that
2 I didn't have it here with me.

3 Politically of course it's another question,
4 as to whether it's acceptable. But it was done, and as I've
5 indicated using the computer the variance is less than
6 one percent.

7 MR. SILLAS: Getting back to the question then of --
8 I didn't mean to interrupt your statement --

9 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: That's all right. I just
10 wanted to give a little background, and just indicate that
11 I think we've got problems this year, serious problems,
12 much more so than we've ever had.

13 MR. SILLAS: Having described the problem, what is
14 your suggestion as to a means of dealing with it?

15 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Well, how do we get the
16 political element out of it, how do we -- I guess one way
17 would be the computer. Now, as to whether the computer
18 will be acceptable or not, is another story. But I thought
19 that someone just ought to have a plan drawn that was drawn
20 by our people at a service bureau. It would be acceptable
21 to me. It's going to have some drastic changes in my
22 district, going to require some drastic change in my
23 district. But I don't know. We're going to have to listen
24 to the people in public hearing, and find out what their
25 concerns are. But I think we have an equal responsibility

1 not only of listening to people, and indicating what
2 their concerns are, but first to inform them of what the
3 situation is in the City of Los Angeles so that they can
4 also appreciate, and also participate, and more fully
5 understand maybe somehow how we can work out a rational,
6 reasonable reapportionment this year.

7 MR. SILLAS: In your computer plan, was there --
8 does it also reflect the percentage of Hispanics in the
9 various districts?

10 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: All that was put into the
11 computer was one man one vote. It reflected no ethnic,
12 reflected no -- just as crude as that, if you want to use
13 the term; just make the district --

14 MR. SILLAS: Solely based on the population --

15 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Based on the population.
16 Divide 30 into 15 districts, equal districts with respect
17 to population, as close as possible.

18 MR. SILLAS: Do you believe that the ethnic
19 background of the population is a factor that the City
20 Council should consider in drawing the plan?

21 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Well, you know, we can draw
22 a plan -- and there have been attempts made to do that.
23 When now Supervisor Ed Edelman was chairman of the Charter
24 and Administrative Code Committee there were adjustments
25 made, substantial adjustments made in the east side of

1 Los Angeles hoping that this would encourage, and maybe
2 might elect an Hispanic. It didn't turn out that way.

3 And I might point out that in the
4 San Fernando Valley we surround a city of about one square
5 mile called the City of San Fernando, which is substantially
6 more than 50 percent Hispanics. And in all of the years
7 they've rarely had -- I think in all the years maybe two
8 or three Hispanics were elected to the City Council, and
9 today there's not one with at least an Hispanic name member
10 of the San Fernando City Council. So I don't know how you
11 can guarantee by redistricting in this manner, and
12 guarantee that an Hispanic will be elected.

13 MR. SILLAS: Perhaps you misunderstood my question.
14 My question was not as pertains to guarantees, but whether
15 or not you feel that considering the person's ethnic
16 background was a factor that the City Council should
17 consider in drawing up a plan?

18 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: I'm going to make a statement
19 here with respect to that. I believe that if a person
20 running for public office and elected to public office
21 can't represent all of the people in the district that he's
22 running from, impartially, unbiased, and do the best job
23 for all of them equally, I don't think he ought to be
24 elected. I don't care what his ethnic background, what his
25 religious background, or whatever is.

1 MR. SILLAS: The allegation that's been made by
2 some testimony this morning, was that over the years there's
3 been a concerted effort on the part of the City Council in
4 the past in terms of reapportioning the districts to
5 gerrymander the Hispanic community so that it's numbers were
6 diluted, and consequently since they were diluted they've
7 been unable to effectively bring about any type of voice
8 within the City Council chambers.

9 Having heard your statements, the question
10 really becomes has the voice of the Hispanic community
11 been diluted in such a way that it is not a majority in
12 any given district, and given the numbers do you feel that
13 it's the responsibility of the City Council to consider the
14 minority community in its factors in drawing the lines?

15 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Well, first let me say that
16 for many years we had an Hispanic on the City Council. I
17 served with Ed Roybal. His district did not just include
18 Hispanics; it was a portion of Hispanics. And as I've
19 indicated I guess it was ten years or -- I forget the time --
20 when we redistricted and there were some people who were
21 trying to get rid of Art Snyder -- I'm going to be blunt now --
22 and a deliberate attempt was made to gerrymander, if you
23 want to use that term, to create a district that would be
24 ideally suited for some Hispanic to capture the seat. And
25 the City Council adopted the plan, but it didn't turn out

1 that way.

2 You know, the Spanish community, the
3 Hispanic community is a substantial portion of this area.
4 It's increasing, and it's a good portion of my district;
5 always has been in the area that I represent, because I
6 represent sort of a middle-class, blue-collar group of
7 people, a lot of trade union people -- Even though I have
8 problems with some of the City employees, that doesn't mean
9 I have problems with my trade union people out in the
10 district. So it's kind of, not what you really might call
11 an affluent district. I have some of the lowest economic,
12 medium, and some in the not-quite-total-affluent area. So
13 I guess I have around 23, 24 percent Hispanic in my district.

14 MR. SILLAS: Well, for example, in the final plan
15 that's going to be presented to the City Council, I think
16 it would be a fair statement to say that one of the factors
17 you will consider will be the vote of the City Council.
18 You obviously need at least eight votes for a plan to be
19 adopted. And the political realities being that if you're
20 going to have to have the approval of incumbents, or at
21 least enough of the incumbents for a plan to be adopted,
22 that I would suspect that would be one consideration that
23 you have to make in drawing up the plan, is the adoptability
24 of the plan by the other City Council members.

25 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: I think you're right in your

1 assumption that the plan that will be drawn is going to have
2 to have the support of eight members of the City Council.

3 I'm not necessarily -- I don't have the
4 reputation of necessarily going along with that concept
5 entirely, and I believe Grace Davis can attest to that.
6 I just happen to think that we're going to have to maybe
7 eliminate some of the political elements in that. I think
8 that proposal that's on the State Constitutional Amendment
9 will probably pass. It will take the power away -- most
10 of the power away from the Legislature and turn it over to --

11 Certainly there will be political
12 appointees. But again, you're right with respect that it's
13 probably going to have to have eight votes. But I would
14 like to see some changes.

15 MR. SILLAS: Are you stating that you would favor
16 the removal of the power of drawing the lines from the
17 City Council to --

18 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Yes.

19 MR. SILLAS: -- an independent body?

20 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Yes, sir.

21 I at one time recommended that it be turned
22 over to five retired judges; blindfold them and let them
23 draw the plan.

24 MR. SILLAS: I think perhaps the Hispanic community
25 may object, because I don't think there are many Hispanic

1 judges who are retiring.

2 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Well, I guess you have a point
3 there. In other words, we're going to have to wait a few
4 years before there are some. I guess one of the pluses
5 of Jerry Brown of course is he's enhanced the minority
6 position to a large degree. I'm not making a political
7 speech for him.

8 MR. SILLAS: I understand that. And I understand
9 that you know very well what the problem is --

10 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Political realities, yes.

11 MR. SILLAS: And my question again, and I'll restate
12 it, is that just as given the political realities now of
13 having to deal with the incumbents and their votes, do you
14 believe that as part of the consideration should be the
15 fact that their minority communities be put into your
16 thinking process in drawing the lines? Should the
17 minority population be considered in drawing the lines
18 so that they will have an opportunity to be represented?

19 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: When you look at South Central
20 and the eastern portion of the City of Los Angeles, it's
21 substantially minority. No matter what you do there
22 minorities are going to have today to comprise a substantial
23 number of the people in any one of these districts, and in
24 future years will be in an increasing number. But I think
25 what we must not overlook is the one man one vote court

1 decision that we have to abide by, the Supreme Court
2 decision, and look at the statistics to see what we're
3 confronted with. And all I can see here is that the
4 people -- in looking at the statistics, people in the
5 east and the southeast portion are going to have to move
6 west and go farther south, so the districts are going to have
7 to be stretched considerably. And the same way up in the --
8 Well, in the San Fernando Valley it's really not that much
9 of a problem. But there are going to have to be some
10 changes, because there are some of these districts -- Again,
11 Marvin Braude was almost 8,000, he needs to pick up 8,000,
12 and Joy Ricus 5,000, and Joel Wachs, almost 10,000 he has
13 to pick up, and Zev Yaroslavsky has to pick up almost
14 19,000. So the push is going to be to the west and to the
15 north.

16 MR. SILLAS: Given your thoughts of the five retired
17 judges, if they were drawing the City Council districts,
18 do you think as part of their consideration in drawing those
19 lines that they should consider the minority population?

20 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: I think anyone drawing the
21 lines should consider the total population of the City of
22 Los Angeles, which means then a substantial number of the
23 minority community.

24 MR. SILLAS: Any questions from the members of the
25 Committee?

1 MS. DAVIS: Mr. Bernardi, as to the public meetings
2 that your committee will be holding, will this item be
3 regularly scheduled on your committee agenda so that the
4 public will be able to participate in the discussions that
5 the City will have as to whatever plans will be presented?

6 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: I think that's the key. The
7 key is after the plan is drawn, this is when suggested
8 plans are drawn, and then people get to see what's on the
9 plan, then to me that's the more appropriate time for the
10 discussions. That's why I had hoped that we would have
11 started this last fall when we got the statistics from the
12 federal government for the first of this year. The fact
13 that I have had this computerized plan drawn, doesn't mean
14 that I'm blocked into it. I just thought it was important
15 to see what would happen. But I think that that's the key.

16 Now, I don't know whether you asked
17 Mrs. Russell that question. She will determine when the
18 hearings will be held, the committee. But I think that's
19 when the -- That to me is the critical time in respect to
20 adoption of the plan, when you see one or you see two or
21 three plans laid out publicly and then the people from
22 all areas of the City have a clear opportunity of reviewing
23 the plans. And I think that's when the comments would be
24 the most appropriate. I have no problem with the hearings
25 that are going on now. I think they're important. But I

1 think that's when the critical -- that's when we'll be in
2 the critical area. And I have no idea as to what she plans,
3 and what kind of hearings.

4 You know, we have to adopt it no later than
5 September 15th; we have to adopt it.

6 MS. DAVIS: Would you be able to make a copy of
7 your plan available so that it's a matter of record here
8 for the committee?

9 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: You mean this (indicating),
10 or the other one?

11 MS. DAVIS: Well, whatever comprises --

12 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Yes. Can't you have this
13 run off here now?

14 MR. WALLACE: Not here, but --

15 MS. DAVIS: Well, you can send it over later.

16 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Yes. We'll have some run off,
17 and then give you --

18 Now, this plan is the City Council district
19 as it now exists. It is not the new plan.

20 MS. DAVIS: Thank you, very much.

21 MR. MONTEZ: Regardless of how the districts are
22 set up, do you have some opinion of the problem of
23 non-incumbents taking on an incumbent?

24 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Do I have a problem?

25 MR. MONTEZ: No. The problem that exists for

1 non-incumbents taking on, as you see it, an incumbent?

2 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Oh, he's got a lot of problems
3 today. I was a non-incumbent at one time, you know, but
4 today with the money situation that's involved, that's
5 another subject. I could discuss this for the whole day,
6 to tell you how important it is to put a limit on the money
7 you can spend. When you have members of the City Council
8 that spend three and \$400,000 to be re-elected -- And I
9 was embarrassed last year. I think I spent over \$100,000,
10 and prior to that I don't think I spent over \$14,000.
11 But there has to be a limit placed, because the non-incumbent
12 is in a bad way when he has to compete with the two hundred,
13 three hundred, \$400,000 incumbent. It's almost an
14 impossible situation for him. I really believe that.

15 MR. MONTEZ: Did you run originally against an
16 incumbent, or was that --

17 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: No. When I ran they had
18 moved, because of the redistricting and the growth in the
19 Valley, and the 7th District used to be sort of the portion
20 of the South Central Los Angeles area. And a fellow by
21 the name of Mr. Allen was Councilman and he was elected
22 to the Assembly, and because of the population growth they
23 moved the 7th District out to the San Fernando Valley.
24 I was one in 1957 of about ten or twelve candidates, and I
25 came in third when Jim Coreman was elected. And in 1961

1 Jim Coreman was sent to Congress, and there again there
2 was a vacant seat, and I was elected to succeed Jim Coreman.
3 But unless there's a vacancy in a particular seat, a
4 non-incumbent has a tough road.

5 MR. MONTEZ: Competing with all the money, you're
6 saying?

7 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Competing with all the money.
8 And, you know, we have -- And then competing -- If you do
9 your job during the four years -- We have a budget of
10 around \$420,000. In four years I guess you can call that
11 competing. That's almost a million and a half. If you do
12 your job it makes it difficult for a non-incumbent to
13 compete with an incumbent who has had that, and plus the
14 fact that most of the incumbents are able to raise an
15 awful lot of money.

16 MR. SILLAS: I gather what you're saying is that
17 even if you draw districts in such a way that you have a
18 majority of Hispanics in a district, the fact is that there
19 will be an incumbent in the district, and that the
20 incumbent has a tremendous advantage, based on what you've
21 stated are the facts of the money situation.

22 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Well, the record is there.
23 What is the 14th District? Isn't that predominantly
24 Hispanic?

25 MR. SILLAS: Yes.

1 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: What is it, better than
2 50 percent?

3 MR. SILLAS: I think it is close to that. I think
4 that was the testimony this morning.

5 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: And I might again mention
6 Ed Roybal was elected, and I don't think he had that kind of
7 a percentage in his district. When Tom Bradley was elected
8 from the 10th District blacks were not in the majority.
9 He had a rather equally divided district of practically
10 all ethnic groups.

11 You know, it's easy to talk about drawing
12 lines specifically, but then when you start competing with
13 the money situation, you start competing with the
14 incumbency --

15 And another distinct advantage that an
16 incumbent has here is this non-partisanship. This is a
17 tremendous advantage for an incumbent. He's not answerable
18 to anybody. Is he, Dave?

19 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: After all that perspective,
20 I guess you can speak with the voice of experience.

21 MR. SILLAS: Are there any other questions to
22 Councilman Bernardi?

23 Thank you, very much, Councilman, for your
24 presentation this morning. It's very helpful, and we
25 greatly appreciate the time you have given this Committee.

1 COUNCILMAN BERNARDI: Thank you.

2 MR. SILLAS: May the record also reflect now that
3 Councilman Dave Cunningham is here.

4 And Councilman, I wonder if you would state
5 for the record your name and your affiliation?

6 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: My name is Dave Cunningham,
7 and I'm a member of the Los Angeles City Council, among
8 many other things. But I'm here in the capacity of being
9 elected from the 10th Council District.

10 I really have no prepared testimony per se.
11 Reapportionment is something that we are, in line with our
12 City Charter, beginning to move forward on in consideration
13 of the fact that the County of Los Angeles is one of those
14 affected jurisdictions under the Voting Rights Act. I have
15 a pretty thorough understanding of that, particularly
16 since there happens to be a David Cunningham who is an
17 attorney for the Justice Department Civil Rights Division,
18 Voting Rights Section, we happen to have from time, because
19 of our close relationship, constant discussions about the
20 impact of Section 5 (inaudible), and the other factors
21 that go into the Voting Rights Act.

22 I am a supporter of the Voting Rights Act.
23 I think it should be clearly transmitted to the Congress
24 that we don't want it changed, but that's another issue,
25 and we have taken steps to do that.

1 I am here to answer questions that you might
2 have, in terms of your inquiry, and I'll be glad to answer.

3 MR. SILLAS: Let me start if off, Councilman, by
4 asking whether or not you favor an independent commission
5 to be in charge of reapportionment, as opposed to the City
6 Council?

7 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: No, I would not. I happen
8 to think that the Council has -- it's part of the Council
9 business, part of the Charter function of the Council, and
10 I would not favor an independent commission.

11 MR. SILLAS: In drawing up of the districts, do you
12 consider it important that minority communities be a factor
13 in drawing up the lines, and if so in what way?

14 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: I think that not only the
15 spirit, but the essence of the Voting Rights Act should
16 indeed be followed; that there should be no diminution in
17 terms of minority representation. I think that there
18 certainly should be consideration of the minority and
19 ethnic community, and representation in those regards.

20 MR. SILLAS: Earlier testimony has indicated that
21 the Charter, or any of the regulations do not specifically
22 provide for any type of public hearings as a matter of law;
23 that the drawing of the lines lies with the Committee, the
24 Council Committee, Charter and Elections Committee, but
25 there are no provisions that actually require that that

1 committee have any type of hearings, or input by the
2 minority communities. Would you care to state your
3 opinion as to whether or not you believe such an ordinance,
4 or such a requirement should be placed in the law?

5 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: Well, I think you have
6 to understand the nature of the City Council and its
7 committees. I think it's probably the most open legislative
8 body and administrative body in this country. Congress
9 certainly does not have the same openness in terms of its
10 committees and subcommittees, and the ability for anyone
11 to walk in off the streets and testify. In order for you to
12 testify before a committee or subcommittee of Congress it's
13 a rather elaborate formalized process. You cannot just
14 walk in off the streets in Washington, D.C., and say I want
15 to testify before the Judiciary Committee of the Congress.
16 You have to either be invited, you have to be recognized
17 as an expert witness, and you have to in some way have
18 campaigned to get your name before the committee and called
19 by the committee. No such thing exists in the City of
20 Los Angeles.

21 Likewise, it's extremely difficult to get
22 before the State Legislature. You can go before the State
23 Legislature and if the State Legislature committee does not
24 want to recognize you, or permit you to testify, there is
25 no reason for them to do so. In most cases you have to

1 give notice beforehand that you are indeed coming.

2 Our committees are open. I haven't gone
3 to one yet that was closed to participation by anyone who
4 comes in off the street.

5 Additionally, as the chairman of the
6 committee has indicated to everybody openly and publicly
7 that it is their intent, and she has scheduled a series
8 of public hearings regarding reapportionment of the City
9 and its boundary lines, as well as reapportionment of the
10 Board of Education, because we have that responsibility
11 also.

12 And I might indicate that I think you have
13 to take a look at the past practices of many of those
14 who sit on the City Council right now, and the efforts we
15 fought to make certain that the jurisdiction known as the
16 School Board was indeed provided in the spirit of the
17 Voting Rights Act with provision for the people to be
18 elected according to community of interests. It was a
19 ratherly bitterly fought contest under the leadership of
20 Zev Yaroslavsky and myself to assure that ethnic communities
21 were indeed given the potential -- given the census figures,
22 the potential for election from the community. And we
23 did, first of all, get the Board into a position where it
24 was elected on a district-by-district basis, and we then
25 proceeded to do a reapportionment through a series of long

1 public hearings, and through a series of debates before the
2 Council. So I think there's evidence that there's a majority
3 of votes on the Council presently who are interested in
4 having that kind of concern.

5 I don't think that we need a law that
6 specifically indicates that our committees must be open to
7 the public. We do that by practice.

8 MR. SILLAS: The feeling from your testimony is
9 then that in your opinion the safeguards for input by
10 minority communities to the Reapportionment Committee is
11 adequate?

12 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: Well, the only adequacy
13 that we can evaluate is what the process will be as it
14 goes along. I'm not sure that any process is adequate
15 enough, in terms of what I might like to see.

16 MR. SILLAS: Let me ask you what would you like to see?

17 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: Well, I would like to see
18 where possible for the Council to develop a reapportionment
19 plan that reflects what this community is all about. We
20 have no Chicano input from a City Councilman; we have no
21 Asian-American elected to the City Council, and I think
22 there are great possibilities that such things could indeed
23 be done. Facing the realities of how we do it, is another
24 question. I certainly have taken a look at the statistics,
25 and it is my plan to view the reapportionment process from

that perspective.

MR. SILLAS: Any questions from anyone else?

MS. LOW: I have a question.

You said that you would like to see other minority people being represented on the City Council, and how to implement that is one thing, in terms of the realities. Do you have any suggestions on implementing that?

COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: Well I'm just suggesting to encourage people to fight like heck to get elected to those districts where they have the highest population. I mean, obviously, underneath the existing apportionment of the City Council -- Let me suggest to you that underneath the existing apportionment of the City Council -- Let me get a ruler.

If you have the 1980 census and ethnic data for Los Angeles, the 14th Council District has a 74.262 Spanish origin, 7.310 Asian-Pacific Island, and 16.36 Anglo. Would you perceive that would have a tendency to have the capacity to elect someone of Spanish origin to that district. It's an interesting -- I mean, if you were doing it as a Democrat. If you were going to cut a democratic seat, you wouldn't even put 74.26 percent Democrats in it, because that would be an overkill. I mean, you try to shoot for 62, 61 percent Democrat. Many districts,

1 as its presently contested right now --

2 Let's take the 10th Council District, for
3 instance, the one that I represent. The balance of
4 ethnic make-up is rather interesting. It seems to be
5 fairly evenly balanced between many groups. Anglo, there's
6 about 9.1 percent, 9.2 percent; black is about 40 percent,
7 or 39.996, to be exact; Spanish origin, 38.469; Asian-
8 Pacific Islands, 11.7 percent; and Native American about
9 1/2 a percent. A rather evenly balanced district. It
10 takes coalition, and a number of things for anybody to get
11 elected in that district.

12 Take the 4th Council District, for instance.
13 The 4th Council District, it's Anglo population is 33.8
14 percent, 858; it's black percent is 5.78; Spanish origin is
15 41.662; Asian-Pacific Island is 18.155. That's under
16 existing apportionment. Anglos are definitely a minority
17 in that district. Anglos are only 38.8 percent of the
18 district.

19 There are only really one, two, three, four,
20 five, six -- the 2nd District, the 3rd District, the 5th
21 District, the 7th District, the 11th and the 12th districts
22 are the only districts in the City that are fully and
23 predominantly over 50 percent -- or over 51 percent Anglo.

24 MS. LOW: In those districts in which there's a
25 large majority of minorities, can you give me your opinion

as to why they have not been elected to any City Council office?

COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: Well, I think if you take these figures and then reduce these figures -- not reduce them, but then compare them with the registration figures and the commitment to register, you will find that there's a tremendous drop-off. And so the problem -- I don't think the problem in the City is a problem of willingness to have districts. I don't think we have any choice. I think the City is one of those unique situations, really. There will be minority districts, and more minority districts. I think the challenge to minorities is to get their registration up, and that is where the challenge is. And many times -- My commitment has always been, every time there has been a registration drive to put my best efforts and interests as to getting registration done. I have put together a coalition called California Operation Big Vote, which is purely an educational, non-partisan, non-profit organization of individuals who are interested in increasing the voter registration throughout the State of California, but specifically within the County areas of Los Angeles, and more specifically within the City of Los Angeles to increase the amount of minority registration. I can tell you it is a difficult, hard, long time-consuming job. Even if we paid bounties, it's still difficult to get

1 people to register to vote. That's what we're going to have
2 to do.

3 MS. LOW: You have previously stated that you would
4 not like to see an independent commission take charge of
5 the issue of reapportionment. Can you say why?

6 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: Because it's a Charter
7 responsibility of the City.

8 MS. LOW: Can you state why you would not like to
9 see them do --

10 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: Because it is a Charter
11 function, and it's part of the legislative and
12 administrative function of the City Council. And I'm sure
13 that all sorts of independent groups will come together
14 and suggest what they would like to see as a plan, but
15 the final responsibility is with the City Council. It's
16 part of its Charter responsibility.

17 MS. LOW: Thank you.

18 MR. SILLAS: Any other questions from the Committee?

19 MR. MONTEZ: Would you say that the success in
20 the black community of changing from the '60's -- You know,
21 there was a tremendous change in the City Council, not only
22 for the black community, but for, I guess, the Jewish
23 community and representation in the City Council. Has that
24 been due to the respectiveness of the particular people
25 in that registration drive that you -- Did it take that

1 much work in the black community to get three City Councilmen
2 elected. There were four, I guess, at one time, with
3 Mayor Bradley, weren't there?

4 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: No.

5 MR. MONTEZ: Oh, that was three.

6 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: I think that the success
7 in terms of election of Jewish members to the Los Angeles
8 City Council is a different circumstance than the election
9 of blacks, or other minorities to the City Council.

10 I think that if you review the history of
11 what happened, first of all in the 9th District in 1962
12 there was the appointment of a black to fill that seat.
13 And of course with incumbency, subsequent elections brought
14 about his re-election. The 9th Council District right now
15 is 52 percent black, 37 percent Spanish origin, and a
16 scattering between Anglo, Asian and Pacific Islander.

17 The 10th Council District, which was at
18 that time -- If you're aware, the incumbent at that time
19 had been elected to become the City Controller in the
20 '61 election. Subsequent to his election as Controller,
21 or after his election as Controller the Council exercised
22 its authority of appointment, and appointed the then
23 existing deputy in his place, despite the fact that many
24 in the community of the 10th Council District had indicated
25 that they thought that there were competent, adequate and

capable candidates at that time to replace the then
elected incumbent who had become the City Controller, and
instead they appointed the deputy. They then proceeded
to recall the individual. Through a series of reviews it
was found that the recall petitions were insufficient.
At the same time the efforts began to grow for a head-on
confrontation in the election to replace the appointee at
the regular election time, which was successfully done in
1963 with the election of Tom Bradley as the Councilman
from the 10th Council District to fill out the unexpired
term of two or three months, and then also to fill the
full term. But at the same time there was a growing
concern in the most predominantly black part of the
community.

You have to realize that the 10th Council
District has consistently always been a rather unique
district. It has been early in the history of Los Angeles
considered a westside district. I don't think that you
would consider that anymore. They don't what to consider it.
Some people refer to it as South Central Los Angeles. It's
not south central Los Angeles. Some people refer to it as
Central Los Angeles. We happen to have Fairfax in our
district. We also happen to have Olympic Boulevard and
Koreatown in our district. We happen to have Pico-Union.
We also have Crenshaw, La Brea, La Cienega; a number of

unique aspects that I think is what America is all about.

The 8th Council District which clearly was represented at that time by Gordon Hahn, who had decided that he would no longer seek election, and a young man by the name of Billy Mills ran. No one gave him much of a chance, but he did indeed win the seat. And that was how the unique aspect of three blacks being elected to the City Council.

Subsequent to that, with the elevation of Tom Bradley as the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, he supported my candidacy, and that was a broad range of candidates; some forty-some-odd candidates, the largest number of candidates at that point in the history of the City of Los Angeles for one Council district. And we won that seat.

The same interesting set of circumstances occurred in the 6th Council District. The 6th Council District in terms of the census data pretty much reflects almost to the even balance of prospects of the 10th Council District, which means that a coalition of Asians and Chicanos could in all likelihood get elected, or a coalition of blacks, Asians, Chicanos, or any one of several coalitions put together could bring about the election of someone in that district, or even in the 10th Council District, for that matter. That is the genesis of how we arrived at that

point. Initially, Billy Mills was elevated to the bench as a judge, and subsequent efforts on the part of many candidates led to the election of Bob Farrell, the incumbent, in the 8th Council District.

But I think in terms of what has happened in the Jewish community it is quite another matter, quite a different factor. As you know, there are six members of the Jewish persuasion in the Los Angeles City Council. Many of their new seats have become involved in some cases because of their concern for female candidates, and in one case, in one district, I think that the aspect of their being a female, a competent, adequate female led to their election. So the Jewish community, I think, has access to resources coming out of candidate development and selection, and an independency that we don't have as a norm in minority communities. Oftentimes in minority communities we are working our buns off to try to scrape together enough funds to at least get one -- even get one filing fee down, and then to get involved in the sophisticated campaigning techniques of cross-tabulation, stratification of the voter, and the mailing -- Elections have changed, and changed drastically since the 1960's. Since that time I'm sure you and I have experienced a lot down the road.

I do want to ask that your Advisory Committee take a look at the unique opportunities that --

I think we need to compare what the City looks like now in terms of your census tract data; what those seats look like now. I think you need to also take a look at the totality of where the population growth has occurred. The population growth in the City of Los Angeles has occurred for the first time in over 20 years at one of the most unique aspects of the City. For the past 20 years, or before -- from the 30's on up until the beginning of the mid 70's that growth occurred westward in the Valley and out in that direction, and there a loss of population continuously in what you would call that part of the City that is east of the ridge going over into the Valley, loss of population. But something occurred in the mid 70's where ethnics began to move into the heart of the City, and there's some return on the part of whites too. And that growth, that increase in our census tract data has been lumped in the City. That increase is between about four or five districts: the 4th Council District, 13th Council District, 14th Council District, the 9th Council District and the 10th Council District, which has been cluster growth. And when you take a look at the apportionment of that population now and you balance it, I think there's a very interesting balance in the population in existing districts. And I think that there are tremendous exciting possibilities, if you did nothing more

1 than move one census tract around from one district to
2 another, because I think that the population shift and the
3 population growth is such that in the next three years
4 the face of the City Council is going to dramatically
5 change, and I don't think the City Council in doing its
6 reapportionment can get past that no matter what they try
7 to do -- or what we might attempt to do.

8 I might also add, which is an interesting
9 factor for you to consider, I've only been on the Los Angeles
10 City Council since September 18th, 1973. That means that
11 this September I will have completed nine full years on
12 the City Council. I am not one of the least in seniority
13 on the City Council. I am not in the lower percentile,
14 nor am I the lower half of seniority on the City Council.
15 I am in the upper percentile in seniority on the City
16 Council. There are only about six people with more seniority
17 than myself on the City Council. This Council has turned
18 over, and consistently turns over, and the average service
19 for a Council member is somewhere in the neighborhood of
20 about six to six and a half years on the City Council.
21 Those are factors that you might want to consider and take
22 a look at them, because it helps you develop a perspective
23 of what strategy you should adopt not only to apportionment
24 and reapportionment, and adjustment and development, but
25 also how to plan to be ready to increase minority

1 participation in elections for the Los Angeles City
2 Council. There are some that will say that we need to do
3 this, devoid of any consideration of these things, but I
4 think that's a small minority on the City Council that will
5 say that.

6 Another interesting factor is should
7 Tom Bradley be successful and elected Governor of the
8 State of California -- and I think that's a tremendous
9 possibility, although the State of California has a rather
10 small minority population -- there's going to be many
11 opportunities to fill some of the seats that -- Anyone
12 who runs in an even-numbered district, who represents an
13 even-numbered district and seeks the mayoraltyship has an
14 open seat at that point, because the election of a Mayor
15 will require a special election at the nearest next election.
16 So these are factors that you cannot be unaware of as you
17 go about your deliberations, as you go about taking a look
18 at the field out there and what is available.

19 Perhaps I talked too long on your question,
20 but I would suggest that you do take a look at the census
21 data. We at my office are taking a look at the census
22 data because we suspect that there's some interesting
23 possibilities.

24 MR. SELLAS: Thank you, very much, Councilman.
25 You've been very helpful to the Committee, and we thank you

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1 for taking your time from your busy schedule to be here
2 this morning.

3 COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, for the
4 invitation.

5 MR. SILLAS: We now stand adjourned till 1:30.

6 (Lunch recess.)
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1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1982

2 1:30 P.M.

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5 MS. DAVIS: The meeting of the California Advisory
6 Committee on Civil Rights is reconvened for the afternoon.
7 We have our first [REDACTED] representative here with us.

8 Would you please state your name and
9 occupation.

10 MR. KUMAMOTO: Alan Kumomoto, Executive Director
11 for the Center of Non-Profit Management in Los Angeles.

12 MS. DAVIS: Do you have a prepared statement, or
13 do you wish --

14 MR. KUMAMOTO: I've got pieces.

15 MS. DAVIS: Very well, why don't you proceed with
16 your statement, and then we'll ask questions.

17 MR. KUMAMOTO: My understanding is this afternoon
18 I've been asked to speak in regards to reapportionment as
19 a concern of the Asian-Pacific community.

20 I have been meeting with a group of
21 concerned Asian-Americans who represent a cross-section of
22 the various nationalities which compose the Asian-American
23 community. The Asian-American community and the Pacific
24 Island people in Los Angeles, really in fact we're looking
25 at around 27 different nationalities, groups and subgroups.

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RAG CONTENT

1 The question of reapportionment when we start looking at
2 the City Council, and we look at the various redistricting
3 responsibilities of the reapportionment committee for the
4 City Council, we've been looking at some of the data as
5 it relates to ethnicity, and so forth, and it seems that
6 there are two basic areas of concern within the community --
7 and the community is divided. The community is divided
8 between keeping an equal amount of balance as it currently
9 exists, meaning that the Asian-American community should
10 remain pretty much scattered in their housing patterns,
11 and so forth, and therefore their representativeness, if
12 you will, will remain scattered. On the other hand there is
13 an opposing viewpoint that says let's create a super
14 Asian-Pacific district, and by that we're talking about
15 possibly moving some people from one area of a City
16 Councilman's district to another. And I guess one of the
17 viewpoints there was that one might want to enlarge let's
18 say possibly like the 13th District, which then would take
19 into account some of those areas down by the 4th
20 Councilmanic District, and even extending down into the
21 10th Councilmanic District, and even coming and swinging
22 back through the 9th. That would at least then take into
23 account some of the major business groupings, if you will.
24 There's Koreatown, there's the Philippino community,
25 Chinatown, Little Tokyo, and so forth. And what that would

1 do is create a super district. That was one other
2 viewpoint.

3 So we're really divided in many cases in
4 terms of whether or not there should be that one
5 super district, or whether or not representation will best
6 take place in terms of balance.

7 The people who are pushing for balance
8 felt that in order to maintain that balance -- well, in
9 order to maintain, you should stay where you are, and
10 that the population figures are probably going to grow in
11 those areas where the Asian-American community is light.
12 And what that ultimately will do would get enough votes
13 through City Council if there's a particular issue or
14 concern, because obviously the more votes you have
15 scattered the better your chances are for getting eight
16 votes.

17 That really was pretty much the statement,
18 because there really wasn't a cohesive statement that came
19 out of around three or four of the different group meetings
20 that we had. We are going to go before the City Council
21 reapportionment committee, and we're going to have two or
22 three of these spokespeople speak before that particular
23 hearing on June 1st, and that will be the first meeting of
24 that committee. That's pretty much the statement, as far
25 as that's concerned.

RAG CONTENT

1 MS. DAVIS: Could you go back a little bit and
2 clarify the specific involvement of your organization in
3 the reapportionment? Did you assume the leadership, or --

4 MR. KUMOMOTO: Yes. One of the things, when I was
5 introducing myself, I was introducing myself, I guess,
6 from a professional work responsibility. The groups that
7 met in terms of the Asian-Pacific Island grouping were
8 really individual representatives of a variety of
9 organizations. They weren't really in effect officially
10 speaking for the various organizations they belong to.
11 On the other hand, I would say that if you look at the
12 combined membership, there probably would be 50 to 60
13 different organizations represented by virtue of the
14 membership in different boards by the people who were at
15 some of these meetings. No organization per se was
16 taking an official position, and so mainly these were
17 spokespeople. And as I said, there were around -- at
18 varying times, but I would say collectively we pulled over
19 a couple of hundred people collectively, because some
20 people went back to their organization and they had maybe
21 gatherings of 10, 15 people. The organization right now
22 is just like an ad hoc committee per se, representing just
23 various concerns of this community.

24 MS. DAVIS: Have you had access through your
25 individual firm, or the coalition of groups to the data from

1 the census in order to arrive at some of your positions?

2 MR. KUMOMOTO: Right. That was one of the things
3 that we wanted to have access to, and we were able to get
4 access through the City to some of this information.

5 MS. DAVIS: Through the Community Analysis Bureau?

6 MR. KUMOMOTO: Right, right. So we were looking
7 at those numbers. We started to look a little bit -- Some
8 of the people who were on the committee had concerns about
9 the school board elections, and the different districts
10 represented there, and so forth, and many people felt that
11 the first step in the process was to at least look at the
12 councilmanic areas, and then after that concentrate
13 secondarily on that. But there was some move to at least
14 look at that, because many of the Asian people who were
15 at some of these meetings had concerns about how, or where
16 their children were going to go to school, and how the
17 various elected representatives, and so forth, would
18 represent them, and that was a concern.

19 MS. DAVIS: I would like to pursue a little bit
20 the two approaches that you indicated that your community
21 had taken. One was the current balance, and the other
22 the super district that could possibly be assigned.

23 In terms of the present current balance
24 as a result of the 1970 reapportionment, would you say that
25 that reapportionment in 1970 had an adverse impact on the

1 Asian community, and if so, why?

2 MR. KUMOMOTO: I don't know if it would be adverse,
3 but there was -- and again, this was in part the Korean
4 community. There was a great deal of discussion about
5 their particular community location being split within
6 two particular councilmanic districts. There were some
7 people who felt they had greater strength in particular
8 there, because they could go to two different councilmen.
9 On the other hand, people felt that that was not any kind
10 of a plot, or anything, but part of the population just
11 moved into both districts, into two different areas. The
12 people who were supporting the other move wanted to just
13 sort of carve out that whole Koreatown area, and just
14 wanted to put it into just one particular district.

15 I think that one thing that was really a
16 learning experience was the fact that most people consider
17 Asians to be quiet, and to see either discussion or heated
18 debate in which people would be talking to their
19 respective viewpoints was very interesting. There was
20 really no democratic vote. It was more consensus, and part
21 of the consensus was that it was a split. But I don't
22 think that anybody felt necessarily that there was any
23 kind of a plot, or any kind of an adverse type of thing.
24 There was a certain amount of acceptance to the fact that
25 that was the way this is, how could we make the situation

1 any better, and then when people started arguing about
2 viewpoints it was just split and people agreed to disagree.

3 MS. DAVIS: Well, would the people again who were
4 advocating for the current balance -- In other words, you
5 mentioned also that they were going to two different
6 councilpeople, two different avenues in which to gain some
7 of their concerns that they have. Would you say that the
8 Asian and Pacific people of Los Angeles have been adequately
9 taken care of by the current districts that we have as
10 they're established?

11 MR. KUMOMOTO: The balance people would contend that.
12 They really contended that they felt that the current
13 balance was appropriate, although they realized one thing,
14 that because of the population shifts, and so forth, that
15 some of those boundaries would in fact change. But what
16 they were advocating was as the boundaries shifted that
17 they wanted to keep proportionately the same kind of
18 percentage, because even in the largest districts I think
19 the percentage figures were only something around 12, 14
20 percent. I mean it wasn't an appreciable number, but on the
21 other hand, in certain other small districts they're only
22 represented by around 2 percent. But they felt that they
23 still could go -- because as a visible minority, even with
24 a 2 percent factor they had some access to some of the
25 representatives, the elected representatives or their staff.

1 So those people felt adequately represented, because we
2 were talking to some of the Valley people up in the northern
3 areas, and some of them felt that they were represented
4 even though they might have a small percentage.

5 MS. LOW: Did they feel that their needs were met?

6 MR. KUMOMOTO: They felt that they had access.
7 They weren't always satisfied. So I think there's two
8 questions there.

9 MS. LOW: In terms of needs, though, did they bring
10 any concerns about not being met, and how strongly they
11 felt about it? Or what were their --

12 MR. KUMOMOTO: We didn't get into as many needs
13 things as mainly the concern for quote representation, and
14 whatever that meant. And we began to debate about what
15 representation meant; at least you had access to your
16 elected official and/or their representatives, and so forth.

17 There were a couple of people -- and I
18 can't remember what the issue was -- that were really upset
19 with the current elected official, and because of that
20 they felt that what we really need to do is we really need
21 to pull together and make sure that we have a strong voice,
22 because if we have one Asian person in the City Council
23 that would represent the whole community. And as that
24 person was about ready to conclude his argument this other
25 lady said we need to have balance. And so we kept going

1 back and forth. It was really like a ping-pong match in
2 terms of going back and forth, at least at the biggest
3 meeting that we had with the most representation. As far
4 as that concern there, this one person, another person I
5 can think of, what they were saying is that even though
6 they had been represented they felt that the particular
7 issue that they were talking about, and whether or not it
8 was appropriate for a councilperson to be involved with
9 that issue might be questionable, but they felt that that
10 councilperson should have taken a stronger position, and
11 in fact when that vote came voted against the particular
12 person's will. So that's why that person was very upset.
13 But that was the only one who would really speak up within
14 the total group to really say that they would really believe
15 in that person.

16 MS. LOW: Thank you.

17 MS. DAVIS: In regards to the super district that
18 was considered, when they looked at it did they actually
19 look at it in terms of numbers of population that would be
20 in there?

21 MR. KUMOMOTO: Yes.

22 MS. DAVIS: So in other words, that district could
23 be gerrymandered, if you will, to give the Asians -- What
24 percentage of Asian population would have been in that
25 particular district, do you remember?

1 MR. KUMOMOTO: I have got some figures someplace.

2 Percentage-wise I think the 13th currently
3 has, at least on this paper, around almost 11 percent, and
4 he was going to shift some of that. I think the ultimate
5 was it was going to create around 15 or 16 or 17 percent
6 representation. It wasn't going to create that large
7 total numerically. It wasn't going to create over 50 percent,
8 for instance, Asian. What it was going to do, it was
9 going to take at least all the quote visible pockets and
10 sort of combine it. And realizing that some people had to
11 give up in some areas, and so forth, we had one of those
12 big Thomas Guide maps, and people started to use their
13 red pencil and they wanted to make sure this part got
14 included and that part didn't. So some of that Temple Street
15 area was included, part of Chinatown was carved out, and
16 part of Little Tokyo was sort of a little bump there, and
17 so forth, and that was the super district. It looked like
18 an amoeba or blob, but that's what it was.

19 MS. DAVIS: But it only resulted in about an 18 --

20 MR. KUMOMOTO: I think the total thing -- Somebody
21 was running some calculations on it and said it wasn't
22 going to be, you know, a super landslide, but it would be
23 at least a concentration. So it would be at least double
24 the concentration.

25 MS. DAVIS: This surprises me, because I would have

1 expected it to go at least from 40 percent with those
2 portions of Los Angeles.

3 MR. KUMOMOTO: See, but on the other hand, we were
4 excluding -- and I don't know how practical we were. We
5 were excluding certain areas to the west, for instance,
6 within one of the districts that we've attempted, because
7 that took in the Crenshaw area. We couldn't take per se
8 the Crenshaw area, because that way the geographic
9 boundaries would have been too huge. There was no way we
10 could gerrymander, if you will, all the areas with just one
11 street, and so forth.

12 MS. DAVIS: How was that related to your recent
13 experience when you did have an Asian candidate for City
14 Council? Do you feel that having had a different type of
15 district that perhaps you would have been successful?

16 MR. KUMOMOTO: I think that in that election there
17 were some people who thought that if parts of the, I guess,
18 4th, or some of those other areas were included, that that
19 candidate might have had a better chance, or if they had,
20 let's say, part of the 9th, which would have been part of
21 Chinatown, that would have been the easiest. On the other
22 hand, I think it's realistic to assume that even if you
23 captured a lot of Asian votes that that's not a sufficient
24 number in any case to capture that election. In the
25 primaries I think that candidate received a lot more votes

1 than in the final outcome, and he would have needed alot
2 more support overall. So I mean from that standpoint,
3 sure, he would have wanted the west side, the west side of
4 that district, and maybe some of the portions of that
5 would have been given automatically, if you will, by
6 political analysis a certain number of votes. I don't
7 know if it's a defeatist attitude or not, but I think people
8 really feel within the Asian community that you need to get
9 more than just Asian votes, and that's just a real reality,
10 and they have to figure that the Asian votes are going to
11 come.

12 The other thing that was interesting, and
13 we never really resolved with any kind of data, and that
14 was how many are registered voters within those areas,
15 versus people who live in that area who are Asian. And
16 so even though the figures might go one way, you know, how
17 many are actually physically registered would be another
18 question. I know with parts of the 30th Congressional
19 District, and right now some of the other areas where there
20 are some Asian candidates, the question is how many are
21 registered voters, as opposed to how many Asians live in
22 a particular area. So I think that's another dimension to
23 this whole thing.

24 MS. DAVIS: It's still not clear to me. Do you
25 think that the community as a whole will get together and

1 actually have a particular plan, or plans to present
2 to the City Council? And if so, do you have some
3 information about that?

4 MR. KUMOMOTO: Yes. I think the main thing
5 that we have found after working for around two months on
6 this thing, or more, has been that the Asian-Pacific
7 community is just as divided as everybody else on this
8 particular issue. I guess that's the one reason why we're
9 having several spokespeople on the list, is to express the
10 division of the house, and to allow for that thing.

11 The outcome of this whole process, though,
12 has been good and positive in the sense that I think each
13 person has become concerned about what their own local
14 district boundaries are going to be. And in a sense
15 I think what most everybody is going to do is we're going
16 to sort of bird dog, or monitor, or look at that process;
17 that before people were wondering what's reapportionment,
18 what does that mean, and all I know is I'm supposed to
19 vote for somebody at a certain time. Now, they're starting
20 to look at there are certain kinds of implications in terms
21 of reapportionment and how my community might get split up,
22 and so forth. And so I think there's a lot more, not
23 necessarily quote younger people in age, but less astute
24 political people becoming more sensitive and aware of the
25 fact that reapportionment has some kind of an impact on

1 them.

2 The position really is going to be an
3 opposition, I believe, on the 1st. We're having another
4 meeting this weekend to try to resolve the split, but I
5 think the split is so equally divided that it's going to
6 remain a split. So I don't think there's going to be any
7 real hard solid recommendation, other than saying that there
8 is that balance versus the super district. I think there's
9 going to be some people who are going to push harder for
10 one side or the other, but as far as the total numbers
11 pooled, it's going to remain pretty much a split.

12 MS. DAVIS: Are you sufficiently knowledgeable of
13 the reapportionment process in the City of Los Angeles that
14 you will be making specific recommendations to that
15 committee as to how to improve the political representation
16 of your community?

17 MR. KUMOMOTO: We have been meeting individually
18 with members of that committee, and we have been informed
19 of the kinds of things that we should be alerted to, or
20 aware of in that whole process, each step in that process,
21 and we have prepared ourselves to at least monitor the
22 process. Also, each one of the people representing the
23 different councilmanic areas representing the Asian-Pacific
24 area are at least aware and knowledgeable of, and have
25 been talking to their own elected representatives, or

1 staff person. So that at least each one of those
2 council members should be aware of the fact that there is
3 some concern on the part of the Asian community in terms
4 of how they might ultimately vote for the reapportionment
5 plan, and that some people are selectively drawing their
6 own map within their own little offices. Some people
7 have been privileged or not privileged to look at some
8 of those plans and to make some kind of specific input into
9 that. Now, how it effects the entire map at the end, is
10 looking at another issue. So at least the committee itself
11 has been more informed about what all the different
12 steps in the process are, and what the timing is, and who
13 has the final say-so. And at this point we are just going
14 to go along with the process, so to speak, and we're going
15 to appear, as I said, at the first few hearings, and so
16 forth, and make some more statements. But I think the main
17 thing that we would be saying is we're monitoring the
18 process more than we're being more active, because of that
19 split. I mean, we're not coming in with a big statement
20 position.

21 MS. DAVIS: Would you be supportive of an
22 independent commission to handle the reapportionment of the
23 City of Los Angeles, rather than the elected officials?

24 MR. KUMOMOTO: Personally I think the elected
25 officials can do pretty well themselves. It's all part of

1 the political process itself, and I think that we have
2 just as much access to a political process that includes
3 elected officials as to some independent commission that
4 might be politically empowered.

5 MS. DAVIS: What is the percentage of Asian-Pacific
6 Islanders in Los Angeles?

7 MR. KUMOMOTO: The total figures, I don't even
8 know what the '80 census is, but it's down in the 1, 2, 3
9 percent, and depends on which areas you consider part of
10 Los Angeles City itself. This is deceiving too, because
11 you can see sometimes that you have larger population
12 pockets, and you have larger numbers represented in certain
13 areas. And then again if you get down to the electorate,
14 that's where I've seen so many different numbers that
15 they all keep coming out of my head.

16 MS. DAVIS: Are there any other questions from the
17 other committee members?

18 MR. MONTEZ: I just was curious about the
19 allegations when you did have an Asian-American candidate
20 of the racial overtones. Do you know what I'm making
21 reference to? What kind of an effect has this had on the
22 Asian-Pacific community in total? Does it deter them,
23 or do they just continue on with what you're doing?

24 MR. KUMOMOTO: I think you're finding more and more
25 people get more determined because of statements like that

1 to want to become more active in different aspects of the
2 political process. More specifically, I can see before
3 me around a dozen people who were not that active
4 politically until that campaign, and when that campaign
5 was over, when reapportionment became the next issue, if
6 you will, for them to hear about those people would have
7 gone back into the woodwork, because they were involved
8 with a candidate for the first time. But now they want
9 to know what does reapportionment mean, and they're coming
10 out. They're saying what's all this thing? Is it going
11 to have any kind of an impact on the kind of thing that
12 happened in that last campaign? So I think it's got
13 some people subtly alarmed, or whatever. They weren't
14 out there yelling and screaming, but I think it did upset
15 them. Their demeanor may not have changed a whole lot,
16 yet their actions now are they want to get more involved
17 in this type of area, especially if it has some direct
18 implications. From the standpoint of some of the more
19 direct racial slurs, and so forth, there was another group
20 of people that decided to form as one of the direct
21 results, and they wanted to look at how can we look directly
22 at these kinds of statements, these kinds of slurs, and
23 so forth, and can we do anything about it? Can we impact
24 the media? Can we impact -- You know, who can we impact
25 to at least represent a different side to this thing, or

1 to say that's a racist comment, or that's a subtle racist
2 comment and to be able to at least sit up so that it
3 doesn't look like Asians just sort of sit there silently
4 in the corner someplace? And so the more activist
5 groups have at least formed a small committee and they've
6 been trying to monitor some of these things. They're
7 at least looking at some of these things.

8 The other misnomer of course is the fact
9 that you have within the Asian-American Pacific Island
10 people so many different nationalities and different
11 groups within the County that it becomes a question of
12 what kind of issues do you really take on. I mean, do
13 you deal with certain kinds of things when it comes to
14 new arrivals and the Cambodian issue, or do you start to
15 look at some of the more sophisticated, or more advanced
16 groups, if you will; the groups that have been here the
17 longest? You know, where do you start with that?

18 I guess what I'm trying to say is that
19 overall I think there are some people who are more active
20 as a direct result of that, and they're more concerned.
21 I don't know if that's the new wave that's coming up that
22 have never really had to be called a Jap or a Chink, or
23 something like that, but I mean they're upset for the
24 first time.

25 MR. MONTEZ: Does the Asian community in the future

1 see anything, as many different minority groups as there
2 are in Los Angeles, in the form of getting together with
3 any other groups, you know, and forming some kind of a
4 coalition? Has that ever been discussed, or are there
5 so many separate groups within the Asian-Pacific people
6 that it would take a long time to even consider that?

7 MR. KUMOMOTO: Well, obviously, you can't look
8 at that total population just as one big mass group. I
9 know of several people who are directly meeting with
10 different groups within some of the different ethnic
11 communities, and they've been trying to work fairly
12 strongly for a number of years. I mean, whether you're
13 talking about Civil Rights Commission, whether you're
14 talking about Human Rights Commission, they're still --

15 MR. MONTEZ: I was specifically making reference
16 to coalitions with other minority groups.

17 MR. KUMOMOTO: Right.

18 MR. MONTEZ: In other words, if one minority
19 group doesn't have strength by itself, maybe two groups
20 or three groups. That's what I was --

21 MR. KUMOMOTO: At this point I see some small
22 signs of that. But as the vast majority, there are
23 people -- I think we see some shifts right now, and one
24 of the shifts that we're seeing in some cases are even
25 within the Asian-Pacific community itself, you're seeing

that Asian-Pacific term has less meaning, except for two or three organizations. From a political or federal money standpoint, or whatever, you're finding a certain amount of retrenchment back into a Japanese community, a Korean community, a Philippino community, and so forth, that those groups stand at certain levels of leadership around different kinds of causes and issues. Now, there is a few of that leadership who obviously have contact with the black community, the Hispanic community, and so forth, but it may take another issue, it may take another cause. There are for instance groups of people working that I know within the Asian community representing a cross-section -- This is the counterpoint -- a cross-section of the Asian-Pacific community that are working with several Hispanic groups in terms of leadership development, because that particular Hispanic group is working at community leadership development, and so forth. And there's a group of people who are about ready to incorporate within the Asian-Pacific Community who are working together. But that's a common issue, leadership development.

MR. MONTEZ: Thank you.

MS. DAVIS: I have one more question.

You now have a member of the School Board who is Asian, Mr. Trias.

1 MR. KUMOMOTO: Correct.

2 MS. DAVIS: Does the Asian community feel that he
3 is there because of maybe some of the work that has been
4 done in terms of the active political community? The
5 reason I ask the question is because we know Hispanics,
6 who are a greater number in Los Angeles, did not succeed
7 in getting the Board of Education to appoint an Hispanic
8 to the Board, yet the Asian community, who has less number
9 and less activities politically, did succeed, and I wonder
10 if you could elaborate on that?

11 MR. KUMOMOTO: Yes. His position is quite
12 controversial within parts of our community, to say the
13 least. So I think if you are asking is that person
14 representative, does that have the majority support, not at
15 all. I mean, I just throw my hands up.

16 On the other side, I would hope -- Let's
17 just make it philosophically. I would hope that any person
18 who was elected, appointed, or whatever to a particular
19 position would represent their office, and then secondly
20 the community. I think if they have a certain sensitivity,
21 that's appropriate. I think that by virtue of the fact --
22 I hate to hear people say well because you have 53 percent
23 you should have so much representation. I never heard that
24 that was the way that we were supposed to be represented.
25 So I get upset if somebody says I've been excluded because

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1 I'm Asian and I only represent .0001 percent of that total
2 population, and I say, well, you don't deserve to be there.
3 I hate to have somebody say that to me. On the other hand,
4 I think that visible representation on the part of
5 elected officials, and so forth, is very important to raise
6 the consciousness, to avoid the kind of thing Mr. Montez
7 was talking about in terms of allowing for certain kinds of
8 racial slurs like happened in a public hearing; that type
9 of thing.

10 I think that he is a reminder to some of us,
11 whether we agree with his position or not, that says, well,
12 an Asian can get elected, and I think that's a good sign.

13 I don't know if I have answered your
14 question directly.

15 MS. DAVIS: I guess what I was really after was
16 whether or not you feel that his appointment was in response
17 to the community?

18 MR. KUMOMOTO: I think it was in response to certain
19 community efforts, and to some of the people who were
20 really pushing for an Asian representative, and I think
21 they were very successful at that. Now the question is
22 whether or not he was the most appropriate candidate to
23 represent the community as its community spokesman? I
24 would say that is controversial.

25 MS. DAVIS: Are there any other questions?

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1 Thank you, very much, Mr. Kumomoto.

2 MR. KUMOMOTO: Thank you.

3 MS. DAVIS: Now, our next speaker is Dr. Leo Estrada.

4 Will you please state your name and
5 occupation? And in your presentation we would be interested,
6 Dr. Estrada, although we have been focusing on Hispanics,
7 if you can also give us some information about the other
8 minorities in Los Angeles, and also some major population
9 shifts that have occurred since the 1970 census. Although
10 we didn't ask specifically, we would be interested in that,
11 and you are the expert in that area.

12 DR. ESTRADA: My name is Leo Estrada, and I am a
13 demographer and Associate Professor in the School of
14 Architecture and Urban Planning at UCLA. As a demographer,
15 my expertise is in the study of population, and I specialize
16 in the study of racial and ethnic population in the
17 United States. Obviously, in the City of Los Angeles
18 there's going to be changes and shifts which I observe here,
19 and I try to maintain active interests in specifics here.

20 If a person could say in terms of changes
21 that have occurred since 1970, perhaps the most significant
22 one is the fact that the Asian population has increased at
23 least in this state perhaps the largest rate of all groups.
24 Given the aftermath of the Vietnam War and changes which
25 have occurred in terms of refugee status, the Asian-Pacific

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1 Islander groups have almost tripled nationally, and since
2 most of that lives in the West Coast in this part of the
3 country, it has felt that impact the greatest. We're
4 talking here about population that has suddenly had an
5 influx that has doubled in size, almost tripled due to
6 immigration from Southeast Asia, and is concentrated
7 largely in the Los Angeles area, basically along the
8 Santa Monica Corridor, Santa Monica Freeway Corridor
9 starting at about Hoover to San Vicente, with Olympic and
10 Pico being the sort of boundaries of that population.

11 Another interesting thing in terms of the
12 population in Los Angeles is that the black population has
13 not grown significantly over the past decade. We have
14 known for a long time that there has been a movement of
15 blacks living in the North and Eastern United States back
16 to the South. It appears now that there's a similar movement
17 from the West Coast back to the South of blacks. Overall
18 the number of blacks in Los Angeles shrunk within the
19 city, while increasing in the surrounding counties of
20 Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura. We see first of
21 all that population has at least within the city stablized
22 in growth, in part due to outward migration away from
23 California, and others moving outside of the County area.

24 The most dramatic increases are the
25 increases in the Hispanic population. They're dramatic both

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1 in terms of size, but they're also dramatic in terms of
2 dispersion. When one compares census tract maps from the
3 1970's to the 1980's, and looks at the dispersement of
4 the population, it's hard to find a single area in the
5 City -- there are a few left, but almost none -- that
6 have no Hispanics living in them at all. It's a way of
7 contrasting the differences between the black population,
8 which is very concentrated in one particular part of the
9 City, with the Hispanic population which sort of centralizes
10 on the east side of the City, and then sort of disperses
11 outward into the Valley, all the way to the outside County,
12 down to San Pedro, all the way to Santa Ana. It's a
13 dispersion that's quite remarkable in terms of that
14 population.

15 As a demographer, I am involved with the
16 issues related to politics very often, and in terms of
17 political representation I sort of divide what's involved
18 in sort of an objective and a subjective side. You can't
19 have political representation unless you have a population
20 of some size that's significant, and I would see the issues
21 of growth of minority population in Los Angeles as very
22 important. You also have to be talking about a population
23 that's eligible to be involved in the electoral process.
24 So I sometimes focus on the population that's over the age
25 of 18, as well as those that are naturalized citizens, or

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1 citizens of the United States.

2 Then finally, in terms of political
3 representation, it's also important to consider concentration,
4 so that you get a greater impact for the voting where groups
5 are concentrated.

6 One last objective issue is the number of
7 districts. The degree of which you have more districts,
8 and the degree to which they're smaller, they can represent
9 a much more homogeneous group than much larger districts
10 in terms of area, and I think that smaller districts
11 basically reflect the population they represent to a greater
12 extent.

13 In terms of the subjective factors, you have
14 such things as incumbency, and of course there's sort of a
15 natural desire for incumbents to protect their turf. You
16 have also something which not always is clearly understood,
17 depending on how you look at it, but some cities seem more
18 willing than others to open up the doors to representation
19 on different levels, and issues that have to do with how
20 good the candidates are that run, their qualities, as well
21 as their organization, which I'm not sure how one ever
22 judges these things, but I know that they take place.

23 My interest in the topic really arises from
24 the fact that I had the opportunity to work with Chicanos
25 for fair representation when they became involved with the

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1 State redistricting project here in California. On an
2 objective basis it wasn't hard to see, first of all, a
3 need to find improved representation of Chicanos, Latinos
4 in this area, and I think we began with that objective as
5 an organization in terms of our particular purpose. At
6 the same time the subjective issues played a role. And I
7 guess the best way to describe this is that if one accepts
8 the concept of one man one vote, and you ask a technician
9 to draw districts, and you can ask me to make them round
10 or square, or make each one 30 percent Latinos, or whatever,
11 it can be done. It can be done because it's basically a
12 technical process. The difference is that if a technician
13 sat down and did that that he would have absolutely no
14 chance of it being implemented, because political realities,
15 the intelligence information which was given to us regarding
16 what incumbents would accept watching what is done to their
17 district in terms of what people wished or demanded, as
18 well as the political realities all were something which
19 were sort of new to me, but which became equally as
20 important in time whether a line went north or south or
21 east or west. So the issue really, I think, comes to the
22 fact that districts when they're created develop communities
23 of interests, and these communities of interests are
24 important because politicians see them in two different
25 ways, and this is something that I've sort of tried to learn

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1 to distinguish. When they're running for office their
2 concern is with the electoral constituency, the people
3 that they think are going to vote, and the people that
4 they are concerned with because the votes are going to
5 get them elected. Once elected, however, some politicians
6 make the transition to the resident constituency better
7 than others. And that is that once elected they have a
8 group of people they have to represent whether they voted
9 for them or not, whether they voted at all, whether they
10 were eligible to vote or not. And it's that shift that
11 sometimes gets confused, because we would hear representatives,
12 to give simply for example, give us their wishes in terms
13 of what they would desire, and their desires were based
14 on trying to get people who would vote or contributors or
15 aspects of things that would help them in campaigning.
16 Not often did we hear people say I want this particular
17 area because these are people that I really want to
18 represent, or I feel really strongly that they need my
19 representation. It's a difference which is subtle sometimes,
20 but it's very important because it affects the manner in
21 which they go about doing the job in the district.

22 As a last statement I would just like to
23 say that I am very pleased, for example, to have been
24 involved with Californios, because it was an historical
25 event. In the case, for example, of the Congressional

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1 reapportionment which is carried out by the Congressional
2 delegation, there's little impact that a group like
3 Californios could have. They decide what lines they want,
4 the Governor has an opportunity to veto it; they decide
5 amongst themselves, and they decide in ways that basically
6 protect themselves, but in a realistic sort of political
7 way. The importance of Californios was that we were able
8 to produce an alternative plan. There were other alternative
9 plans in terms of the Assembly as well, but the fact that
10 they were -- When there's one plan there's no real standard
11 by which you judge it. There's no standard by which you know
12 whether it's a good plan or a bad plan. Once you have
13 two or three that are out there, then people begin to take
14 sides, and begin to see that this one has some advantages
15 and that one has some advantages, and it starts to be sort
16 of a competitive issue when you begin to see that each plan
17 has some advantages perhaps. But in viewing the different
18 alternatives, you can begin to compare whether this plan
19 really has developed the best district possible.

20 So I understand how the redistricting takes
21 place in the City in comparison, because I think that the
22 debate arises when having alternative plans, and the debate
23 regarding what would be best for the City, what would be
24 best for the different communities of interests, what would
25 be best for different ethnic and racial communities in the

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1 City are really helped by that debate, and that can only
2 happen when you have alternative plans, and when you have
3 them as a way of comparing them to each other. And I might
4 add that in the case of the Assembly plan that I was very
5 involved with, I think Californios feel good, because when
6 we produced a plan and made it public to the different
7 legislators it did effect the final results. And it would
8 be unfair to say that we got everything that we wanted, or
9 that it came out exactly as we wished it would come out,
10 and yet the results are something that we're very pleased
11 by, because in some cases the final plan that was adopted
12 has likenesses and similarities to our own plan, which
13 means that either we thought alike, or that we had an
14 influence in that outcome. In a few cases we didn't get
15 what we wanted at all, but those are the realities of
16 factors that were outside of our control. But I do feel
17 very strongly that the vested interest groups have a right
18 to produce alternative plans, support debate for the
19 purposes of understanding what is or is not a good plan.

20 MS. DAVIS: Dr. Estrada, I would like to get back
21 to some of the demographics.

22 I wonder in what socioeconomic areas are
23 minority demographic characteristics particularly unique,
24 and are any of these taken into consideration, or should
25 they be taken into consideration in drawing up any of the

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1 plans?

2 DR. ESTRADA: I'll just use one illustration.

3 Although there are several that I could use, I think that
4 the one that is the most interesting is the youthfulness
5 of the Hispanic population, meaning that we have --

6 Because our women are younger than black women and Anglo
7 women, many of our females are moving to the high fertility
8 age, or will move to it within the next 15 years, so for
9 somebody who does demographic analysis the next 15 years in
10 Los Angeles are going to be a period of unprecedented
11 Chicano growth and fertility. We are going to have more
12 children than we've ever had before in any one point in
13 time for the next 10 or 15 years. It's simply because
14 Latino women are about 21 years of age here in Los Angeles,
15 and most women who have children have them between the
16 ages of 19 and 34, and 50 percent of our women are going
17 to be in that age range within the next 15 years. So it's
18 obvious, first of all, that there is going to be a
19 tremendous baby boom on the part of Latinos. So issues
20 that relate to children, which are health and schools,
21 are very important at this point for Latinos.

22 This would be an interesting exercise.

23 If you took the school enrollment, rather than the population,
24 and you did redistricting on the basis of that, you would
25 find yourself with highly Latino districts throughout the

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1 City. And that would be a reflection of what the
2 reality is then. The latest number that I have is that
3 1980 elementary school population of Los Angeles was about
4 59 percent Latino. Just knowing that, and realizing that
5 that was the base, you would end up with Latino districts.
6 Well, that's not the base, but the point is that districts
7 that reflect the needs of a population which are going
8 to have a good large number of children that are going to
9 be relying on health services and school districts,
10 school district resources is extremely important for that
11 population.

12 MS. DAVIS: Most people, or some people, I guess,
13 would hold the view that minorities are under-represented
14 in local government because they are not interested in
15 politics. What is your opinion in that regard?

16 DR. ESTRADA: I think that's probably one of the
17 misconceptions that we have to work the hardest to sort of
18 fight. In my own mind I've realized for a long time that
19 although we have population, we don't always translate it
20 very well into participation. When I was working on the
21 redistricting, I was always disappointed by looking at the
22 low number of votes in certain areas that were highly
23 Hispanic that made the outcome, or determined the outcome
24 of the election. One of the things that I've learned more
25 recently through analysis of the information is that we

1 really haven't taken into consideration enough of the
2 factors. In particular, we note for example now there's
3 about 40 percent of the population, Latino population,
4 that is under the age of 18. That means that automatically
5 we're putting the burden of voting upon 60 percent of the
6 population. Most important, however, is that we have
7 information about the reasons why people don't vote, and
8 why they do not register. And what we learn is that the
9 population of Hispanics in the United States -- the
10 California figures are a little bit higher -- but the
11 proportion of Hispanics who do not vote because they are
12 not eligible because of citizenship is around 32 percent.
13 So in a normal average district for every 100 people, 17
14 of those individuals would not be able to vote.

15 Well, taking that into consideration would
16 help us. We've taken that information and reconstructed it.
17 We've taken away the 2 or 3 percent population that's
18 black, non-residents, non-citizens, 4 percent of the white
19 population that's not citizens, and we've calculated the
20 base of the statistics on the eligible population. Not
21 just everyone over 18 that the census normally takes, but
22 that population that we can realistically say is eligible
23 to register and has the right to vote. When we reanalyze
24 the information, the first thing that happens is that the
25 proportionate that's normally heard, and that is commonly

1 utilized by different researchers is that only about
2 one-third of the Hispanic population is registered to vote,
3 and about 30 -- less than that. The actual number is
4 36 percent registered to vote nationally, and 29 percent
5 turn out to vote. Well, that's pretty dismal. But once we
6 calculate the base on eligibility, then you find that
7 actually 51 percent of the Hispanic voter are registered,
8 which is still about 10 points lower than the black votes,
9 and about 12 or 14 points lower than the whites regis-
10 tration rate, but much better obviously.

11 The most important things that I
12 discovered, though, in looking at that analysis is that
13 turnout, which is the difference between the number of
14 people that register to vote and the actual number that turn
15 out to vote, that the best turnout rate in the country
16 is for Hispanics; that the difference between turnout --
17 between registration and actual voting is only about
18 7 percent for Hispanics, about 10 percent for whites, about
19 11 percent for blacks in terms of the difference. And what
20 it does is that it really throws you off, because it goes
21 against everything you've ever heard about Hispanic
22 voting. It goes against the idea that first of all we
23 won't register; it goes against the idea that we won't
24 turn out, and that we have no interest in elections. And I
25 think one of the things that we need to do is get that

1 information to our elected officials, because they're
2 still working on the old concept that we are not
3 interested, and that we'll only concern ourselves with
4 our local community activity, when in fact the facts
5 indicate that once you define that population in terms of
6 those people that are eligible to vote we do much better
7 than almost anyone else.

8 MS. DAVIS: Were those figures for the State
9 of California, or for the whole United States?

10 DR. ESTRADA: I was giving you the United States
11 figures, because those are the easiest to work with. I have
12 those figures for California as well.

13 MS. DAVIS: That would be very interesting. I
14 would like to have that submitted for the record, if you
15 can later, for the committee.

16 I have in my hand appointments not only
17 to government, but also to provide services. How do you feel
18 that a more diverse ethnic or racial representation on any
19 government body would have an impact on the services that
20 could be provided to those communities?

21 DR. ESTRADA: I am not a real expert on
22 questions like this, and I hope that earlier today
23 Dr. Santillan had covered some of those issues.

24 I think that the only thing that I would
25 add -- it's sort of superficial, but people who write about

1 political power usually say that either a person has to gain
2 the position of power or have access to it. In the
3 past we tended to find power by being in the position, but
4 more importantly perhaps is the fact that we as a
5 community have not really felt that we had access. And
6 I think that's really an important distinction to make,
7 because there are some people who are more sympathetic to
8 us obviously, and there are people that open doors for us,
9 as I mentioned earlier, but I think the key is that I think
10 that it's very seldom that we see people who represent
11 minority communities who close off access, who make it
12 impossible to get to them, who don't try to establish some
13 form of outreach to make sure that the community has input.
14 And it's not that it can't be done by just anyone --
15 in fact, I'm sure it can. It's just that the general --
16 the outcome of what we've seen in the past in terms of
17 local politics is that our minority representatives when
18 elected open the door and make that access possible; give
19 us the opportunities which otherwise do not seem to be
20 there.

21 MS. DAVIS: Going back to your extrapolation of
22 figures in regard to the actual voting capacity of the
23 community, now does that apply to -- We had discussions
24 earlier where just having numbers of Hispanics, in other
25 words, in a district, is not going to be sufficient to

1 guarantee, or at least to give a balance for Hispanic
2 representation, or other minorities. How does your new
3 approach them -- Are you saying that we need to have a
4 district where we are more knowledgeable of the
5 characteristics of the minority community in order to
6 ensure that we have that kind of a return and support
7 of minority candidates?

8 DR. ESTRADA: The implications of the findings
9 that I mentioned are several.

10 The first is that you can't write off
11 that part of the electoral vote, even if it only repre-
12 sents 30 out of every 100 persons, versus another group where
13 it might be 45 or 55 out of 100. You can't write it off
14 because the turnout is going to be high because we are
15 becoming -- well, we are interested in the political
16 outcome; we will participate, and it's important to
17 realize that we could act as a very important spring
18 vote in some cases, and make the difference in an election.
19 I think there are some people who still write off the
20 Latino vote, thinking that it is not going to be there,
21 and therefore attempt to make no effort to reach out for
22 it.

23 The other part of it is that because
24 the Latino vote is a small proportion of the vote, getting
25 districts that pool higher proportion of Hispanics becomes

1 essential. It might be true that a 50 percent Hispanic
2 district looks like it can control it, in fact, depending
3 on what part of the city it would be in, it would not be
4 sufficient. It wouldn't be sufficient because the
5 eligible population that's required to control it in the
6 sense of electoral votes would have to be much higher
7 in proportion. All we seek as an implication would be
8 districts that have higher proportion of Hispanics, even
9 though they may look odd, and may look like gerrymandering.
10 In fact, what we really need are those types of districts
11 to ensure representation in terms of election.

12 And once again I go back to the point
13 the politicians react to who is going to vote for them.
14 Once they're elected they have to be sensitive also to
15 the fact that people who don't vote for them are still
16 their constituents.

17 MS. DAVIS: Can I clarify? You're saying
18 districts that have a large number of Hispanics, but
19 then in proportion also have to have a large number of
20 registered voters?

21 DR. ESTRADA: Yes, both.

22 MS. DAVIS: Or even people that are eligible
23 to become registered? And I don't know how we determine
24 that --

25 DR. ESTRADA: Well, we determine it by age and

1 by citizenship, and there are other things that I don't know
2 about in terms of local residence rules. But I think the
3 key is that whatever part of the City -- I can take
4 just the Echo Park area, for example.

5 The population of people there that
6 are foreign-born is much higher than the 32 percent I
7 mentioned earlier. The proportion of people under 18 is
8 higher than the 42 percent. However, if we go into the
9 suburbs of West Covina -- Well, that's outside of the
10 City. Let's keep it in the City.

11 The San Fernando Valley, we will find a
12 population that is more likely to be native-born, fewer
13 foreign-born, fewer children. Under those circumstances
14 then less of a population is needed. But in drawing
15 these districts the key is to keep in mind to try and
16 take into consideration the age of the population, the number
17 of persons under -- the proportion under 18, as well as the
18 percentage that are noncitizens.

19 MS. DAVIS: Has this information been made
20 available to Californians in the preparation of their plan
21 for the City reapportionment?

22 DR. ESTRADA: Some of it has, I'm sure.

23 MS. DAVIS: Are there any other questions?

24 MR. MONTEZ: So you're really talking about
25 socioeconomic levels who move into a more -- Talking

1 specifically of minorities, say Hispanics, as they move
2 into more affluent suburbia areas, and you get a higher
3 concentration of them, the more registered voters you
4 are apt to have?

5 DR. ESTRADA: Yes.

6 MR. MONTEZ: Which of course may give you a
7 new implication that their political and voting attitudes
8 might change too.

9 DR. ESTRADA: Possibly. We really don't know that
10 much about Latino voting behavior yet, but I'm sure, you
11 know, it will work along that line in years to come.

12 MR. MONTEZ: But we can generalize that minority
13 people as they move up the socioeconomic scale tend to be
14 less ethnocentric, and more in quotes, American?

15 DR. ESTRADA: No, actually it's the opposite.
16 There's a strange phenomena that occurs that we see in
17 a lot of different places in ways. Ethnicity increases --
18 one's ethnicity increases to the extent they're surrounded
19 by more and more Anglos. Particularly suburban Latinos
20 are more likely to be -- There's more education, they
21 probably have different types of jobs, and so forth. I
22 would expect that if you wanted to look for a source, or
23 for future political growth you would not go to the
24 areas of high concentration, but to the new emerging
25 suburban areas, young couples, well educated with good

1 jobs, because they will vote ethnocentrically.

2 MS. DAVIS: Are there any other questions?

3 Thank you very, very much, Dr. Estrada.

4 MR. MONTEZ: I just want to say that we have a
5 letter from the Mayor of Los Angeles, as well as a
6 letter from Councilman John Ferraro that we would like
7 to introduce into the record, if we may.

8 (The following letter from the
9 Mayor of the City of Los Angeles was
10 made a part of the record:)

11 "Dear Mr. Montez:

12 "Thank you for inviting me to
13 testify at your hearing on reapportionment
14 in Los Angeles on May 26, 1982.

15 "I am sorry that prior commitments
16 prevent me from attending the Advisory
17 Committee's meeting. I am sending along
18 with Grace Davis a statement, which out-
19 lines my views on City Council and school
20 board reapportionment, and indicates the
21 role my office plays in the reapportionment
22 process.

23 "I wish you the best of luck in
24 your efforts.

25 "Sincerely,

1 "Tom Bradley
2 M A Y O R."

3 (The following statement
4 from the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
5 was made a part of the record:)

6 "I would like to thank the
7 California Advisory Committee for giving
8 me the opportunity to state my views and
9 to outline my personal responsibilities
10 regarding Los Angeles City Council and
11 school board reapportionment.

12 "I believe that our first priority
13 should be to retain public confidence in
14 the legitimacy of our electoral process.
15 After 21 years on the Los Angeles police
16 force and 19 years as an elected public
17 official, I know that compliance with the
18 law, and respect for public authority cannot
19 be commanded solely by threat of force.
20 The vast majority of law-abiding citizens
21 owe their obedience, in part, to their
22 faith in our democratic creed. This creed
23 will be poorly defended if we allow our
24 election rules to preserve vested interest,
25 rather than promote the vitality of

1 democratic debate, and to reflect the
2 diversity of our population.

3 "Because one goal of elections
4 must inevitably be a reaffirmation of
5 government legitimacy, changes in election
6 rules -- like the present reapportionment
7 process -- must be done more as a delicate
8 art than a science.

9 "The mechanical application of a
10 few principles cannot guarantee the
11 persuasiveness of the final result. For
12 example, it is possible to imagine a
13 situation where one political party
14 gained 49 percent of the vote in every
15 single district and yet failed to win a
16 single seat in the Legislature. Such a
17 result is, of course, theoretically possible
18 in a single member district, majority rule
19 situation. Although such a system is now in
20 use and considered fair, it would be diffi-
21 cult for the elected officials to command
22 the respect of the public: the election
23 rules would be fair, but the final results
24 would fail to satisfy demands for repre-
25 sentation.

1 "If reapportionment is a highly
2 delicate art, then it is also a highly
3 political art too. The extremely partisan
4 nature of reapportionment has been
5 recognized by the courts, according to
6 the National Journal. The famous case
7 of Baker v. Carr is interesting if only
8 because it took until 1962 before the
9 Supreme Court made even the barest dent in
10 the controversy. The Court decision
11 insisted that electoral districts be
12 relatively the same in terms of population.
13 The shape of the district, the integrity
14 of city and county and geographic boundaries,
15 along with the ethnicity and character of the
16 neighborhoods involved have been the court's
17 lower priorities.

18 "As Mayor of Los Angeles my role
19 is to exercise leadership, to promote the
20 widest discussion, and to make sure that all
21 relevant community interests -- ethnic
22 groups, neighborhoods, and elected officials --
23 have their input into the reapportionment
24 process.

25 "My goal is not to allow the

1 organized to take advantage of the un-
2 organized, but rather to ensure that
3 the present reapportionment process is
4 conducted in such a manner as to call
5 upon the broad participation of the
6 public.

7 "In Los Angeles, the reapportion-
8 ment of council districts is required by
9 the City Charter to be done every ten
10 years between July 1 and September 15, and
11 following a Charter change in 1978 the
12 City Council is required to reapportion
13 the school board districts at the same time.

14 "I give my support to the open and
15 fair procedures being followed by our City
16 Council. Under the guidance of Councilwoman
17 Pat Russell, chairperson of the Charter and
18 Elections Committee, there will be a series
19 of public hearings to receive comments
20 and suggestions from the public on the
21 upcoming reapportionment. The meetings will
22 be held as follows:

23 "Tuesday, June 1, 1982

24 "Pointsettia Recreation Center
25 7341 Willoughby Avenue
Los Angeles, CA

1 "Wednesday, June 2, 1982

2 "El Sereno Senior Citizens Center
3 4818 Eastern
4 Los Angeles, CA

5 "Monday, June 7, 1982

6 "Van Ness Recreation Center
7 5720 2nd Avenue
8 Los Angeles, CA

9 "Friday, June 11, 1982

10 "Van Nuys Multi-Purpose Center
11 6514 Sylmar
12 Van Nuys, CA

13 "(Each meeting will start at 7:00 PM and
14 will be open for public testimony.)

15 "After the public hearings, a
16 reapportionment ordinance will be
17 considered by the Charter and Elections
18 Committee, and then by the full City Council.
19 If such an ordinance is approved it will
20 come to my office to be signed.

21 "In addition to the role I play in
22 the reapportionment process, I am also
23 working in other areas to provide for
24 better representation of minority groups
25 in Los Angeles and California through
other means. For example I strongly
supported a complete census count by
chairing the local committee and by

1 opposing efforts to eliminate the
2 counting of undocumented aliens from
3 the census. I have also supported efforts
4 by our state legislators, like Assemblyman
5 Richard Alatorre, to increase the regis-
6 tration of hispanic and other minority
7 voters; and efforts by our members of
8 congress to extend the important Voting
9 Rights Act. I have, finally, encouraged
10 young persons to exercise their right and
11 privilege to cast their ballots, for it is
12 our young who will be most impacted by the
13 long term decisions made by elected
14 officials today.

15 "I would conclude that voting is
16 indeed a right and a privilege. The reapportionment process is an integral part of
17 our electoral system, and it makes this
18 right even more important. But we all
19 must exercise this right to vote in order
20 for our electoral system to be truly
21 representative of our population. Voting is
22 a privilege that I, for one, would fight
23 to maintain."

24
25 (The following letter from

Stuart's
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1 John Ferraro, Councilman, 4th
2 District, was made a part of the
3 record.)

4 "Dear Mr. Montez:

5 "A prior ~~commitment~~ will prevent
6 my participation in your one-day public
7 hearing on reapportionment. I deeply
8 regret this scheduling conflict.

9 "As one member of the City
10 Council's Charter and Elections Committee
11 which will oversee the upcoming
12 reapportionment of City Council and
13 School Board boundaries, I want to
14 personally assure you and members of the
15 California Advisory Committee of my
16 commitment to an open and fair process.
17 Consequently our committee will hold a
18 series of public hearings on the subject
19 in June, at which your participation
20 and comments will be welcomed.

21 "Obviously there are many factors
22 which will be considered in the redrawing
23 of Council and School Board lines. Utmost
24 in my mind will be the continuity of
25 communities and the representation of

1 minorities on those elected bodies.

2 "I would appreciate it if you
3 would convey my views to the members
4 of the Advisory Committee. Thank you
5 for your attention to this matter.

6 "Sincerely,
7 "JOHN FERRARO
8 Councilman, 4th District"

9 MS. DAVIS: We will proceed with the hearing.

10 Is Elaine Zamora here?

11 AN UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

12 MS. DAVIS: We have Elaine Zamora and Steve
13 Uranga . . .

14 I think what we will do is have each
15 of you, if you will, give your name and affiliation as
16 you speak, and we will reserve our questions for the panel.
17 So each of you, as you begin to speak, for the record
18 give your name and affiliation so that the reporter will get
19 that.

20 MS. ZAMORA: My name is Elaine Zamora, and
21 I'm with the Los Angeles Area Coalition of Californios
22 for Fair Representation. What I will be doing is giving a
23 brief opening statement, and in turn Steve Uranga will be
24 giving a presentation on our City redistricting work,
25 Pat Alvarez will be giving a presentation on School Board

1 redistricting work, and Maria Rodriguez will just supple-
2 ment some of the answers to the questions from the panel.

3 What I want to briefly talk about is
4 our general approach to redistricting.

5 The first thing, of course, is to
6 develop a technically sound redistricting plan that
7 fairly and adequately represents the Chicano community in
8 Los Angeles. In doing that, we have been doing a lot of
9 community outreach in order to educate as many community
10 members about this process, and in turn urging that they
11 participate. We stress the importance of participation in
12 the process in order that we can attempt to be a part
13 of the decision-making process as a community as a whole.

14 It is our belief that redistricting
15 is the foundation of the electoral process, and the
16 composing of districts that fairly represent the population
17 of the City of Los Angeles is the first step in a long
18 and difficult road to political influence from the Chicano
19 community, and representation for our community. Therefore
20 we believe that in compelling the City Council to accept
21 districts which fairly represent the City population in
22 Los Angeles will provide us with a solid foundation for
23 obtaining and developing the political influence of our
24 community. This political influence will be the basis
25 for confronting and solving the many issues that face

1 the Chicano community.

2 So with that, I would like to introduce
3 Steve Uranga to give you an idea as to the work we
4 have been doing around the City redistricting.

5 MR. URANGA: My name is Steve Uranga, and I'm
6 with Californios for Fair Representation. I'm the
7 research coordinator for the City Council Redistricting
8 Plan.

9 As Elaine said, our main approach --
10 I don't know if she in fact said this, but our main
11 approach to redistricting is the concept of community
12 of interests. Our concern is that in the community
13 throughout the City of Los Angeles there are many
14 communities, identified communities that are split
15 between two council districts and three council districts,
16 and in one case there's a community that's split in four.

17 Now those are all ethnic groups:
18 Anglos, blacks, Chicanos, Asians.

19 Our methodology in approaching
20 redistricting was to eliminate any problem with splitting
21 communities as much as we could, and as much as practical.
22 That has been our approach.

23 In the City of Los Angeles, Californios
24 have identified certain areas where we feel -- you know,
25 we're going to state as our major concern -- We can start

Stuart
ERASABLE

1 in the San Fernando Valley where we feel that the Pacoima
2 area is now split in two council districts. It's split
3 between Council District 1 and Council District 12.

4 What we would like to do is we would like to include
5 Pacoima, all of Pacoima into Council District 1. It's
6 a real minor change, but to that community in the Valley it's
7 important to them that all of Pacoima be in Council
8 District 1. So we think that that is a very minor change
9 that the Council should consider, and it should be easy for
10 them to do that.

11 Another area of concern -- this is
12 major to us -- is on the west side of Los Angeles. The
13 Venice area, Del Mar (sic), Mar Vista is split up right now
14 between three council districts: Council District 11,
15 Braude's district, Council District 5, Yaroslavsky's,
16 and Council District 6, Pat Russell. As Elaine indi-
17 cated earlier, we Californios have been meeting with
18 community groups throughout the City of Los Angeles,
19 Chicano community groups and other groups, and the desires
20 of these communities that live out here in Venice, and in
21 this area, they would like to see their community, Venice,
22 Del Mar, all of this Chicano community here put into one
23 district. Californios, based on that community input,
24 will be trying to attempt to alleviate that problem. We
25 would like to include all of this area into one district.

1 Right now we're looking at Braude's district as a
2 possibility of putting all of this area into one. What
3 that would do is it would increase -- Okay. Braude
4 currently has 8 percent. If we put all of this area in
5 one district, let's say Braude, it would increase the
6 Hispanic population in that area to 18 percent. And it is our
7 feeling, and it is the feeling of the Chicanos in that
8 community that they will have a large voice, a strong
9 voice, more influence with their elected representatives.

10 So that's another major area of concern
11 for us. We're going to try as best we can to resolve this
12 problem right here of that split.

13 Another area that's of concern to us is
14 the north-northeast Los Angeles, which is right now split
15 in three districts: Council District 14, Council District
16 13, Council District 4. We would like in our approach
17 to community of interests, we would like to see that area
18 in two districts, rather than three. And the population
19 is there to justify that. There is the population in
20 the north to northeast to justify two council districts.

21 I might say that it's an historical
22 statement that in the past -- and I looked at the past
23 redistricting maps on the council districts -- that the
24 Valley, let's say in the forties and early fifties, when
25 the population wasn't that big in the Valley, they had

1 two districts -- I believe it was two, and then three.
2 But as the population grew the council districts increased
3 in the Valley, San Fernando Valley to a point now where
4 they have five. The population in the San Fernando
5 Valley proper represents 34 percent of the total City
6 population, and in fact they do have that proportional
7 representation on the Council by having five districts
8 in the City Council. So the north-northeast, which is an
9 area of contention for us also has a population that
10 justifies two council districts, and we feel that it is
11 realistic to expect that this City Council, and the Mayor,
12 would look at that as a genuine concern, and something
13 that can legitimately be done; legally, technically it can
14 be done, and we would hope that they would do that for us.

15 MS. DAVIS: What would be the percentage of
16 Hispanics in those two districts in the north-northeast?

17 MR. URANGA: As you can see, the current 13th --
18 and that's a real -- That 13th to me does not make sense.
19 I don't see that as a district that has any kind of
20 community of interest configuration. I mean, Hollywood over
21 here (indicating on the map), the Hollywood Hills, and
22 then it stretches all the way to Highland Park, I don't
23 see all that. That district to me does not make sense,
24 and I think it has, you know, prevented, I think, a
25 minority from being elected there because of the way it's

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RAG CONTENT

1 shaped right now.

2 MS. ZAMORA: The chart shows what the population
3 is currently.

4 MR. URANGA: See, we have worked on various plans.
5 we have a Plan A and Plan B; we have a Plan C. We can
6 supply you with all of them --

7 MR. BERG: Can we go back to that last plan --

8 MR. URANGA: I don't know if I answered Grace's
9 question.

10 MS. DAVIS: Well you didn't --

11 MR. URANGA: If we went with one concept that we
12 have we could increase the 13th to 42 percent. It would
13 also, by the way, increase the Asian population
14 significantly in that district. I have worked that out,
15 and there's one plan with one method of being able to do that.
16 The district would look contiguous; it would look far
17 better than it looks now. The community of interest
18 concept would be preserved, and it would strengthen --
19 There are other things that can be done in this process.
20 And that's one thing that Californias are looking at,
21 the north-northeast.

22 MS. LOW: Did you say that you wanted to change
23 the 13th and 14th and 4th into two districts?

24 MS. ZAMORA: No. What we're saying is that
25 if you take the population from those three districts

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RAG CONTENT

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1 that you would not decrease the number of districts. You
2 would take the population from those three districts and
3 consolidate it so that out of those three districts
4 two of them would be increased Chicano population, and
5 you would have one of them with an insignificant number
6 of Chicanos.

7 MR. URANGA: You could break up the City of Los
8 Angeles in terms of community of interests, and you could
9 do that, and you could even redistrict that way. Like I
10 said, the San Fernando Valley has 34 percent of the
11 population, and they have five council districts. The
12 San Pedro area, which is self-contained, and, you know,
13 when you redistrict that area -- You know, there's not
14 much you can do. You just go until you get the right numbers.
15 -- justifies one council district. It's an area that the
16 community of interests has its council district.

17 The Wilshire district is another
18 geographic area that would justify a council district.

19 Hollywood, the City of Hollywood, the
20 community of Hollywood has a hundred and seventy thousand
21 people. Now if I was a community leader in Hollywood,
22 if I was the Chamber of Commerce in Hollywood, active in
23 that area, and concerned about the problems of Hollywood,
24 I would maybe be advocating that Hollywood area be all in
25 one district.

Stuart
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1 So there's the central, the south
2 central area. The central area justifies a district,
3 the Lindsay district. And then there's the south central
4 which justifies the numbers of districts that they have.

5 And what we're saying is in the north-
6 northeast there's also justification there for two
7 council districts that we think ought to be created.

8 MS. DAVIS: Perhaps you can ask your question
9 now about West Los Angeles?

10 MR. BERG: I caught Venice and Mar Vista. What was
11 the third community?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's called Del Rey.

13 MR. BERG: Do you have the percentage of
14 Hispanics in those three particular communities?

15 MS. ZAMORA: In Del Rey the percentage of
16 Hispanics is 36.93 out of a population of 10,430 people.
17 In Mar Vista the Hispanic percentage is 16.36 out of a
18 population of 9,347. It's a smaller community. And
19 Venice has an Hispanic population of 23.96 out of a
20 population of 8,359.

21 MR. BERG: And if you moved those three into
22 Braude's district, which I would assume goes all the way
23 up to Malibu and that area --

24 MR. URANGA: It currently extends into the
25 San Fernando Valley also.

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1 I might add that we do have access to
2 age population data. You asked that question, I believe,
3 and we have printouts. And we're also using the same
4 reapportionment data for analysis of planning that all the
5 other groups are using. So we're also using, I hope, the
6 same data base.

7 MR. MONTEZ: Are those new communities? In
8 other words, could the City Council in 1971-72 have been
9 accused of --

10 That looks like real gerrymandering to me
11 right now.

12 MR. BERG: Which one, Phil?

13 MR. MONTEZ: Mar Vista, Venice and Del Rey.

14 MS. ZAMORA: It's our impression that there's
15 been a Chicano growth in those communities where there
16 were more whites before than there are now. So it may not
17 have been an intentional gerrymandering.

18 MR. URANGA: It could have been anticipated.

19 MS. ZAMORA: It may have been.

20 MR. MONTEZ: But left through the years, it would
21 be --

22 MS. ZAMORA: Definitely.

23 MR. MONTEZ: Now what about the other area that you
24 mentioned, Highland Park, where you have the idea of shrinking
25 the two concentrations of Hispanics? That has always been

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1 Hispanic, hasn't it?

2 MR. URANGA: Which --

3 MR. MONTEZ: 13th and 14th and 4th.

4 MS. ZAMORA: No. See, some of the population,
5 for example in Highland Park, was also predominantly
6 white population, but more recently, within the last
7 five to six years, I guess, it's been an increase in
8 Chicano population in Highland Park, for example. But
9 that wasn't the case before.

10 MR. MONTEZ: So you're really talking about the
11 growth factor in those areas?

12 MS. ZAMORA: Yes. And that's definitely one
13 of the factors in Bernardi's district, as Mr. Bernardi
14 indicated earlier in his testimony, that his district
15 has a surprising significant number of Chicanos. And
16 that district has been one of the largest population growths
17 of Chicanos, and that will show a significant percentage of
18 Chicanos in any plan that I think is drawn, and it does in
19 ours, as well as the 15th. The 15th is self-contained,
20 but because of the surrounding San Pedro area there has
21 been some growth in the Chicano community that will be
22 a significantly high population of Chicanos in that district
23 as well.

24 MR. MONTEZ: These figures that you have here
25 showing a 35 percent, these are current figures?

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1 MS. ZAMORA: These are current figures, and
2 those percentages will change because some of the districts
3 are underpopulated. Because the ideal population is
4 just about 197,784. As you can see, some are under that
5 amount and some are over. Therefore, as you add different
6 populations, whether it's Chicano, white, Asian, black
7 or otherwise, that will affect the kinds of percentages.

8 For example, in the 10th District
9 the population has to be -- It's just about right.
10 And in some of the plans that we've discussed we've
11 increased or decreased it by just about 1 percent
12 deviation that we're adhering to, as well as the City
13 Council, and that doesn't change the percentage very much.
14 So it's really not an increase, even though we add more
15 Chicanos to the district, but you're also increasing the
16 number of people period.

17 MR. URANGA: It's my understanding -- I wasn't
18 here in '72 or '71, when the last reapportionment process
19 occurred, but apparently there were some statements
20 by Snyder that if they changed his district as they did
21 draw it he would be in office for the next 10 years, which is in
22 fact what happened.

23 I guess another statement that was
24 thrown around back then was that they were going to
25 create one Chicano district. We're hearing that same

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1 statement again. The rumor mill is that the Council
2 is going to give the Chicano community one council
3 district. They don't say where, or what it's going to
4 look like, but that's what we've been hearing.

5 MR. MONTEZ: Wasn't the district that they
6 were doing that with in '72 Snyder's district?

7 MS. ZAMORA: Yes, it was.

8 We can discuss that more, and perhaps
9 answer questions about that. But we would like to
10 show you some of our School Board work as well, and then
11 we can answer questions and have a discussion.

12 MS. ALVAREZ: My name is Pat Alvarez, and
13 I'm in charge of the Committee for School Board
14 Redistricting. The School Board has a much bigger
15 population than the City, and it also has less districts,
16 so the ideal population will be quite a bit bigger.

17 The School Board has seven districts,
18 and there's a little over three, three and a half million
19 people, and the (inaudible) population is 513,000. And
20 we have the current lines here (indicating on map). And
21 just like with the other criteria that was mentioned
22 when we were looking at the districts, we are keeping in
23 consideration the community of interest, the schools, the
24 growth factor of the children in the schools, what age
25 level, how old the children were, and what age they would

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1 be in ten years, and also the Constitutional requirement
2 of one person one vote. Now a No. 1 concern, like Steve
3 and Elaine mentioned, was that we have a fair and
4 equitable representation.

5 You can see where this district here
6 (indicating on map), 7, has to grow, and after speaking
7 to people in the different communities -- we did quite a
8 bit of outreach and got some information from the people
9 in the different communities -- there seems to be an
10 interest, since there's a growth here (indicating on map),
11 of uniting South Gate with that area there (indicating on
12 map).

13 Now we have to go outside of the City
14 boundaries with the School Board, because their relative
15 surrounding city contract was to Alameda Unified School
16 District to get their services. So we would be taking
17 into consideration South Gate right there.

18 Basically there's two areas of concern.
19 One is in the Valley area. And just like Steve mentioned
20 with the City Council, Pacoima and this area right
21 here (indicating on map) is split into two districts
22 right now. And this District 4 has to lose, and District 6
23 has to gain, which makes it pretty convenient. And if
24 we went along with the community of interest and gave
25 the extra population from 4 into 6 that it would keep the

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community of interest here together, the Pacoima area together.

The other area of concern is District 5, which has to lose. And then putting the community of interest, basically it seems to be that South Gate has more in common with this area (indicating on map) than if we were to go this way to Watts.

That's some of the input that we've got from the community. We've been working on a couple of different plans, and taking into consideration those things.

I don't know if you have any questions.

MS. ZAMORA: What we've received in terms of input from School Board members themselves has been basically that they really aren't familiar with the process themselves. The decisions have been made by the City Council members. There doesn't seem to be a whole lot of exchange from the Councilpersons to the School board members, other than maybe some underlying political affiliations that they belong to, the Democratic Party and Republican Party, and things like that. But other than that there doesn't seem to be any real exchange or input from the two bodies. So generally the City Council will be making those decisions. And those changes are larger only because the population is larger. But it becomes pretty clear that the districts that are going to change

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1 according to any plan that we would propose would be the
2 4th -- Is that correct?

3 MS. ALVAREZ: The 4th and 6th, and then the
4 5th and 7th. And that's just because of the population --
5 because of the increase in population in the 5th and
6 decrease in 4th, there's a need for more population in
7 the 7th.

8 (At which time Mr. Sillas
9 returned to the hearing room.)

10 MS. ZAMORA: And on both our maps we failed to
11 explain the coloration. The darker the coloration the
12 more highly concentrated the Chicano population is. So you
13 can see the districts that would be most affected.

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Another district that will have
15 to undergo a dramatic change in any redistricting plan is
16 (inaudible), because it now has 592,000 people within
17 the boundaries, and it will have to lose about over 70,000
18 people. This area right here (indicating on map) that
19 has the highest Chicano population concentration also has
20 really a high Asian-Pacific population concentration,
21 and in speaking with the Board member we asked was that
22 the area that he felt had the closest ties with each
23 other, and that he would like to see remain in his juris-
24 diction.

25 MS. ZAMORA: Also, Pat might explain some of

1 the difficulties we had in our outreach, and explaining
2 the difference between School Board redistricting and
3 an effort that's happened in the past to make individual
4 School Board districts; for example, individual L.A.
5 Unified School Districts. Maybe you can explain briefly
6 what the --

7 MS. ALVAREZ: Okay. I think there's a triple
8 confusion. One is the way that the School Board itself
9 is broken up into seven districts. Then on top of that
10 is the areas, the administrative areas which people
11 confuse. And then on top of that there's a study which
12 was done a few years ago, and has been initiated again
13 to break up the School Board into seven individual
14 districts. It wouldn't be a Unified School District, but
15 seven individual boards. And so whenever we've approached
16 any groups of educators, or any community groups, or
17 when we talk to Board members themselves the first
18 response was that they did not want the school district
19 broken up. And we had to go through a lot of explanation
20 to the two different things --

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: And I think it's real important
22 that we note that the School Board members, those that we
23 talked to had no idea, no concept at all of what the
24 redistricting process was about -- at least that's what
25 they told us -- and it was totally new, and we gave them

1 a lot of information --

2 MS. ALVAREZ: And they were very helpful as
3 far as giving us their ideas and things. But like she
4 says, there isn't a lot of communication between the
5 School Board members and the Council as far as the
6 redistricting goes for the School Board.

7 MS. ZAMORA: We would like to leave for your
8 information two of our information packets that generally
9 gives the population, current population generally, and
10 the Hispanic population for both the City Council and the
11 School Board district, and just some general information
12 about Californios.

13 MS. ALVAREZ: We are prepared to answer any
14 questions you may have.

15 MS. DAVIS: Did your plan take into consi-
16 deration the representation of other minorities in the
17 communities?

18 MS. ZAMORA: It does from the perspective that
19 we have, as Steve said, approached the plan with the idea
20 of maintaining communities of interest. We have looked,
21 for example, at statistical areas developed -- neighborhood
22 areas developed by the City, the Community Development
23 Department, and they have designed -- they have made,
24 or defined certain statistical areas, neighborhood areas
25 that do basically align what people would think were

1 historical neighborhood areas. And in our attempt,
2 or redistricting attempt we have kept those neighborhoods
3 as much intact as possible in the various plans that
4 we have created.

5 So by that criteria we have taken
6 into consideration areas where other minorities live, and they
7 have been kept intact.

8 MS. DAVIS: You really haven't addressed
9 the political goals in relationship to the areas that
10 you've talked about. You've talked about community of
11 interests.

12 What, if any, are the political goals
13 of Californios for Representation?

14 MS. ZAMORA: Well, of course to establish
15 true influence, and adequate influence in the district.
16 Numbers is one of the ways to establish that influence.
17 Another way is to have a consolidated community so that
18 that community can be educated and organized so as to
19 approach the political process with some knowledge and
20 some unification. And just a general approach of being
21 able to be unified and educated and able to get out the
22 vote; do those kinds of things that would assure -- be
23 more likely to assure representation.

24 MS. DAVIS: We had this morning the chairman
25 and the vice-chairman of the Charter and Elections Committee

1 of the Council of Los Angeles. Have you established
2 a relationship with them, and have they made data that
3 they're using for their consideration available to you?

4 MS. ZAMORA: Yes. We've met with all three
5 members of the Charter and Elections Committee. We have
6 met with Pat Russell, and she's been fairly cooperative,
7 and we have had access to data.

8 Maria might be able to address the access
9 that we had to the plan that Mr. Bernardi had run off
10 by the computer.

11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: The computerized plan that
12 Councilman Bernardi talked about is one that the
13 community analysis planning staff developed, and what it
14 did was just take into account geographical continuity in
15 population. And it was a purely technical map. I think
16 Mr. Bernardi was clarifying that. I don't think it was
17 the plan that the Council has chosen. I don't think they
18 would have shown it to us if it was.

19 MS. ZAMORA: Really the rapport that -- We
20 felt it was more just a contact, as opposed to a rapport.

21 We spoke to Bernardi, and to be
22 quite honest I'll give you an idea of what happened the
23 day we went there.

24 We went into his office and he
25 brought his aide into the office, and apparently he has

1 no Chicano on his staff. That's my impression. What he
2 did, I think perhaps to accommodate us and make us
3 feel more comfortable, he went in and found a clerical
4 person -- She was a young Chicano. He brought her in
5 to sit in the section with us, and she really didn't
6 know what was going on. And I think he felt compelled
7 to somehow bring another brown face that represented
8 his office.

9 We also met with Ferraro, and Ferraro
10 generally spoke to us. He didn't refuse to speak with
11 us. However, his general attitude was that they had
12 created a district for us, and that generally he took
13 what I call a (inaudible) brown attitude; that it was
14 really our own fault that we didn't have a Chicano
15 representative in the 14th District.

16 So contact is really I think the basis
17 of what we have with the Charter and Elections Committee,
18 and Pat Russell has been the most cooperative.

19 MS. DAVIS: Well, so far, though, from what
20 I hear, there hasn't been any input. You shared your
21 plans, your desires or goals with the members of the
22 committee, but I guess the process is at a point where
23 they're just hearing this. There's really no input,
24 direct input as to the actual development of the final
25 plan.

1 This morning I asked Mr. Bernardi
2 whether after the hearings have been announced what
3 the process entails, and were they going to be accessible
4 to meetings; in other words, deliberations with the
5 actual committees over the plans that are going to be
6 presented to them, and he indicated that is an open
7 process. And I know that those meetings are announced,
8 the actual Council committee meetings are announced.
9 I'm wondering if your strategy includes the continuous
10 input at those individual deliberations that are going
11 to take place?

12 MS. ZAMORA: Yes, it does. We've been placed
13 on the mailing list to get notified of all of those
14 meetings, and we'll be monitoring, and giving input at
15 each one of the meetings. We're not sure how they're
16 conducted, but we will be there with the appropriate
17 information. At the hearings there will be input from
18 the various community members who have given us input,
19 giving the Charter and Elections Committee the same input
20 that they gave us. So we will be a part of the process,
21 as we have been from the beginning, all the way to the end.

22 MS. DAVIS: Have you talked to other Council-
23 people? A point of information was that it required
24 eight votes to pass any plan. Have you been able to talk to
25 other Councilpeople and observe their attitudes toward

1 the minority community in regards to reapportionment
2 to accommodate interests --

3 MS. ALVAREZ: No, we haven't spoken to other
4 Councilpersons, really not knowing what the approach
5 should be with them. We haven't approached them with
6 that. We've mostly kept our contacts with the Charter
7 and Elections Committee.

8 MS. ZAMORA: I think there has been some
9 information that has been obtained under the table on
10 what some of the thoughts are going on in City Council.
11 Steve might be able to address that.

12 MR. URANGA: Only to say that some of our
13 members of the Coalition of Californios have more access
14 than maybe some others do. And I would just like to
15 point out that Californios is a coalition of a lot of
16 groups, a lot of people. Our supporters are at all levels,
17 and there is a lot of interest at all levels, and that
18 interest is to assist us in being successful. And so
19 that gets into an area of strategy, and of course I'll
20 share that right now with you in terms of where we intend
21 to go from this point on.

22 Obviously lobbying has got to be a
23 major component of any group with a desire to win over
24 an issue. That will be part of Californios lobbying.

25 MS. DAVIS: Would Californios, or any of the

1 groups that you represent support an independent
2 commission to be in charge of reapportionment in the
3 City of Los Angeles, or do you like having it in the hands
4 of the City Council?

5 MS. ZAMORA: That's really a difficult
6 question to answer, without knowing how that commission
7 would be composed, who would sit on it, how they would
8 get appointed to that commission. Generally if it looks
9 anything like what the Common Cause plan has suggested
10 for the State Legislature process, we would have to say
11 no, because we wouldn't find we would have any represen-
12 tation of value on that kind of a commission, and it
13 takes us one step further away from the pressure point
14 of directly confronting our elected officials.

15 MS. DAVIS: Do the other members of the
16 committee have any questions for the panel?

17 MR. MONTEZ: Have you met with the School
18 Board members individually, did you say?

19 MS. ZAMORA: We met with a few of them.

20 MR. MONTEZ: And there's no concern that
21 with them not having anything to say about reapportionment
22 of their own districts, it being done by the City Council,
23 they don't feel any apprehension that they might be going
24 bye-bye?

25 MS. ZAMORA: Oh, I think there's definitely

1 concern. Pat could probably elaborate on that a little bit
2 more, since she met most with them.

3 MS. ALVAREZ: Trias was the one that was
4 most concerned. The other people that we spoke to
5 there, there wasn't really that much apprehension. I
6 don't know why, but with Greenwood there wasn't even
7 that much of an interest. I mean, he was interested to
8 the extent of let me know what's happening, but Trias
9 was very interested in the sense of let me talk to you
10 later on. But I haven't really seen any apprehension
11 from other Board members.

12 MR. MONTEZ: In fact, what has happened on
13 the School Board is that they have taken away -- There's
14 a commission now reapportioning their districts. What
15 we're talking about is a reality. That's what's happened
16 to the School Board, hasn't it; they have nothing to say
17 about their own reapportionment? Somebody else is doing
18 it. I don't know why they ever allowed that to happen.
19 Was that because of a charter change?

20 MS. ZAMORA: It's written into the charter --

21 MS. DAVIS: It's written into the charter.
22 Obviously somebody proposed it at one time, it got voted
23 upon by the electorate, and that was the result of it.

24 MS. ALVAREZ: It came into being a few years
25 ago because the people were saying that -- When School

1 Board members were elected at large certain communities
2 were not being represented adequately. It seemed that
3 all the School Board members came from one certain area,
4 and then they didn't know the area that they were
5 representing. So this way if they were elected by
6 districts there would be a little bit more of a repre-
7 sentation of the districts.

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: I think one interpretation
9 of their lack of apprehension is that possibly the School
10 Board members when the deadline gets close will simply
11 express their desires to the City Council Charter and
12 Elections Committee and through their network into
13 the City Council members, because I think a lot of the
14 political information that the City Council would include
15 in drawing the City Council map would not be there for
16 the School Board map. It's not their districts, it's
17 not their constituents, and they won't be displaced.
18 So I think that could be one way of interpreting why the
19 School Board members don't seem worried about not having
20 information on redistricting.

21 MS. DAVIS: Just one last question.

22 There are -- I don't remember, but four or
23 five public hearings. Are Californios going to be
24 attending each of the four, or are you going to be
25 concentrating on only one?

1 MS. ZAMORA: Yes, we'll be attending all four
2 of them and presenting an open statement for those persons
3 who are in support of the Californios' general game
4 plan. We will actively participate in these hearings.

5 And we sort of want to inform the
6 Commission that we were very active in the Board of
7 Supervisors redistricting. I understand that wasn't
8 recorded because, I guess, the recorder wasn't working.
9 We attended, and monitored all of the Boundary Committee
10 meetings, and Steve provided testimony at the Boundary
11 Committee meetings. And we also participated in two
12 Board hearings. There were actual hearings conducted
13 by the Board of Supervisors on two separate days where
14 we adamantly opposed the plan that was being proposed by
15 the Boundary Committee, which we called the Schabarum
16 Plan, which was a plan that was developed by Schabarum's
17 aide, and appointed to the Boundary Committee. And
18 that was a plan that was going to dilute Schabarum's
19 district from its current 35, 34 percent to a 30 percent
20 district, setting us back about five years in our growth
21 rate, when our plan, the Californios plan advocated
22 for 40 percent, approximately a 5 percent increase in
23 that district.

24 So what it effectively did, it --

25 MR. MONTEZ: Are you talking about Hispanics,

they were going to decrease --

1 MS. ZAMORA: They were going to decrease
2 that population. So what effectively that did -- I
3 believe that I have to say that that was some pretty
4 good strategy on the Board of Supervisors' part -- was
5 made us have to fight to keep that one district from
6 being decreased, instead of increasing that and decrease
7 Edelman's district to 51 percent. So we ended up having
8 to wait -- well not wait, but place all of our energies
9 and resources into keeping a plan that wouldn't decrease
10 us, and weren't able to advocate as adamantly for an
11 increased number of Chicanos in those two districts. So
12 we were left with the status quo.

13 MR. MONTEZ: So your battle was to hold your
14 own, rather than to increase --

15 MS. ZAMORA: That's what it ended up being,
16 because that plan that they threw in there was a decrease,
17 which was a pretty bold thing to do.

18 MS. DAVIS: You mentioned that the hearings
19 were not recorded --

20 MS. ZAMORA: This morning there was testimony
21 that --

22 MS. DAVIS: I understand that. But I want
23 to find out from Californios at what point did you become
24 aware that the hearings were not being recorded? Because
25 somewhere I heard information that there were as many as

1 eight meetings that were not recorded, and I'm wondering
2 with the capabilities and resources of the County why
3 they did not replace the recorder that was not working?

4 MS. ZAMORA: The first time I had official
5 notice of that was this morning from Miss Campbell.

6 MR. MONTEZ: Well, it's my information that
7 the machine didn't work for eight Boundary Committee
8 meetings. I don't know about the Board of Supervisors,
9 you know, that meeting, but they noticed at the first
10 meeting that it didn't work, and then after that it didn't
11 work at all the other meetings.

12 MS. ZAMORA: Well I notice that when
13 Ms. Campbell testified at the first hearing that she
14 had minutes of the meeting that did not indicate the
15 testimony by --

16 MS. CAMPBELL: That wasn't the first meeting
17 that I [REDACTED]

18 MS. ZAMORA: Well anyway, they apparently
19 didn't record that one, either, where we Californios
20 protested on behalf of the Chicano community that there
21 was no minority representation on that Boundary Committee.
22 And we believe as a direct result of our protest they
23 increased it from a 7-member to a 10-member Boundary
24 Committee, where they included some minorities. I under-
25 stand that one of the minorities was one of the

1 supervisor's chauffeur.

2 MS. DAVIS: Mr. Sillas, do you have a
3 question?

4 MR. SILLAS: Let's go back for a moment to the
5 Board of Supervisors situation.

6 The testimony is that you attended
7 all of the meetings of the committee, advisory committee,
8 and over your objection they had a plan which they
9 submitted to the Board of Supervisors?

10 MS. ZAMORA: That's correct.

11 MR. SILLAS: So in spite of your attendance
12 at every function, every meeting, and in spite of your
13 input their plan did not meet your criteria?

14 MS. ZAMORA: It did not reflect any
15 aspects of our plan at all.

16 MR. SILLAS: Was there any part of their
17 plan that adopted any of your proposals?

18 MS. ZAMORA: Not that I know of.

19 MR. URANGA: It was an interesting process.
20 The boundaries committee was dominated by two (inaudible),
21 despite the fact that Schabarum, Dana and Antonovich had
22 more appointees to that Boundaries Committee than Hahn
23 and Edelman. And I think that whole boundaries committee
24 hearing was a farce. But we did participate, because
25 that was part of the process.

1 The conservative attitude of that boundaries
2 committee was to challenge the Chicano community, and
3 we had to respond to that by saying that you are not in
4 a position to tell the Chicano community what is best
5 for the Chicano community. And my reaction to the plan
6 that they eventually voted on was that it did not take
7 (inaudible).

8 (At which time Committee-
9 woman Helen Hernandez entered the
10 hearing room.)

11 MR. SILLAS: Then that plan, and we're
12 now talking about the Advisory Committee plan, was
13 submitted to the Board of Supervisors as a body for their
14 adoption. And my understanding is that that plan that
15 was submitted by the committee was rejected by the
16 Board of Supervisors. Am I correct?

17 MS. ZAMORA: Yes, it was.

18 MR. SILLAS: And then they came back with their
19 own plan? And when I say "they," I'm now referring to the
20 Board of Supervisors.

21 MS. ZAMORA: Yes. We understand there was a
22 lot of -- Well, we saw it, that there was a lot of
23 back-room negotiating going on. We were never a part of
24 that back-room negotiating, however, they did take some
25 input from us -- Edelman did, and Hahn.

1 MR. SILLAS: I am trying now for the record
2 to establish the process that the Board of Supervisors
3 used to establish that plan, because one of the things
4 we may consider as a committee is in terms of recommen-
5 dations for a process that would allow organizations
6 like yours to not only have input, but to have some
7 significant catches (phonetic) that they would have
8 to take you into consideration. So what I'm saying
9 here is that when the Board rejected the committee plan they
10 then proceeded to put together a plan among themselves.
11 At that point in time were there any public hearings at
12 which you were asked to participate in preparing that plan?

13 I take it the answer is no?

14 MS. ZAMORA: The answer is no to the extent
15 that we were allowed to make a -- not presentation, but
16 to speak; make a statement on behalf of what our concerns
17 were at those two public hearings that were held in the
18 Board of Supervisors' chambers. However, we really
19 don't believe that that was taken into consideration.

20 MR. SILLAS: You make reference to two public
21 meetings. Were these meetings where your statements
22 were invited, or were these meetings where the plan was
23 presented and you were asked to comment on them?

24 MS. ZAMORA: No, our plan was presented to
25 the boundaries committee.

1 MR. SILLAS: I understand.

2 Let me be clear with my statement.

3 You indicated there were two public
4 meetings that you had with the Board of Supervisors.

5 MS. ZAMORA: Yes.

6 MR. SILLAS: At those two meetings was the
7 plan of the Board of Supervisors being presented to you
8 for comment?

9 MS. ZAMORA: No.

10 MR. SILLAS: Were those two Board meetings,
11 public Board meetings that you participated in, was that
12 for you to comment, or input in terms of what your
13 considerations were?

14 MS. ZAMORA: No. We asked for that, and
15 they voted no.

16 MR. SILLAS: What was the purpose then of
17 those two public meetings?

18 MR. URANGA: They have to deliberate, and
19 there has to be a public vote on an issue like that.
20 And I'll say that when we were there we asked to comment
21 before they voted on the plan that they appeared to be --
22 They just tacked it up on a wall, and we were looking at
23 it. We couldn't really tell what it was.

24 MR. SILLAS: So then the first time you saw
25 it was when they placed it up on a wall?

1 MR. URANGA: Then they voted on it. And we
2 asked if we could comment on the plan before they voted
3 on it, and they would not let us.

4 And I would like to make a comment
5 that the Board of Supervisors, they had to have at least
6 four votes to pass the plan. So you can see the dynamics
7 there. We have three Republicans and two Democrats,
8 Hahn and Edelman. That's one reason why that boundaries
9 committee plan could not be passed. We think that our
10 presence may have helped in not seeing, what I would
11 term a reactionary plan.

12 MR. SILLAS: Now having gone through that
13 experience with the Board of Supervisors, is there
14 anything to cause you to believe that your experience
15 with the City Council in drawing up their plan is going
16 to be any different?

17 MS. ZAMORA: No, unfortunately there isn't.
18 All we can hope is that we can do a better organizing
19 than we did with the Board of Supervisors; incorporate
20 more of the Chicano community in participation of the
21 hearings, do some lobbying, and just generally gear up
22 the support that we didn't gear up as well for those
23 particular sessions, and hope that makes some kind of
24 difference, and just sort of find out where the political
25 pressure points are and try to concentrate on that.

1 MR. SILLAS: Has there been any assurance
2 to you from Councilwoman Russell that you will be given
3 an opportunity to see the plan before it's being presented
4 for voting?

5 MS. ZAMORA: No, there hasn't been any
6 assurance at all.

7 MR. SILLAS: Have you sought that?

8 MS. ZAMORA: We haven't at this point. We
9 will be asking for that at the public hearing, and we
10 have spoken to them about that. We haven't asked, made a
11 demand, or anything like that.

12 MR. SILLAS: And you have no assurance that
13 will happen?

14 MS. ZAMORA: No.

15 MR. URANGA: Can I make one more comment?

16 MS. DAVIS: Certainly.

17 MR. URANGA: And this would be to Herman Sillas.

18 You were mentioning where are we going
19 from here. Obviously the Herman Sillases of the City of
20 Los Angeles, who live here, and have an interest in the
21 City, and the Grace Davises, Phil Montez, and everybody
22 that has any concern about the City of Los Angeles can
23 all do something. It's not necessary that you have to
24 be involved in Californios per se, but we would be
25 looking to the leadership of the City, the appointed

1 officials, whoever, to help to see a good plan passed
2 for the Chicano Community. So I think that Californios,
3 its role has been to organize a coalition throughout the
4 City of community groups, and we've been very successful
5 in that. There's also a whole other area to be developed
6 also, and that is the people that do have close ties
7 with the City Council, that know these Councilpeople,
8 and may be of assistance in that area.

9 MR. MONTEZ: Is there any reason why the
10 meetings are all at night? I know the reason they're
11 going to give, but I don't necessarily agree with that.

12 MS. ZAMORA: It's my understanding that
13 their reason is because they want community input, and
14 many community members work during the day. In some
15 ways I think that I would agree with that, after the
16 experience at the Board of Supervisors, where they
17 not only held them during the day, where even some of
18 our own coalition members were all working and couldn't
19 make it without having to risk their jobs, or something
20 like that, but in addition to that they split the hearing
21 from holding it on a Tuesday to continuing it to a
22 Thursday, which significantly diluted our staff and our
23 presence there.

24 So in many ways the evening hours are
25 much better.

1 MS. DAVIS: Are there any other questions
2 from the committee members?

3 I would like to thank the panel for
4 your participation here today.

5 The committee will take a 15-minute
6 break to determine whether we have another speaker.

7 (Brief recess.)

8 MR. SELLAS: Let the record reflect that we
9 are back in session at 3:45.

10 Our next presenter is Mr. Richard Diaz
11 from the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association.

12 Mr. Diaz, will you state for the
13 record your name and your affiliation.

14 MR. DIAZ: My name is Richard Diaz. I'm the
15 executive secretary of the Los Angeles City Employees
16 Chicano Association. I'm here representing that group,
17 and specifically I'm here at the request of our president,
18 John Romero, who asked me to represent the organization
19 on his behalf.

20 Mr. Chairman, I'm here to present a
21 prospective which is more or less inside, rather than
22 from without, the governmental structure.

23 I have been a City employee for almost
24 10 years, and it didn't take me long to learn that people
25 in all levels of City government tend to respond better

1 to their elected officials than they do to individual
2 residents in the community. In my City service I've
3 also learned that it's a general rule that the Civil
4 Service mentality is often characterized with some
5 legitimacy as slow and unresponsive, particularly to
6 unique, out-of-the-ordinary requests, or to concerns
7 which may not readily lend themselves to existing
8 traditional mechanisms for resolution.

9 Whenever this attitude becomes
10 insurmountable, and it happens nowadays more often than
11 we care to admit, people look to their elected officials
12 for intervention and assistance.

13 " Unfortunately the degree of responsive-
14 ness of elected representatives seems directly proportionate
15 to the consonance between the concern rate and the
16 particular elected officials plans and priorities. Thus
17 elected representatives who are not sensitive to the needs
18 of a particular ethnic and cultural group to begin with
19 will naturally tend to turn a deaf ear to such a group.
20 This is precisely what happened to Hispanics in the City
21 of Los Angeles. We simply don't get the same kind of
22 attention, and therefore treatment as those groups who
23 have generous representation.

24 As professional Civil Service employees
25 our efforts to respond to our community are thwarted and

frustrated in the most fundamental and profound ways.

1 Because we don't have the power or the opportunity to
2 formulate municipal policy we are forced to implement
3 policies which often do not take into account the needs
4 and concerns of our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

5 Moreover, we see past efforts to ensure the retention
6 of incumbents through reapportionment efforts which
7 destroy the ethnic and cultural integrity of the Hispanic
8 community not only as unfair, but immoral, given what
9 we believe to be the basic tenants of a democratic
10 society.

11 For these reasons the Los Angeles City
12 Employees Chicano Association have been a member of an
13 organization that made presentation just before our
14 break, Californios for Fair Representation. LACECA
15 supports, endorses and applauds Californios, and we will
16 participate actively in the pursuit of fair represen-
17 tation for Hispanics at all levels of government. We do
18 this not because we think reapportionment is a sexy
19 issue, or because we just want to climb on the band-
20 wagon. We're doing it because we know that without fair
21 representation we can make no material progress towards
22 our goals on behalf of Hispanics, not only in City service,
23 but throughout the community.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. SILLAS: Thank you.

Any questions from Mr. Diaz?

Let me just ask Mr. Diaz, you made mention of the lack of elected officials. In what way does the lack of an Hispanic on the City Council affect an organization such as yours, or any Hispanic as it pertains to promotion, or as it pertains to hiring?

MR. DIAZ: Well the effects, or examples of -- We're not talking about intentional or oversight, but just the lack of sensitivity, the lack of empathy with Hispanics is demonstrated in countless ways throughout the government, not only with elected officials, but at the higher echelons in City government.

For example, we have yet to have an Hispanic representative as a general manager, but -- as I say, the ways are numerous. Name just about any issue that's important to Hispanics in City government -- bilingual certification, upward mobility, the examination process, the process of recruitment and selection of employees, the evaluation of employees, the whole gambit of personal matters, and as I've mentioned, the whole area of policy setting is replete with examples of how Hispanics continuously, traditionally seem to be shortchanged.

For example, Hispanics often in the City of Los Angeles, it's been my experience, are asked

to perform, -- to use their bilingual skills, and because
1 of the reticence on the part of line supervisors, and
2 sometimes all the way up to department general managers
3 to recognize this as a needed skill, especially in the
4 Hispanic communities of Los Angeles, in service to those
5 communities, very often the requests to provide that
6 service, that talent, that bilingual skill is not
7 compensated, is not recognized. The requests are made
8 to employees in an impromptu fashion, and then are
9 expected to do so. And they're often pressured to
10 utilize those skills to the community by making us feel
11 guilty that we don't want to serve our community, and
12 that's really not the point. The point is that we like
13 to be compensated for this extra skill that we bring
14 to a job.

15 The whole question of bilingual
16 certification, for example, is that the City has in
17 writing at least a policy that if a particular job
18 requires, or transportation requires the skills of a
19 bilingual person that technically and legally a person
20 can be appointed from the list ahead of other eligibles
21 who may have scored more highly, but because of that
22 particular unique need that person can, and it's within
23 the power of the appointing authorities throughout the
24 City to appoint such a person from a list of eligibles.
25 But that policy is not really being implemented:

1 MR. SILLAS: Do you feel that if a Councilman
2 were Hispanic that that policy would tend to be implemented?

3 MR. DIAZ: Yes. I think what is lacking,
4 if we want to put it in a nutshell, is the kind of
5 aggressive follow-through that is exercised by, for
6 example, the black councilman or behalf of their black
7 constituency, and the black employees in the City. The
8 fact that we don't have anyone who pursues, and with a
9 certain amount of tenacity, the implementation and
10 effectuation of those policies and goals. All we really
11 have is pretty much writings without actions.

12 MR. SILLAS: Thank you, very much.

13 We'll take a few minute break till
14 Councilman Farrell gets here.

15 (Recess.)

16 MR. SILLAS: Let the record reflect now
17 that it is 4:15; that we had received word that Councilman
18 Farrell was to be present, and would be here by 4:00.
19 He has not arrived. Consequently we will proceed to
20 close the hearing with the stipulation that any comments
21 that Councilman Farrell wished to make can be received
22 in writing and will be considered by the committee in
23 their consultation for preparation of a report.

24 I would like to make a closing
25 statement.

The Impact of

I also suspect that this Advisory

The Advisory Committee would like

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, ANITA L. KAHN, CSR # 3168, RPR, Notary
 Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State
 of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing
 pages comprise a transcript of the testimony taken and
 proceedings had and that said transcript contains all
 the evidence, acts and statements of the parties made
 during the progress of said proceeding.

I am neither related to any parties
 involved nor interested in the outcome of the action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
 my name and affixed my seal this 17th day of June, 1982.

Anita L. Kahn
 CSR AND NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

