



Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

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MINUTES

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Committee tapes are on file in the offices of the Legislative Services Division. **Exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of documents.**

PUBLIC HEARING -- CROW AGENCY MULTI-PURPOSE AND CONFERENCE ROOM MARCH 28, 2002

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Janine Pease Pretty On Top, Presiding Officer
Sheila Rice, Vice Presiding Officer
Joe Lamson
Jack D. Rehberg
Gregory Barkus
Dean Jellison

STAFF PRESENT

Susan Byorth Fox, Research Analyst
John MacMaster, Attorney
Lois O'Connor, Secretary

VISITORS

Visitors' list (ATTACHMENT #1)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Pretty On Top, Presiding Officer, at 1:00 p.m. Attendance was noted; Commissioner Barkus was excused. (ATTACHMENT #2)

Commissioner Pretty On Top: Our 5-member Commission was appointed in 1999 and we will be doing our work through the year 2003. We are in the process of a series of 14 hearings, although, by law, we are required to have only one hearing.

Susan Fox, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division provided a brief overview of the 2000 census population and the process of redistricting. (EXHIBIT #1)

John MacMaster, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services Division provided a brief overview of the criteria and operational guidelines for legislative redistricting (EXHIBIT #2)

Commissioner Pretty On Top asked that Ms. Fox provide an overview of the Central and Southeast Regional Plans. (EXHIBIT #3)

Ms. Fox: The Commission is considering the Southeast Region. It is starting at the Missouri River working to the Southeast corner of the state. The Commission also adopted Plan 300 for the Northeast Region which included northern Richland County. The plan adopted for the Southeast Region will have to make some minor adjustments. We are losing one house district in southeastern Montana. In protecting the voting rights of the residents of both the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations, those districts were slightly under the 5% population deviation and population will have to be added.

In Plans 100 and 200, the southeast corner is the same. Miles City is its own district. The similarities in Plans 300 and 400 are that Powder River County get joined in different ways with the district that combines the Crow and Northern Cheyenne. Plan 400 takes all of Powder River County and combines it with the district that includes the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and one-half of the Crow Reservation. Plan 300A takes part of Powder River County, not including Broadus. Both Plans 300 and 400 use the reservation boundary in Rosebud County to split the districts. Plan 400 keeps the remainder of Rosebud County intact. Plans 300 and 100 keep Rosebud County in three districts, much like it is today, but the districts put Forsyth and Colstrip together.

Plans 100 and 200 use different areas north of the reservation boundary in Rosebud County. Further to the north, Prairie and Wibaux Counties are different in the plans because of the exchange of population. The Miles City district is interchangeable in all the plans. In Plan 300, part of Custer County is used with the district that is north of the majority-minority districts. It keeps Forsyth and Colstrip but splits Treasure County. It includes Custer, Huntley, Ballantine, Worden, and Pompey's Pillar. The Plan 400 district includes many of these same communities, excluding Huntley.

Because Plans 100 and 200 uses the Interstate as the dividing line, it excludes Pompey's Pillar from one plan. To complete proposed districts 30 and 31, it goes much further north and takes all of the northern part of Big Horn County north of the reservation line. Plan 300 uses northern Big Horn County to complete the district that includes Forsyth, Custer, and Colstrip.

The Northern Cheyenne Reservation is kept intact in all of the plans. The Crow Reservation is split into two districts in all of the plans and Hardin is split into two districts. The Crow Reservation portion of Yellowstone County is included in the western district in all of the plans. There are slight variations on which parts of Yellowstone County are included in each of the plans.

The Native American population percentages have improved in both districts. There is stronger both total population and voting age population in both districts. They will eventually be combined into a senate district. In Voting Rights Act case law, 65% total population is used as a guideline, and we must always make sure that the voting age population is over 50%, if possible. In Plan 100, proposed district 27 has slightly over 64% total Native American population and 56% voting age population. Proposed district 28 has a 51% total population and almost 55% of voting age population. The figures are slightly lower in plan 200. Plan 300 uses part of Powder River County and does not use as much of northern Big Horn County, and it has a slightly better total population (64.5%) and 56% voting age population. Plan 400 has the lowest populations numbers because it uses all of Powder River County, almost 60% total population and 58% in proposed district 31. Almost 52% in proposed district 31. One of the reasons they use 65% is that almost all minority Native American populations have more children, more people under 18 years of age, and lower voter registration and turnout.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cyndy Maxwell, Big Horn County Clerk and Recorder: Is Plan 300-A different?

Ms. Fox: Plan 300-A is more in the Fergus, Judith Basin, and Chouteau County areas. Proposed district 21 goes from Chouteau County to McCone County. Lewistown is split and there are different configurations in only those two house district. For everything out of the Fergus County area, Plans 300 and 300A are exactly the same.

Marian Hanson, former Representative from HD 1: My first term, I served in HD 57 which included parts of Big Horn, Powder River, and Carter Counties. Then I became the representative in HD 100 that took in parts of Powder River, Rosebud, and Big Horn Counties. In 1992, I became the representative of HD 1 which included all of Powder River, Carter, Fallon, and Wibaux Counties.

I am here today to ask you please consider Plans 100 and 200. They are the most favorable for continuity of communities of interest. Plans 100 and 200 keeps all of the ranchers together in the western part of Powder River County. Plan 300 divides Rosebud and Big Horn Counties into three districts. The Clerk and Recorder in Rosebud County has complained for years about Rosebud County being divided into three legislative districts. I see now that you have done the same thing to Big Horn County, and split Treasure County in two. Whereas, those counties stay together in Plans 100, 200, and 400.

After I was the representative in 1957, I had all of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in my district. I hate to tell you people here today that racial tensions were set back a long way. The white communities in these three counties became very polarized. I was elected on those conditions for 10 years. When you do your deliberations, I recommend that you keep the two reservations as intact as you can and leave the rest of the communities of interest in their proper positions.

Commissioner Lamson: Part of problem in this area is the loss of population. While we have experienced large growth rates on the reservations per say, it is still not enough to hit the ideal

population. We have to go off reservation to make that up. Plan 100 splits Rosebud County into three regions. Plans 100 and 200 also go into off-reservation areas north of the two reservations. Plan 300, in reality, takes fewer residents, except that it goes east and maintains the northern reservation boundaries. Is that correct?

Ms. Hanson: Yes

Representative Keith Bales, HD1, Otter: I am currently running for the Montana state Senate in Senate District 1. You stated earlier that you were targeting a certain percentage of Native American voters. Because of that, I have concerns about Plans 300 and 400 because in the very near future, there is a very distinct possibility and a high probability of an increase in the number of people on the western side of Powder River County. I think that over the next few years, we will see a dramatic development of coal-bed natural gas, and a large portion of it is in western Powder River County. Along with that will come an increase in population. In addition, the Otter Creek coal tracks are on the very western boundary of Powder River County near the town of Ashland and near the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. I am certain that Montana will do everything in its power to ensure that those coal tracks are developed. When that happens, it will bring a large influx of people into that area. Some may be in Rosebud County some may be in Powder River County. Also, Peter Kewitt and Sons and other partners have been looking at the feasibility of another mine with a coal-mount generation plant on the western side of Powder River County near Vogler. If this were to go forward, it would add another large addition of population to that area.

With the hope for economic development within the state, there is a very good chance that you may see a significant increase in population in Powder River County. I think there is a greater chance of that happening in Powder River County than in other areas that you are looking at in Plans 100 and 200. If you see that, I fear that your population percentages that you are hoping to obtain will be lost. I live in southwestern Powder River County. I plan to be elected to the Senate this November. If that is the case, I will probably be the holdover Senator. Therefore, under Plans 300 or 400, I will be the Senator representing the Northern Cheyenne plus the Crow for at least one session. I also have every intention of running for reelection if that should happen. These need to be taken into consideration because you have been faced with a lawsuit to figure out a way to get adequate representation to the Native American populations. I think that this is fluid and dynamic situation in this part of the state.

Commissioner Lamson: I have heard some projections on the Otter Creek development and the Peter Kewitt mine in terms of population increase. Have you seen any population projections on coal-bed methane?

Representatives Bales: I haven't, and I do not think it is known yet. With any gas or oil situation, until you actually start to drill and develop, you do not know how broad the field may be and how much potential there is. I am certain that there will be a considerable influx in Powder River County when development and exploration start. This will last anywhere from 10 to 15 years. It will gradually die down to where it is in the production phase. But, even that will take a considerable amount of people. If

you look at the maps, the southeastern part of Powder River County along with Big Horn County is the most likely and has the highest possibility of coal-bed natural gas in Montana.

Commissioner Pretty On Top: Are you familiar with the growth rates of both the tribes? On one hand, you are talking about the growth rate that you are anticipating in Powder River County. I am wondering if you know about it.

Representative Bales: Maybe second hand. I know more about the Northern Cheyenne than I know about the Crow. The population on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation has been increasing, and it has been a steady increase. I think that it will continue if we can get some economic development into the area. However, I do feel that there will be substantial growth outside of the boundaries of the Reservations simply because I do not think there will be sufficient people within the Northern Cheyenne community to fill all of the jobs that will be available.

Commissioner Pretty On Top: In the decennial census, it would appear that our Tribes grew by about 38% from 1990 to the present. If that growth rate continues, we have that also to contend with. We cannot look into a crystal ball and anticipate population changes.

Ernest Robinson, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council: I was born and raised on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, I have served on the Tribal Council continuously since 1986, and I have been involved in several redistricting efforts. I remember when I voted for Marian (Hanson) even though I am a staunch Democrat. I do not have a crystal ball, and several times, I have sat in the hills to seek some vision for the future to try to find some ways in looking into that future to lead our people. I am not a Native American. I am a Cheyenne Tribal member not to be confused with a Crow Tribal member. Our tribes have different governments, different goals, and different cultures. I have a great deal of respect for the Crow as I have a great deal of respect for the non-Indian people in the districts.

I went to school in Colstrip and the reservation and we are a diverse community. We have four coal mines, and if you count Westmoreland on the Crow Reservation, there are five coal mines in the area, and it has done little to impact the unemployment on our reservations. Speaking to the Otter Creek tracks, and as conditions stand, I would not expect it to come within this 10 year period. With the coal prices and with the other mines in the area, I do not believe there is the opportunity for employment growth from the Otter Creek area until conditions change in coal. We are working on the EIS as it relates to coal-bed methane. The changes in the socio-economics for our part of the county do not project a whole lot of jobs for our area.

As conditions stand, I support Plan 300. It takes three distinct ethnic populations and gives everyone a chance to participate in the effort of running for the Legislature. There may be some recommendations for change when we have the opportunity to review the plans more thoroughly--mostly in the areas of making the area of Powder River County a little smaller and keeping the northern part of the reservations in the district. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe will be presenting written comments, but as it stands today, we do support Plan 300. We believe that for the near future, because of the lack of

employment, we do not see the potential for employment or population growth on our reservation simply because the jobs are not there, and our children continue to spill out into off-reservation communities in Montana, Wyoming, and around the country. Colstrip seems to be dying out. Mr. Bales said that we are going to enjoy some expanded employment opportunities.

Representative Norma Bixby, HD 5, Lame Deer: When I ran for my seat, it was a very tight race. I won by 38 votes. I received most of my votes from Rosebud County. In looking at the plans and numbers, I would support Plan 300. I would recommend that the Powder River County area be reviewed and moved more to the eastern border of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation toward the Ashland area and maybe take up some population from the northern border of Colstrip. We do not know what the numbers are, but we will be looking at them to see how they could meet our needs.

When I ran, I also ran on the platform that I would serve all people no matter if they were Crow, Northern Cheyenne, or non-Indian. We were not represented well in the previous election. I wanted to make sure that everyone in my district had a voice. With Plan 300, that will continue to be the process. It will best serve our needs. In the general election, my vote in Rosebud County was 620. In Big Horn County, I only carried 574 votes. By adding the population of over 700 people in the Powder River area--and I do not exactly know what the voting age population is-- even adding one-half of that might help get an Indian member elected in HD 5. I would recommend going with Plan 300-A and reducing the population in Powder River County and going more toward the Colstrip area.

Commissioner Jellison: Are there any Northern Cheyenne or other Native Americans living in Powder River County now?

Representative Bixby: I believe there are a few. There are some families that live off Otter Creek Road just off the reservation but not very many.

Commissioner Jellison: Do you understand that if a district is created that is going to be majority Native American that, at the same time, you are ensuring the people of that district to elect a Native American representative and that you are also denying the possibility to the non-Native Americans in that district to elect somebody?

Representative Bixby: No, I do not think so because if you look at the numbers of the votes and the race for HD 5, 38 votes. That was a tight race. Even if you did take a few people away in the Powder River County area, they would still have the opportunity to elect someone. Look at the numbers in Big Horn County, they were very high, over 854 for my opponent compared to my 574 votes. That is a 300-vote difference. The race would still be very close in HD 5, but I do not see it denying a non-Indian any more chance of winning than an Indian.

Commissioner Jellison: It was mentioned that the last time this area was redistricted, there was some polarization because, I presume, some resentment by the non-Indian people of being cut out. Do you think this would not happen if your proposal passes?

Representative Bixby: I think polarization occurs depending on the candidates who are running. If you are a type of person who really cares about Montana, cares about the district, and cares about the people, they are going to try to eliminate polarization as much as possible because you are working for

the people of your district. I am running again for HD 5, and I would try to work very hard and I am the type of individual who works with all people very well. In my opinion, polarization is a sad thing, but I think that with the tribes working with everybody in the area, you might not see that.

Commissioner Jellison: I would hope that you are right.

Commissioner Lamson: I think that Representative Bixby is correct in that it is a very competitive district. Of the four elections since the last redistricting, a non-Indian has won the district three times. Representative Bixby was the first member of the Northern Cheyenne to win. When you are also looking at issues around providing opportunities for all of our citizens to be represented in the Legislature, that is why we look at voting age populations and that is why the Commission passed the Old Person resolution in the first place. Under all of the scenarios, you are talking about a potential of maybe an opportunity in six districts in the state to elect Native Americans when they have a population of around 7%. Six out of 100 does not seem like we are going to have a major take over in the Montana House of Representatives, although our Native American representatives have cut a wide swath. But, it speaks to a more general point. I would challenge anybody to cite one negative aspect, in the Legislature and as a state, that we have encountered when we have included all of our citizens. I can name numerous examples, where discussions have moved forward, that there has been all kinds of positive things not only on Native American issues but on a variety of issues. That is what we, as a Commission, should be striving for. I compliment Representative Bixby because she is a person who does reach out and tries to bring people together rather than apart.

Representative Bixby: I was the first Indian elected in that district after it was formed. The incumbent had won it two times before that. You would not be denying a non-Indian any more chance of winning. It is just who gets out there and works the hardest.

Commissioner Pretty On Top: Our Commission is on record supporting the creation of Native American majority districts, and we do have a resolution that is available.

Neta Old Elk, Candidate for HD6, Crow Tribe: The highway that splits the two house districts-- does it split up Garryowen? Is it Interstate 90 that splits Garryowen?

Commissioner Pretty On Top: The part of Garryowen is in the eastern district, I think. It does not change the current split.

Ms. Old Elk: That was one of my concerns. The Garryowen district is the Reno district on the reservation which is where I am from. It splits my district on the reservation as far as house districts go. Presently, the town of Wyola is also split, but with Plan 300, it puts the whole community into one house district. One of my concerns is that that community is still split. I do support Plan 300, even though my community is still split, the community of Wyola goes into one house district.

Glenn Little Bird Sr., Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council: It does not make any difference who is elected as long as they have the one objective of serving all people. I do not like to hear the polarization statements and racial remarks. My background is 30 years in law enforcement and the judicial system. I

am also a retired BIA employee. I want to make sure that all people are protected equally under our laws, whether state or tribal. I support Plan 300.

It has been a long time coming for tribal members to be recognized and to be favorably represented. All you have to do is read the newspapers to know that Montana is becoming well known because of our former Governor, Marc Racicot. He has put Montana on record that we are to be reckoned with and that we have some good people coming out of Montana to favorably represent, not only the Northern Cheyenne or Crow Tribes, but the state and the United States.

We have two tribes here and their populations are growing. We want to favorably represent not only our people but the people who are associated with us. There are many things that we would like to get recognized in the state. It does not make any difference who gets elected. My wish is that they listen to tribal members and their concerns about economic development. I hope that they are equally recognized when it comes to employment, whether Native American or not. I have a good rapport with my fellow Councilmen from the Crow Tribe. We are talking a lot of good business having to do with our natural resources, water, land, coal, and coal-bed methane gas. I do not know much about coal-bed methane gas because I do not want to know because of the negative statements being said about the impact on the water. The most sacred thing is the water, and if it has a negative impact, then I do not want it. I need to see scientific data that it is not going to harm our plants, the ground, or the people who drink the water. I hope that everyone will have mutual feelings when they leave. All we want is recognition in the state and to be fairly represented.

Ron Arneson, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Attorney: I specialized in Indian law all of my legal career, approximately 13 years. I have worked for the Crow, Fort Peck, and Assiniboine Tribes. There are some very important things that have begun to happen in Montana, one being the recognition that Indian tribes are a part of the state of Montana. I support the resolution that seems to support the fact that democracy has to be cognizant and aware of minorities. For many years, Indian folks have had a difficult time. I have specialized all of my legal life in Indian child welfare issues. Recently, the Legislature has become very aware of the seeming potential problems that Indian children have been facing as it relates to the Department of Public Health and Human Services. This is a positive step.

One of the things that you should keep in mind is that Indian reservations are not 100% Indian. There are many white folks there and they certainly participate in sharing in the economy and developing this nation. We must be super aware that stepping in the direction of recognizing minorities is really a reflection of democracy, and I encourage you to do that.

Leroy Not Afraid, Crow Tribal Member: I am here as a tribal member, a private citizen of the state, and a United States citizen, as well. I cannot say that I am for or against any given plan as of yet because I have not researched them. Have you folks traveled to the Wyola region yet with the proposals or are you going to?

Commissioner Pretty On Top: We are planning on having 14 hearings and Crow Agency is the closest location to Wyola. However, the Chairman of the Commission could easily go to Wyola and have a meeting there. We have been requested to meet with other groups in other regions, and I would be more than happy to meet with people in Wyola.

Mr. Not Afraid: The reason that I asked is because I grew up in the area. Many of the people in the area do not buy newspapers, do not have phones, and are not on the Internet. It would be advantageous for the Commissioners to travel to that district so that they can hear the concerns of the people in that area. Looking at a couple of the plans--Plans 300 and 400--Wyola is shifting its district to proposed district 5, is that correct?

Commissioner Pretty On Top: It shifted to the Northern Cheyenne district.

Mr. Not Afraid: My biggest concern would be that growing up in and around Wyola, the issues that are understood in that area are on this side of the mountain. If we grow up on this side of the Wolf Mountain region, we know and understand the issues in that valley--Little Horn Valley, the Little Big Horn River, the Short Canyon area, and the foot of the Big Horn Mountains. My concern is that you look at those areas.

Carlene Old Elk, Garryowen: I wish to go on record as supporting Plan 300. Approximately 1984, some of us literally kicked open the doors in Big Horn County, and we had to do it through a painful process. This is much less painful, and it is most important to recognize, particularly in Crow country, the leadership that Dr. Pretty On Top has provided the whole state of Montana. We have to understand history in order to not repeat it, and we are doing an excellent job of understanding where we came from. It seems so much less difficult today. Thank you Commissioners for being supportive of the things that many of us in Big Horn County have fought so long and hard for.

Daryl Lamere, Billings: I would like to go on record to state that Plan 300 seems to serve the best interest of every Native American who wishes to participate in the election process. No plan is perfect, but that is as perfect as we are going to get.

Cyndy Maxwell, Clerk and Recorder, Big Horn County: Initially, I had some concerns with Plan 300. But, the voice of the people, I will listen. I have to conduct the elections. So, when I saw Plan 300, I saw a change to my precincts, the possibility of a new polling place, and a cost to the county. I think I can amend my current polling places to jive with the proposal, although I do see a problem with the people in Hardin. If I have a chance, I would like to work with that. There is an area just east of the river that looks like it runs along a jeep trail. If I could work with Susan, I could work with this. Plan 300 is a go for me also.

Commissioner Lamson: We have been trying to work with Clerks and Recorders, and last night we passed an amended Plan 300 to address some concerns similar to what you expressed for Pondera County and Hardin. By virtue, we have more flexibility there because they is more concentrated populations.

Ms. Maxwell: I had addressed one other problem prior to this meeting along the jeep trail. That has been changed. If we could work on the one area, I do not have any problems, other than I can see the other counties--when you say compact. My idea of compact would not be a house district running into four counties. It is my problem, but I can see it being somebody else's.

Commissioner Lamson: We had people in Billings saying that we were not compact and we had districts within the Billings city limits. Compact is a very subjective term.

Ms. Maxwell: For somebody who has to campaign, running across four counties would not be a treat.

Commissioner Pretty On Top: One of the biggest challenges that our Commission is meeting is that many of our counties, especially in eastern Montana, have lost so much population. There are some house districts of enormous size. We have heard testimony that some are 300 miles long. On the other hand, there is a lot of growth on the reservations, so some of the size is being helped by that dynamic.

Angela Russell, member of the Crow Tribal Legislature: I support plan 300. I live in the town of Lodge Grass. However, I own property in Spear Siding. If I ever move to Spear Siding, I would be in a different house district. I also support the Commission's resolution.

We always have to go back in history. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was an important milestone for Native Americans in this country because, without it, we would not have many Native Americans in many of our state Legislatures. I was one of the early ones to be elected to the House of Representatives. I served four terms, and I had some very tight races. It is very important to look at the diversity of our country, and for too long, we have certainly eliminated looking at diversity. We have such a rich culture--all of us--those of you who are not Indian but have roots back to your native countries. Those cultures are extremely important to you too. It is important that we continue to highlight and give credence to diversity in the state. We, as Crow people, claim a lot of southern Montana and northern Wyoming as Crow country. This area was all Native American and Indian Country. For too long we have not been included in government, but we have to live by the laws. It is important that we have an inclusiveness. If you do not have Native American people in all levels of government, you have a skewed view of Montana. If not for the war in Afghanistan, we would not know about people of Afghanistan if not for the coverage. We must continue to educate and enlighten ourselves.

In 1974, I did some major campaigning for one of the first Black candidates in Louisiana. He won the election. I went door to door, and the racism was very hard and strong. Here in Big Horn County, I think it is more subtle, but we know that racism is here too. People who run for public office try very hard to represent everybody. When I ran for office, I knocked on doors in Hardin. Some of them were not anxious to visit with me. I think some of those tensions have decreased a little because they see that we are all people and have human concerns. However, there are some real differences too--the economy in Big Horn County and the lack of jobs. Whoever gets elected from our area, they need to look at that. Many times, Indian Country gets overlooked. When I was in the Legislature, a specific bill

came up on community corrections introduced by Representative Dorothy Bradley. As I was looking at it, I thought this is great and a great opportunity. However, I noticed that Indian tribes were not even mentioned. I made an amendment that included Indian reservations. It is those kinds of things that we have to continue to look out for when you serve. This is one thing that our Indian representatives have done. They have looked out for non-Indians as well as Indian people. I would support Plan 300.

Neta Old Elk: Interstate 90 does split the two house districts. I visited with Ms. Maxwell and Susan and said that if the whole community of Wyola could be moved into one house district and move the boundary 1 mile over to cover the Garryowen area, you are switching 100 votes for another 100 votes. Beyond a mile past that is 212, and there is not much between a mile out of Garryowen all the way to Busby. Moving the boundary one mile over rather than using the Highway would make a significant difference.

Ms. Russell: This Commission here includes a couple of women, a Native American, some older gentlemen. and some middle-aged gentlemen. The last time I appeared before the Commission in Helena, I did raise the issue that we did not have enough women or young people.

Commissioner Rehberg: Were you the one who said that the last Commission was all men and all white?

Ms. Russell: I said that it was all white and only one women.

Commissioner Rehberg: No you did not say one women because my tee shirt says all white and all men. The one women on the Commission provided the tee shirts for us. She was a little startled that she was referred to as a man.

Darrell Hanson, Ashland: I am going to favor Plan 200 because all you have to go by is population numbers. I think you have the population numbers of today, you cannot forecast into the future. I also do not want to see Powder River County split up. I hate to see the reservations split up. If you are going to split Powder River County in the middle or split the other reservations in the middle, I do not think anybody would be very happy. I have played a lot of baseball with the Indians in Ashland and I do not believe in discrimination. Those boys were my equal. I played with the Spang's and the Spotted Elk's. They were my equals, and I will always respect them that way. Just do not split Powder River County or any of the bigger counties. If you can keep them together, it helps those counties.

Commissioner Pretty On Top reminded the public that the Commission's record would be left open for three week following the meeting for written comment.

There being no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

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