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REPRESENTATION, PART II: A Bibliographic Supplement and How-to Guide (Supplement to Exchange Bibliography No. 468)

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REPRESENTATION. PART II: A BIBLICGRAPHIC SUPPLEMENT AND HCW-TO GUIDE (SUPPLEMENT TO EXCHANGE BIBLICGRAPHY #468).

by

Anthony G. White

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This bibliography represents a supplement to and amplification of a previous work by the author, "Representation as an Urban Problem: A Selected Bibliography." Ordinarily the author would not attempt to supplement a work so soon after its publication, but the (quite valid) criticism has been made of that source-list, that it was quality-oriented rather than "quantity"-oriented. It is this latter concern that led to a further compilation as contained herein.

There is, of course, no one way to approach the problems of representation through apportionment. Population is enumerated by a number of agencies for a number of purposes in a number of different manners. Thus, the U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce performs a census every ten years in units of enumeration districts, census tracts, block groups and blocks. Similarly, state agencies such as revenue departments and education boards count or estimate population for the purpose of distributing state-rebated revenues (usually sales taxes) of various kinds. School districts frequently hold school and community censuses, for accreditation and planning purposes.

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Planning departments of cities and counties divide their jurisdictions into traffic zones, which aid in the planning process. Any or all of these data sources can be profitably used for apportionment and reapportionment.

2.

Four basic criteria are necessary as a minimum to be followed in order to produce a "fair and equitable" apportionment scheme: equality of population; contiguity of each district; compactness of districts; and preservation of existing boundaries and neighborhoods.

The one overriding factor in apportionment and districting is equality of population. As mandated by the U. S. Supreme Court, national legislative districts have to be as nearly equal in population as possible. The courts have been more lenient with state legislatures, however, allowing in some non-home-rule (which then gives cities and counties a large stake in state legislative processes) states up to 16% variance from the average population in district size. No court tests have been made of urban governments' district sizes <u>per se</u>, although other issues such as requiring district residence in districts of vastly unequal size have been questioned.

A district should be contiguous, that is, someone should be able to travel from one point in the district to another point in that district without ever having to go outside district boundaries. This would prevent widely separated segments of territory with no logical "bridge" between them from being gerrymandered into the same district. A district should be as compact as possible. There are (at least) two kinds of compactness: geographical and population. The first is relatively easy to define - if any two points in a district can be connected with a <u>straight line</u> that is contained wholly within the district, and if from the geographic center of the district no boundary point lies more than an arbitrary standard (say, 20%) in variance from the average distance, then the district is said to be compact. Population compactness is a more difficult concept, depending upon which sources are consulted. It can be a measure of "clustering" of population within the district; of socio-economic indicators; or a measure of the distance of the center of population from the geographic center of the district. More research is needed in the study of compactness.

Finally, to the extent possible district boundaries should conform to natural (rivers, mountain ridges, gorges) and preexisting man-made (freeways, major streets, canals, former city limits) boundaries. The primary reasons for this criteria are: first, that population will have been computed most accurately on either side of such pre-existing boundaries; and second, these major features will tend to break up a jurisdiction into neighborhoods and communities, the preservation of which can be of primary importance in a political sense. Election of a representative from a specific constituency can be a positive tool for citizen involvement.

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4. CPL Exchange Bibliography #546 Other criteria can be found in the literature, but these four seem to pop up with the greatest frequency. While a few of the following sources are a supplement to the first bibliography, the majority should lead the reader to concrete techniques, including where to obtain computer programs to apportion according to desired criteria. Baker, G. E. Rural Versus Urban Political Power, New York: Doubleday, 1955.

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