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## PRESS RELEASE

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### REDFIELD OPPOSES AT-LARGE ELECTION BILL AS A 'SAVE BRYAN'S SEAT' MEASURE DESIGNED TO DILUTE POLITICAL POWER OF ST. CROIX

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REPUBLICAN SENATOR HOLLAND L. REDFIELD TODAY ANNOUNCED HIS ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO SEN. ADELBERT BRYAN'S BILL TO CREATE AT-LARGE SENATE SEATS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"THIS BILL IS BASICALLY A 'PROTECT ITS AUTHOR'S SENATE SEAT BILL,' SAID REDFIELD OF BRYAN. "AND HE'S DOING IT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE 50,000 PEOPLE WHO RESIDE IN THE DISTRICT OF ST. CROIX."

REDFIELD COINED THE LEGISLATION, WHICH IS PURPORTED TO BE A MEASURE TO UNIFY THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, A 'ST. THOMAS-ST. JOHN POLITICAL CONTROL BILL.' "IT GIVES POLITICAL POWER TO ST. THOMAS-ST. JOHN OVER THE ST. CROIX DISTRICT," REDFIELD SAID.

"IT IS CLEAR BY LOOKING AT STATISTICAL DATA SUPPLIED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS FROM THE 1988 AND 1990 ELECTIONS, THAT HISTORICALLY THERE ARE UPWARDS OF 2,000 MORE VOTES CAST PER CANDIDATE IN THE ST. THOMAS-ST. JOHN DISTRICT FOR THE TOP SEVEN SEATS OVERALL, THAN THE NUMBER OF VOTES CAST ON ST. CROIX FOR THE SAME SEVEN SEATS. BY VIRTUE OF THE AMOUNT OF VOTES CAST, AND REGISTERED VOTERS OVERALL, THE ST. THOMAS-ST. JOHN DISTRICT WOULD LITERALLY CALL THE SHOTS IN FUTURE ELECTIONS IF THIS BILL BECAME LAW," REDFIELD SAID.

IN A TELLING 1990 ELECTION STATISTIC CULLED FROM THE TERRITORY'S VOTING RECORD, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS ON ST. CROIX WAS 17,902. WHILE IN ST. THOMAS-ST. JOHN 20,766 WERE REGISTERED TO VOTE, A DIFFERENCE OF 2,864 VOTERS. "OBVIOUSLY, THESE ADDITIONAL VOTERS ARE ST. THOMIANS, SO WHO DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD VOTE FOR: ST. THOMAS CANDIDATES," REDFIELD

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SAID.

REDFIELD SAID ANY SENATOR FROM ST. CROIX WHO WOULD SUPPORT THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION "SHOULD CHANGE THEIR OCCUPATION." "IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE AUTHOR OF THIS BILL IS ATTEMPTING TO SHIFT THE BALANCE OF POWER EVEN MORE SO TO THE ST. THOMAS-ST. JOHN DISTRICT VOTERS," REDFIELD SAID.

REDFIELD UNDERSCORED THE FACT THAT MONEY AND VOTES DRIVE ELECTIONS. "IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS MORE OF EACH IN ST. THOMAS," HE SAID.

"WHAT EQUALLY DISTRESSES ME IS THAT SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION WOULD, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, BAR THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-INCUMBENTS TO BE ELECTED. IT IS SIMPLE TO SEE THAT THE COST FOR NON-INCUMBENTS TO RUN A TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE FOR A LOT OF NEWCOMERS. BY VIRTUE OF INCUMBENCY, SITTING SENATORS WOULD HAVE A CLEAR ADVANTAGE OVER WOULD-BE CHALLENGERS," REDFIELD SAID.

REDFIELD LABELED IT "IRONIC," PARTICULARLY ON ST. CROIX, THAT ST. CROIX VOTERS HAVE ASKED FOR MORE LOCAL AUTONOMY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THEIR ELECTED LEADERS BY CALLING FOR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN THE 1990 ELECTION.

"THIS BILL ATTEMPTS TO SEND US IN THE ABSOLUTE OPPOSITE DIRECTION THAN WHAT THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS INDICATED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFERENDUM IN 1990," REDFIELD SAID.

IN CLOSING, REDFIELD SAID: "IN A PERFECT WORLD, WHERE THE TWO ELECTION DISTRICTS MIGHT NOT BE COMPETING FOR LIMITED RESOURCES AND POLITICAL DOMINANCE, ANYONE WHO IS NAIVE TO POLITICS WOULD SUPPORT IT."

"BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THE ST. CROIX VOTER HAS TO KNOW THAT WHEN YOU COMPARE OUR AIRPORT WITH THE ONE ON ST. THOMAS, OR OUR CRUISE PORT FACILITIES, OR OUR HOSPITALS, OR OUR SCHOOLS WITH THOSE ON ST. THOMAS, THAT WE HAVE LONG HELD THE SHORT END OF THE STICK," REDFIELD SAID.

"AND I FOR ONE CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVE BEHIND THIS LEGISLATION, AND AM NOT PREPARED TO ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD AT THE EXPENSE OF MY ST. CROIX CONSTITUENCY. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE VOTERS ON ST. CROIX LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT ALL POLITICIANS WHO SUPPORT THIS TYPE OF REGRESSIVE LEGISLATION WHICH SEEKS TO ROB THEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT."

**REGISTERED VOTERS  
VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND  
VOTES FOR WINNING SENATORIAL  
CANDIDATES 1990**

	ST CROIX	ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN		Difference
Reg. Voters	17,902	20,766		2,864
Candidates	Vote Totals	Candidates	Vote Totals	Difference
Hansen	6,802	White	7,762	960
Belardo	4,804	Brown	7,165	2,361
Tutein	4,471	Roebuck	6,590	2,119
Redfield	4,250	Watlington	6,582	2,332
Bryan	4,223	Callender	6,411	2,188
Williams	4,097	Berry	6,407	2,310
Lawaetz	3,806	Scott-Williams	5,960	2,154

*Table compiled by the office of Senator Holland L. Redfield II.*