

Senate District 22

1971 Apportionment Board (Democrat) Plan



Senator "Tony" Calabrese had been around Ohio politics for a long time. As senate minority leader in 1971, he was one of the three Democrats comprising the Apportionment Board majority. That enabled him to look after his personal interests when the lines in Cuyahoga County were drawn.

This led to conflict with other Democrat incumbents. Tony didn't want just Democrats in his district, but Democrats with Italian surnames. The arresting features of this district are its three "prongs" sticking out on the west, each tipped with a fragment of one of Cleveland's wards. Then, hanging down from the lowest prong is the "Calabrese lobe." As one insider put it, "By the time we had taken care of Tony it had messed up Cuyahoga County for everybody else."

Representatives Jaskulski and Rutkowski accused Calabrese of cutting up their districts "to get every Italian living in Cuyahoga County in his new district." "Another Yalta for the Poles," Jaskulski mourned. Jaskulski was re-elected in 1972, but Rutkowski was defeated by Republican Donna Pope. "Tony" was

re-elected in 1972 and in 1976---after surviving a primary challenge by Senator-to-be Judy Sheerer. But in 1980 even this district couldn't save him. He was defeated by Republican Ben Skall.

