

March 8, 1973

district and add them to the other, it creates a sort of accumulative situation and the change in population is multiplied and its effects are rather disastrous so that 1% is a very unrealistic limitation. Now just recently in the last 30 days, I'm sure all of you are aware, I don't need to point this out, the U.S. Supreme Court held, specifically, on this question a tolerable limit allowance and they have now held that while 16.4% is not the most desirable thing in allowing tolerable limits, it is still acceptable. Now that does not mean that 16.4% below or above. That means 16.4% maximum and minimum. Nevertheless, I do believe that with this increase in the percentage from 1% previously existing and I believe it had got to the ridiculous point where a few jurisdictions and a few courts had held that 1% was too great a tolerance and were about to get down to the point where one or two population was the criteria. Now with this 16.4% limit in allowance on thirty thousand population, let's say, even if we only use 10%, we could have a tolerance...a toleration that is much more flexible in connection with our urban rural districts and legislative districts that we have in this state. Now I recall in the last session prior to redistricting, I had part of Gage and all of Pawnee county in my district. I did not have the western tier of precincts in my, which were all rural, in my district because it wouldn't work out with the population. In endeavoring to fix the boundary line in the district that I serve, and I only point this out as an example, I tried to do this by taking the west...the western, I believe, two tiers of precincts off of Johnson and Pawnee county and putting them with all of Gage county to make my district. Now, there is absolutely no difference in the geography, in the population, and in the economic interest and all those things would go to make up a population between eastern Gage county and western Johnson and Pawnee county, but this could not be done because we couldn't manage, if I took this much, then Senator Wiltse came up short. So, I ended up, I ended up with my district, in Gage county, I have lost, I believe, eight precincts in the southeastern corner now. I get one precinct out of Saline county and the boundary line zigzags across Jefferson county. Nobody is certain and sure where the boundary lines are and the whole thing doesn't make any sense. For example, Senator Wiltse's district extends to within eight miles of the city of Beatrice. People in that district, in his district, if they want to contact Senator Wiltse, are fifty or fifty-five miles away, whereas I am only eight miles away. Now the thing is not realistic but we were rather powerless about this. I, therefore, have proposed this motion, not for the purpose of redistricting now, but to ask the Executive Board of the Legislature to work out, to take our present population with the corrections, and to work out and see what we would come up with district boundaries if we redistricted the state in accordance with the tolerable allowances now

(End of Belt #7)