

May 18, 1981

LB 523

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 523 introduced by the Executive Board and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 20. It was referred to Miscellaneous Subjects for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are committee amendments attached by the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I move adoption of the committee amendments to LB 523. First if you will notice that this bill was introduced by the Exec Board to reapportion the legislative districts. However, the committee amended this bill and made it a bill to reapportion our Congressional Districts. This amendment reapportions our Congressional Districts and becomes the bill and this will be the first of six bills that will reapportion the various districts in our state. I had the Page pass out a handout that contains a map and also some other information, and if you will follow along with me, we remove the six townships in the western third of Cass County from Congressional District #2 and put them in District #1. Then we removed Thayer County from Congressional District #1 and put them into District #3. This plan which the committee voted out to General File is a very simple plan. It affects only one full county, Thayer County, and approximately one-third of another county, Cass County. The ideal population of a Congressional District in Nebraska is 523,335. This is according to the 1980 final census figure. The population figures for this plan is 522,556 for the First District which is a plus or excuse me which is a minus 779 people or a minus of fifteen hundredths of one percent. The Second District would now contain 523,765 people for a plus 430 people or a plus eight hundredths of one percent. The Third District is 523,000 people, 523,685 people or a plus of 350 persons or a plus seven hundredths of one percent. So you can see that the total deviation is a .23% or slightly less than one quarter of one percent. Before I go any further, let me go back and explain the committee's action. Our committee, the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee at one of their meetings set a one and a half percent plus or minus deviation from the ideal population of a congressional district. So in other words, we were saying that there was no reason to change the boundary lines of our Congressional Districts. But then after a little more research by our staff and by the Legislature's Research Department, we did a little more research, also visited with the Attorney General's Office several different times, and after more research, we decided that maybe we had better see if we