

SENATOR GOLL: Mr. President and members, I have a question for Senator Beutler. In looking your summary sheet over, Chris, it appears that after 1988 this established commission may by rule, after a public hearing which may or may not have any affect on their decision-making process, have the ability then to change the number of election districts which would at the beginning be 19 plus the 2. So let's say that in eight or nine years they decide that these election districts should, for whatever reason they may determine, be changed. Now the present process allows the voter, the people out here, at an election time when the judge's term is up, to vote on whether or not that judge has served the public to their satisfaction according to a number of criteria. Now if these election districts are enlarged or if, we will say, they determine that 19 should be 12 or whatever it is, how...how well will the public be able...that is how are they going to know or have any idea on how to cast their vote on these judges unless we get into a situation like happened in South Sioux this last time. In other words, will the public out there be able to judge these judges and cast their vote in a knowledgeable way if we go to this kind of a system.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Goll, I honestly believe the answer is yes. First of all, the election districts were put back in there because the first time we went around the state on the tour, that was the problem with the redistricting proposal that they pointed out. They said, well if you only have three large districts, or two large districts, or eight large district, it becomes more difficult for people to vote on the retention of judges. So we put the election districts back in and they are the same size as the districts now so it is the same kind of situation. Now, even now within the system, there are areas that have small districts and there are areas that have very large districts, and if you would look on your map, for example...

SENATOR GOLL: I am looking.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Look at District 15 up there with Cherry County and Brown and Rock and Holt, already there is a problem with that, you could argue that there is a problem with that huge district because it is so big that they can't know from one end to the other perhaps but the election districts, the commission is going to have authority. You