

where a group of people headed by the Chief Justice would make those decisions, then bring them to the Legislature, bring them to the Legislature. I guess I continually am amazed by the fact that some of these people, you know, this sounds to me like it is LB 662 all over again. Here we are, now we have got a few people from Omaha and Lincoln who are trying to change the whole system out there in rural Nebraska. They are doing us a big favor I guess and we should be grateful but for some reason we sort of have a tendency to resist it, a tendency to resist it. We don't want to in this case put all that authority in the hands of a group of people that has complete authority. They can eliminate every one of those districts in outstate Nebraska but look at Lancaster County and Douglas County. They are insulated from the process. There are not going to be judges from Lancaster County traveling out to York, traveling any place. They are insulated from it. They are not going to have this problem. It is completely a different system. The two counties are each going to have their own judicial district and then the whole rest of the state has another one, certainly divided up in the beginning among a number of election districts but that doesn't mean they will stay there. There is no guarantee under Senator Beutler's amendment that those will stay. They could eliminate all of those and then the problem that Senator Goll referred to would be very severe. I don't think we want to give this group that authority. I am not sure we can do it under the Constitution anyway and I will be asking for an opinion on that but I am trying here, you know, Senator Beutler says this guts the bill, my amendment guts the bill. No, I say it makes a system that combines the features that he is proposing but it does not eliminate the authority of the Legislature. It is a shared responsibility then between this commission of experts and the Legislature, and so jointly we come up with a system which is efficient. You know we don't want to resist change. Senator Landis said we are resisting change. Well, not completely true, not true, because there should be change and there can be change but we should have some control over it here in the Legislature.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Goodrich, then Senator Beutler, then Senator Smith.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Would Senator Beutler yield to a question please?