

drastically. We have 21 districts now and under this proposal we would have three main judicial districts, one would consist of Lancaster County, one would consist of Douglas County and the other district would be the whole rest of the state. And all those judicial districts in the rest of the state could be realigned or eliminated by this commission. I don't think this Legislature wants to give up that authority, so I ask that you adopt my amendment which I think combines best parts of Senator Beutler's proposal with the current situation. We would have a commission whose duty would be to study the situation, a commission composed primarily of experts in the field to look at the situation and make recommendations to the Legislature. I ask that this amendment be adopted.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner. After that, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR HEFNER: Is he first?

PRESIDENT: You're first, Senator.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. And, Mr. President, this is an amendment to the committee amendment. Is that correct? Okay. Thank you. I kind of lost track about that. But I think, too, that we do not want to give too much power to this committee. I think that Senator Lamb's proposal is where they recommend back to the Legislature is a great idea. I just hate to relinquish that much power. I think it is our duty, our duty as members of this Legislature to set these districts. If you will go back to the committee amendment, the way the committee is set up, first we have the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, then we have one judge of the Supreme Court, then we have two judges, including one District Court judge and one County Court judge, and then we have three members of the Bar Association and then two citizens at large. I think this committee is fair and equitable, but I would still hate to see them have the power to set judicial districts. I feel that this should be done by the Legislature. And, therefore, I would urge you to support the Lamb amendment to the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler.