

the fear of being informed, a phobia against knowing what the current situation is out there, that somehow it is premature to try to understand the problem, not to make a solution, not to change policies, not to effectuate any differences or new rules for representation, but a simple fear of being informed. When is it that the accumulation of information and facts is not ipso facto a good idea. When do we put that off and say, well, gosh, I would rather not know what the problem is. In Lincoln there are subdistricts of 3,000 people and there are subdistricts of 45,000 people. Now I know that because I used to be on the NRD and, number two, we have an Election Commissioner who is really sharp and we had one at that time as well when those facts were accumulated. We can't make that same claim for the other parts of the state, and if we are going to be making policy in this area, shouldn't we be able to compare across NRD lines? We can't do it right now. This is of value to the NRDs themselves which is why the NRD Association, Dayle Williamson, has said that this amendment is acceptable to them, that they just as soon have this information gathered. It is only on this floor that where the upshot of this information may over time have some political ramification that we have people who are simply afraid for this body to learn what is out there. I, personally, am not afraid to be informed. I think the information is of value. I think the amendment will serve us well. I hope we will adopt it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment appears to be nothing more than information gathering, and in speaking with Senator Sieck, he has no problem with the amendment and so I will join in supporting the attachment of this amendment to the bill. I think that when we are talking about LB 902 which we did have sufficient opportunity for input on it, two hearings that we held, a lot of the concerns that arose will be addressed and are now being addressed regarding restructuring of the districts and perhaps the change in the representation on the boards. So I would just like to say that I think we are making a big issue out this which really isn't there, and so since Senator Sieck is supportive of the amendment, I see no problem with more information. If we can use it, let's get it and so I will support this also.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, would you like to close