

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Conway, in the meeting that you had, either personally or by telephone or whatever, with Governor Nelson today, was it your understanding that the Governor gave you his word or at least his understanding...your understanding that he was going...he supported your particular amendment that is before us now?

SENATOR CONWAY: Correct.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Is it your understanding then since that time, which I assume was mid to late afternoon, that the Governor...have you received any information from the Governor that he's deviated from that plan, from that commitment?

SENATOR CONWAY: I have not heard from him since that meeting.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Would it be fair to say that we have heard from members on the floor who are closer to the Governor, say, than maybe you and I are, that he has reconsidered because he said he didn't totally understand what you proposed?

SENATOR CONWAY: I wasn't privy to that conversation and if you take a little bit, and my light's on and I'll give you more time if I take it, but I had a meeting with the Governor this afternoon. He called me in and suggested that under the plan that we advanced off Select File and onto Final Reading that he wasn't excited with it; that it definitely didn't mean a veto, but he sure wished that we could strike some kind of a compromise that would address some of the concerns that were there relative to Gage County. That meeting took approximately an hour and we had quite a discussion relative to...and I suggested to him what would be some of these attempts and what might they look like to try to reunite Gage County. We talked about some things. We added some numbers back and forth, and finally I said if Gage County is that important to you, I will show that my willingness to be amendable to your concerns about Gage County, and Gage County has about 5,000 people, roughly, a little less than that, that are below that line that were being trimmed out and into the 3rd District, and I said if I can find 5,000 people, or thereabouts, up in Knox County to put into the 3rd District and give you Gage, will you support it and sign it, and he says sure, or at least that was my recollection. And so that's when I came back. When I finished the specifics of what precincts those would be and I said I'd only offer this as an