

have to decide, if we are going to do something, the question is, what can we do that would meet the court mandate that would be the least restrictive? There is no one in the body that can say a plan that is before us on LB 7 that divides Cuming County now four ways, takes District 17 and pieces that apart, takes apart 19 is less disruptive than the plan Senator Hefner has, which does not change Cuming County at all from LB 614, does not change the entire District 17 as it was in LB 614, and only affects the districts that were mentioned in the court's decision, Districts 14...40 and 18. That is, in essence, what we have. So the plan clearly, on those areas,...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...is the least restrictive if that's the argument the body wants to go on, and that is what we need to discuss now.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Peterson, do you wish to address the amendment by Senator Withem?

SENATOR PETERSON: Well, yeah, sort of, Mr. President and members. I cannot support this, Senator Hefner's amendment to LB 7. I do know this, that I feel Madison County deserves, I think, a senator now, and with an odd-numbered district because we can have an election is what I am looking at. I am quite sure...I am quite sure that you are going to, no matter what you do, you are going to have lawsuit upon lawsuits on this. I know if Madison County don't get a senator are going to file a...immediately file a lawsuit and I think their lawsuit, they will then ask that the Supreme Court throw the whole darn state out because that, I think, was the worst plan I have ever seen. I will take issue with what Senator, I believe, Withem said what a wonderful plan they devised. I think it is the opposite. No matter what we do, I don't like any of the plans right now. I still think that we need to go back and redo the whole state. Owen Elmer's plan that he revised is excellent, follows county lines, and Senator Withem says, oh, we don't have to follow county lines, we can go up alleys and everything. Well, that is what they done in redistricting and what has got them into trouble. So with...what I will be looking is how it is going to affect Madison County because I still feel we need an election and elect a senator up there. Why should we wait six years? That is what we are going to have to wait if they don't pass a