

you wish to address your amendment further?

SENATOR WITHEM: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker, only to once again, I know there is a lot of confusion and people may not be clear on the effect of the amendment, so one more time just to make sure people are aware of what this amendment does. It simply switches the...it leaves Senator Hefner's map as it is, as it was distributed in the Hefner handout. It simply changes the numbers around so that those who...it gives those people like me, who feel that the map is perhaps a cleaner map, if we are to follow county lines. And, Senator Peterson, wherever you are, you were obviously not listening to my remarks if you were quoting me as saying that we don't have to follow county lines. I don't think we should necessarily have to, but our Constitution says we do, and our Supreme Court has elevated that phrase, and so that is why I would like to see us change our Constitution. I think that we probably do need to follow county lines in whatever we do here under the existing Constitution, maybe to a greater extent than we did previously. My remarks were what we did, as a Legislature, previously was we looked at what the history of federal regulation and federal judicial action, which tends to be dominant in most states, most Supreme Courts tend to follow federal guidelines. Our Supreme Court totally ignored the concept of one person, one vote. We met that within a 2 percent variance, which is a better, tighter drawing of the map than has ever been done in the history of this state. One person's vote in Omaha is equivalent to one person's vote in Lincoln, is equivalent to one person's vote in Chadron, and that is the way it should be. The whole history of federal judicial action, since the Baker v. Carr decision, has been toward narrower and narrower interpretation of one person, one vote. And this body ought to be standing proud and tall and saying we did that when we passed LB 614. Our problem is we had a group of people in Madison County who didn't like the way it impacted on their county. They took it to court. The court agreed with them because of the language in our Constitution dealing with follow county lines wherever practicable. When I see the Hefner map lay next to LB 7 as it is now drafted, I see this as a more practicable way of following county lines. What my amendment does then is it tries to remove the argument of whether Madison County gets its senator now or later, or whether Gus Pick and De Carlson lose their nomination certificates, to at least give us an opportunity to focus on the map itself, and give us an opportunity. For those of you who are supporting LB 7 because you like the fact that Madison County gets a chance