

historical perspective question. Senator Beutler brought to the committee, to the Government Committee, a map that he asked Legislative Research to draw that would disrupt the fewest counties, that would leave the most counties whole, and if my memory is correct on this, Senator Beutler, I think there was something like 82 counties that the plan came up with that could be left whole. The problem was, if you looked at that map, those legislative districts didn't look anything like the legislative districts that have historically been. I think there is some degree of importance to the historical lines that have been drawn, what people are used to. Although maybe not, maybe we need to rethink that. I also would like to say that I am going to oppose the Withem amendment and I understand exactly where Senator Withem is coming from and I appreciate his dividing the question for us, but I come back, the final key to the question in my mind is, shall we disrupt the election process and shall we do it any more than absolutely necessary, if we do it at all? If the Withem amendment gets attached to the Hefner amendment, I may have to vote against the Hefner amendment and may have to reiterate my original thinking on this, and that is that we simply do nothing this year because we don't have the answers to all the questions that have been raised on the floor of this Legislature. No matter what we do, many have said we are still going to be in trouble. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Bernard-Stevens, did you wish to address the amendment again? Okay, Senator Schellpeper, on the amendment.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I guess I would sooner go back to the original LB 7 if we are going to change anything when the northeast Nebraska senators were able to sit down and try to come up with a solution. Original LB 7 is the plan that we decided we would actually start with, and it is a much better area than what this amendment, than the Hefner amendment. Now changing the numbers around is going to help Madison County. That is going to give them an election, but at the same time, it is going to make a district that is not very compact. The original LB 7 is a much more compact area. The Governor and the Legislature, they told us three northeast Nebraska senators that were affected that we should get together and work out a compromise, and that is what we did with LB 7. Now the different amendments are not with the compromise of the three senators that worked out any compromise, what we are currently talking about right now with the Hefner