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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 852

LR 7

unless Omaha and Lincoln want to donate us about 22 senators, we're going to have to take this approach. But this is fair I believe. I am not asking someone to take on, you know, any additional responsibility that they can't live with. I am willing to take on more land. I understand that. I mean we don't have Elkhorn or Bellevue in Cheyenne even though we have Sidney which is growing amazingly as well as Ogallala. But the fact is, is that we have guidelines that we use for Omaha. We have guidelines that we use for Lincoln. Now the difference is, is that what Omaha and Lincoln accomplished was they did it prior to the committee meeting. What we did was we got together and tried to figure out how to draw a map, tried to work within the guidelines that we were given and tried to present it to our committee understanding that whatever came out of committee, as was stated last night on the floor, will then be the body's bill. And so here we are. A majority of us have gotten together and said, hey, this is a better idea. This helps. This helps with representation. This isn't an undue burden. But most importantly, you tried three times to come to a compromise with all involved. Now in the Legislature, 80 percent overrides the Governor; and I think out here 80 percent should prevail here as well. We're not, and that 20 percent that I'm talking about against it, you know, additional precincts, one more town of about 117 people I think it is. That's what this is about. This is about restoring the community of interest of Perkins County with District 44; of Gosper County with District 38; of maintaining District 36. I had an amendment that was drafted on...earlier that would have put Dawson County back as one district. And I was requested to stay with the committee's proposal even though it would have given Dawson County all one county, one representative. So compromises have been reached already, not only on what I think as far as what I would like to see because this isn't my ideal. And I guarantee my ideal wouldn't float any better than some of the other ideas that have been presented from other senators, as instance, the Burling plan. So here we are. This is fair. The deviations are better. We're maintaining the integrity of the cores of districts. We're following precinct lines which is identifiable to voters. That is the key, identifiable to voters in LR 7. It doesn't say identifiable to somebody from New York who wants to come visit Nebraska and you happen to represent a