

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 28, 2021

FOLEY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the eleventh day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Halloran. Please rise.

HALLORAN: Good morning, colleagues. There are many prayers that are beautiful prayers, but there are few prayers more beautiful than what we find in the book of Psalms. So instead of creating my own and being partially successful at a creative prayer, I'm going to take from the book of Psalms, chapter 118, verse 24. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Halloran. I now recognize Senator Albrecht for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALBRECHT: Thank you. Please join me in the pledge. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Albrecht. I call to order the eleventh day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Senators please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections.

FOLEY: Thank you, sir. Any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB1, LB7, LB8, and LB3 to Select File. That's all that I have, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Speaker Hilgers, you're recognized.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I hope you had a good weekend. We are-- here's the order of the bills that are coming up here this morning. I know LRO is still working on some amendments and pulling everything up. So the order this morning will be Congress, which is LB1, followed by the Legis-- Legislature, which L-- LB3, followed by the Supreme Court, which L-- LB6, the PSC, which

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is LB5, Regents map is LB8, and Board of Education is LB7. At the end of that, we will have our appropriations bill, which is LB14. Three of those bills, the Legislature, the Regents, and the Board of Education, have amendments. I think those are coming up, if they're not here already. We'll go-- there may be some debate here this morning. If we go-- hit noon, we will take a lunch recess and come back and finish up whatever we have the rest of the day. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File, the first bill this morning, LB1. No Enrollment and Review. Senator Matt Hansen would move to recommit LB1 to the Redistricting Committee.

FOLEY: Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized for your motion.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, as has been made very clear, all of the bills, per Speaker Hilgers' orders, need to move together. And as we're getting to a point where there's a flurry of amendments, and apparently the deal we all struck on Friday is wide open to interpretation or negotiation, I'm thinking it's proper to send bills back to Redistricting Committee and maybe they could work on it, take a week, take the weekend, send it back with an actual compromise amendment that everyone is going to stand by. I have made some concessions. I have worked. I, on Friday, pulled my amendments and I had priority position to block any sort of compromise. And as I understood what the compromise was on Friday, it was something I could live with and I was accepting and I was willing to move and clear out of the process. As I've been having amendments described to me, because apparently the amendment we all received on Friday for the Leg-- for the Legislature is, by word of mouth, no longer even the most up-to-date amendment, as the amendments have been described to me, it's not something I can support and it is not something I agreed to. I have a feeling that's going to be challenged later today. I have a feeling it might be challenged by a next speaker or two, but that is where we're at. Colleagues, we worked to try and get a comprehensive legislative map, and many people made concessions on their own districts, on districts around them, on things that happened. I don't think there's a person who didn't have that changed and didn't have that touched. The final linchpin was we had a map of Omaha-- sorry, I should say a map of Douglas and Sarpy County and a map of Lancaster County, and we had to stitch them together. And on Friday, we stitched them together, it got ran up to the Redistricting Committee, and everybody agreed to it and everybody said we were going to stand by it except for technical changes; maybe, you know, if a-- if a house, a school, a park is in the wrong district or split in half, sure. The

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amendments we are now being presented change five of the ten districts in Lancaster County significantly. It kind of spirals all of the rural districts in Lancaster County, I was going to say counterclockwise, but actually spirals them in both directions and moves one district farther out into the county. Part of my goal and part of my priority, and I actually really agree with some of the people who were opposing LB3, was the urban and rural split. And we are now reaching a point where some of the proposals on the table are going to take core neighborhoods of Lincoln, they're going to take core neighborhoods of Lincoln that have been in part of lingered for decades, 40, 50 years, and they are now going to be in districts that spiral to both the Iowa and Kansas border. That is not something that I agree to. I understand based on population that maybe some of rural Lancaster County has to be split. And in my mind, you know, if Hickman, if Davey, if, you know, Malcolm have to go in another county, I understand that's not necessarily a break. But when you're telling me things like all the way up to Old Cheney, all the way to 70th are now going to have re-- the same representation as people who live within sight of the Kansas border, people who live within sight of the Iowa border, that is telling me you are trying to split the city of Lincoln past a point I could support. That is fundamentally where I get out. And now somebody's bound to say, well, Matt, this is not the legislative maps, this is the congressional maps, what's the deal? And again, all of these bills and all of these things are moving together. That is the understanding that I have. That is the goal that I have, is that we are working together on these. And if we just get Congre-- Congress to Final Reading today, right now, that is not going to impact anybody else and any sort of impact of the Lancaster County, the Douglas County, all of the other districts. So that is why I'm proposing we take some time, we move LB1, we move the Congress map-- I have amendments for the other Select File redistricting bills-- and we take the time and we move those back into the Redistricting Committee to give them time to work on, to give them time to come up with a comprehensive proposal that every member of the committee is going to agree upon and stick to, because that's kind of the issue that I'm at, is I don't necessarily know who I get to negotiate with. I don't necessarily know who is drawing the maps. I don't necessarily know who is going to stand by the maps that they drew. I'm a little lost in the wilderness right now. So the one thing that I can do is say we have a Redistricting Committee for a purpose. Let's take the maps back and send them back to them because, as we've all talked about, this is a holistic thing and it's not a single map, it's not a single district. People who have even approached me in the last 24 hours are saying, well, the new amendment doesn't change your district, and that is true. My district-- and I'm term limited, but-- so the districts,

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Lincoln, the District 26, the people's district of northeast Lincoln, doesn't change; doesn't change, but the precincts that I do lose have changed hands a number of times, including bouncing between districts that are core Lincoln districts, bouncing between districts that are in Cass County, districts that are rural Lancaster County districts. I think there's a fair argument that everything that I'm losing east of 84th Street can go to some of those districts. It doesn't make sense for constituents of mine, who live next to the community college, who've lived in Lincoln for decades, to all of a sudden spiral out to the Iowa border. When you think of-- when you think of the community college, when you think of the blood bank, you don't think, wow, I'm really close to Iowa, and yet functionally you will be because they will share same and common representation from there. That's where I'm drawing the line. This is where I'm getting frustrated because I agree that my district, the people's district, District 26, didn't change, but the concessions that I made did change. I lost precincts knowing that they were going to stay with a district that was based in Lincoln and had a Lincoln senator, and I got grief for that over the weekend. I had constituents call me that they didn't like that I couldn't save their districts. And I told them, hey, we've all signed on the dotted line, there's a final agreement, like I have-- I hate to break the bad news to you, but I think it's settled. And then I come to find out yesterday night that only is it not settled, it's wide open and it's even worse than my constituents who were contacting me felt. I've yet to break the news to-- to them yet, but I imagine that they're probably avid legislative watchers so they're getting it now. Colleagues, we have to come to a deal that we want to stick with and we want to commit to, and that deal, as has been stated multiple times, apparently is going to take all six of these maps. I think several of these maps are uncontested. That's great. They might still have to take some time in order to give us time to actually come to maps that we've agreed with. I've taken a lot of grief for my votes on Friday from a lot of people who thought I already caved too far, and to come back and take another bite of the apple, to upset the apple cart. I know I'm-- a lot of apple metaphors. But to come back and undo the deal from Friday so significantly and kind of imply that it's a take-it-or-leave-it proposal makes me worried that I'm going to have to leave it and makes me worried that this whole process is in jeopardy of not moving forward. We're at a serious impasse here today, and I want that to be abundantly clear. Hopefully the Redistricting Committee, hopefully Speaker Hilgers gets some time to look at the maps, to present us with the maps, so we know what we're dealing with. But this is where we're getting to and this is where we're coming from today. We're in a difficult spot. I'm not in a spot where I feel

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comfortable moving forward on any redistricting map. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, colleagues. I stand in support of the motion to recommit to committee. Last week, after a lot of long days and difficult conversations, this body moved forward from General to Select the redistricting bill for both the congressional and the legislative districts. I did not vote for LB1 last week, but I also didn't stand in the way of it moving forward because I believed that we need to get redistricting done, that that's a priority, and that if I have to make concessions and compromises to that end, that that was appropriate. At that time, I thought that we had come to an understanding of what those concessions would be. And as Senator Matt Hansen has already spoken to this morning, I have found out this morning that those compromises are not being honored. And as a result, I am renewing my opposition to LB1. I don't believe that Sarpy County should have been moved out of the 1st Congressional District into the 2nd Congressional District. I know that it is a challenge when we have such a large legislative district with a large county such as Douglas to figure out how to get it just that extra tens of thousands that it needs to be an even-sized district to the other two congressional districts. Sarpy County has been a part of the 2nd Congressional District for quite a time now. And while I think it is unfortunate to have to split Sarpy County, Sarpy County does have multiple cities in it and I do think that there is a reasonable way in which we can divide Sarpy County and keep communities of interest together in the 2nd Congressional District. Saunders County, as former Governor Dave Heineman even stated, has never been a part of the 2nd Congressional District, nor does Saunders County have any interest in being a part of the 2nd Congressional District. So to my mind, it does not make any sense and I will not be supporting moving LB1 from Select to Final Reading in its current form. I-- I feel like the concessions made already were significant. And since those concessions are being undone today by members of this body, I'm going to stand firm on my ground in opposing LB1. As a representative from the 2nd Congressional District, I feel it is my responsibility to fight for the people of that congressional district to ensure that we have a fair map, and arbitrarily adding an entire county to that district is not fair. Friday was intense. We-- the people watching at home probably didn't notice how intense it was because we started later in the day. The morning was very intense behind the scenes, and as bills were being put up on the board, we were being handed maps and then voting on them almost immediately,

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depending on how much conversation happened. So there were times-- oh, and there was only one page on Friday. There's three today. Hello. Oh, there's more than three. There's two up there too, so five. So we only had one page on the floor on Friday. So we had the Clerk's Office, in addition to the page, distributing maps as quickly as they could. And a map would li--

FOLEY: One minute.

M. CAVANAUGH: --literally come across-- thank you-- come across my desk and I'd be like, what-- what is this map? What am I looking at? Oh, this is Board of Regents. OK, quick, quick, quick, quick. What does this look like? Is that OK? How does it look before? It was-- it was house on fire, go, go, go, so had to have a lot of trust and had to rely pretty heavily on-- on that trust in my colleagues that these maps were good for the people of Nebraska and were done with them in mi-- at top of mind. And I felt OK about that when I went home on Friday, but I don't feel good about things this morning and I'm disappointed. And I will be talking about this for as long as I am able to. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh. Senator John Cavanaugh.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning. This-- so, well, first, this is my first time speaking since I learned about what happened with the mothers' room. And so I just wanted to make sure that I got on the record in support of the other Senator Cavanaugh and all the work she did originally to get the mothers' room here and the work she's done to continue to provide that essential service for expecting and nursing mothers. And I think it's an important thing that not just women stand up and fight for these things and talk about these things, but also men. We reap the benefits of the hard work that women put in, and so thank you for that and I support you and I'm here to help, so just wanted to make sure that I didn't let that go by without mentioning it. We are talking about the congressional map. And on Friday, we-- as that was happening very quickly and the maps were coming out, I-- I said I would take the weekend to look at the maps and articulate my thoughts on them when we came back on Select File. And so here we are. We have this map, which I did not vote for. It has advanced and we are moving it to some-- from Select to Final Read at this point. And my thoughts and reasons I oppose this map, we've had a lot of conversations during this that I think a lot have been constructive and some less so and-- but a lot of the topics that people have talked about are partisan makeups of districts. I've heard a lot of that kind of chatter and I've heard a lot of people talk about it on the mike. And I think people have

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talked about winnability or electability of districts and things like that. And I can tell you, when I talk to my constituents, the people who live in the current make-up of District 9 and the-- the proposed District 9 makeup and other individuals, Nebraskans who are interested in this process, none of them ask me what the partisan breakup of these districts are, and nobody asks me how I think the elections are going to turn out in the future for these districts when they advocate for a particular neighborhood to be in a district or a particular size of districts. People advocate for and ask that we draw fair maps. And by fair maps they mean maps that have, as close to possible, an equal number of people and that do not pack or crack, separate up racial or ethnic groups, and that do not purposely disadvantage individuals. There is a long-standing tradition in this country of gerrymandering, which we've had a conversation about, which is-- I-- I defined it earlier, a couple days ago or last week, where the party in power uses its power to disproportionately favor themselves over the other party. And this drawing of District 2 has no explanation other than partisan favor. The logical way to draw the 2nd Congressional District would include all of Douglas County and some smaller portion of Sarpy County than it currently is in the makeup of District 2. It would not include adding a whole nother county. And so we had a lot of conversations and there was some-- I don't know if you'd call it stalking horse arguments, but there were some arguments that apparently were not sincere about how serious and important it is to keep Sarpy County together. And we talked through those arguments on the floor here, we talked through them off of the sides, and we talked through them in the committee hearings as well. And I don't know Sarpy County well enough to tell you, and maybe a Sarpy County senator could tell me this, they could get on the mike and explain, but this new map of CD2 go--

FOLEY: One minute.

J. CAVANAUGH: --thank you, Mr. President, I'll get back on the mike after-- has these communities, has-- has-- goes to all of Douglas County, all of Saunders County and kind of-- well, it looks like a C, but in Sarpy, it's really kind of an L or a J shape and it captures parts of some communities in Sarpy County. And so my question is, are La Vista, Papillion and Bellevue whole in this map or are there parts of La Vista, Papillion or Bellevue in each congressional district? That's a question I think deserves to be answered because one of the things we centered upon in this conversation was it might be OK to divide a county, but we should certainly keep those communities in that county whole. And so if those are separated, I'd like to hear the reasoning why. I'd like to understand why they couldn't be kept whole

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and we had to put Saunders County in when it could have been kept whole in the 1st District and we could have maybe kept Papillion and La Vista whole in a 2nd Congressional District. So those are some of the questions. I'll get back on the mike and express some of my other concerns and questions about this map going forward. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator John Cavanaugh. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, Nebraskans. Good morning, colleagues. I stand in support, as well, of the motion to recommit LB1 to committee. I was a no vote on LB1 last week. I think that if you look at the way that these congressional districts have been drawn, I do think they're drawn in a partisan way. And this is something that the people of Nebraska said, too, when they came in to testify on the different maps that we had in Grand Island and Lincoln and Omaha. Especially in Omaha, in my congressional district where my constituents came to testify, LB1 was not a map that worked for them. But I'd like to stand up and share some ongoing concerns that I have about our process here with the redistricting maps that we're doing. On LB1, on the congressional maps and on the legislative maps, we had an agreement as a body that in order to build trust and to keep the trust that we need in order to get this done in such a short amount of time, that these maps were going to move together. And I thought we had a deal. And now this morning, I find out that for the third time from the Speaker, he's broken the deal. The deal was that on the legislative maps, there would be no substantive changes between General File and Select File. We knew that we would have the opportunity to "tweak," was the word, "tweak," the districts and, you know, change a couple lines here and there, which I think made a lot of sense. For example, in my district, District 8, which butts against Senator McKinney's district, District 11, there's-- his district is-- or-- or District 11 is coming into District 8 in a way that I think disrupts the core of the district a little bit, but it's not, you know, a mole hill that I'm willing to die over. I'm just trying to make sure that as people who are working on these maps are not from the communities that we represent, that we're standing up for our folks, too, and making sure that our people in District 8 and District 13 and District 11 have a map that makes sense for our communities in terms of the neighborhoods and the affiliations and the organizations that we already have there. So that's an example of a tweak because it doesn't change really the demographics of our district. It doesn't change the party registration or anything like that of our districts. It's not gerrymandering. It's making sure that the communities actually are represented by the district lines that we draw. That's an

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example of a tweak. What we see in the amendment that-- that was just shared with us this morning for our legislative maps is that what's happened in Lancaster County is much more than a tweak. It's, you know, redrawing lines in a really substantive way. And when the maps have to move together, when there's a map that was apparently agreed to at 8:30 a.m. today that I haven't seen, we just had a three-day weekend, colleagues, and so why am I seeing maps? Why are we all seeing maps at 8:30 today when we had all of this time to get something done and, when we passed a map on Friday, that all of us pretty much agreed to? And that was a really hard-won agreement, right, colleagues? We thought that we would be here all day Friday. We thought we'd be here all day Saturday. But we were able to put some differences aside and come to a meaningful agreement, and I would like it explained to me why we can't stick by that agreement. It makes sense to do some tweaks, like I said, but those tweaks have to be done in good faith. And when I see the amendment that's come out for the legislative map and I see that's not a tweak, that's a huge change, and that it advantages one party in a way that's really unfair, you know, I feel duped. And a lot of us should feel duped because people went back on the deal that we made. So what are we supposed to do with that? Colleagues, in politics, when we're operating with low trust, with low time and low communication, we're not going to have success.

FOLEY: One minute.

HUNT: Conservatives always talk about running government like a business. If I were running this Legislature like a business, I would look at these deficits that we have of time, trust, and communication and say, what of these things is in our control that we can raise the level on? Well, we can't really add more time. We can. We can take this into January. But I think there's an agreement in here that none of us really want to do that. We could increase the trust, but that would be a choice, and-- and I don't think anybody feels safe making that choice in this body. But we can really increase the communication. That's the easiest thing that we can do. Nobody should be seeing maps at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning the day before we're supposed to be voting on it, especially when the public hasn't had a chance to see that map either and be communicated with. So the communication has to rise. The time probably can't rise. But if we can increase the communication, I think that we'll see the trust increase as well and then we'll have more luck and we'll be able to move forward, and I hope that we're able to do that today. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator Pansing Brooks.

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PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, Nebraskans. Good morning, colleagues. I'm standing up because I-- I was voting last Friday on a map. I thought it was the map that everybody agreed to. It was a map where we stood down. We were willing to move forward. And now I'm hearing, oh, you were only voting on District 27. That's Senator Wishart's district, which had been basically decimated in some of the earlier maps. So all of a sudden, I come in this morning thinking, OK, well, General-- we're on Select now, we got through pretty easily last time, this should be-- not be a problem. But now all of a sudden-- and, you know, we were never happy with the way the congressional maps were set. We made an agreement with that change, with-- to the congressional maps, which became more rural in CD2. We made a-- we-- we made an agreement because we were understanding that, number one, District 27 wasn't going to be decimated, and we had general agreement on the maps. The maps were becoming more conservative in southern Lincoln and we had agreed to this. Now, all of a sudden, I'm hearing, oh, no, the only thing we were voting on, on Friday, was District 27. That was not made clear to anyone to whom I have talked. No one to whom I have talked has said, oh, yeah, we were just voting on 27. Why-- why wasn't that just discussed? Yeah, we-- we discussed 27. But because this ma-- map came up from conservatives, we thought we were just acquiescing finally and we had agreed and part of our-- part of what we lost was that congressional district up in Omaha. And now all of a sudden they're saying, oh, well no, it's-- it's-- it's totally different. We're now making-- we're going clear up with rural districts into Lincoln. And I've had some discussions with Senator Linehan and Speaker Hilgers, and there's complete miscommunication going on and they're aggravated. I'm aggravated. I'm aggravated because no one said, OK, today we're just talking and voting on Senator Wishart's district. We aren't talking about anything else. I thought we were moving forward with what we had and instead, nope, we were talking, in their minds, I guess, about Senator Wishart's district. I am not going to allow the conservatives to blame us for anything if this falls apart, and there's a real chance that this falls apart. And, yeah, that won't look good for any of us. It won't be good for the elections coming up next, in 2022. You're right. That hurts Democrats and Republicans in the elections if we do that; it hurts the counties. But don't tell me that all I was voting on was District 28. I want to ask some people some questions, if you don't mind. Senator Pahls, would you ask-- could I ask Senator Pahls--

FOLEY: Senator Pahls, would you yield, please?

PAHLS: Yes.

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PANSING BROOKS: Senator Pahls, were you aware that the only thing we were voting on was District 27 on Friday?

PAHLS: To be honest with you, no, but can I elaborate on that?

PANSING BROOKS: Sure.

PAHLS: My intent was this, is both sides would get together and talk about it be--

PANSING BROOKS: Yeah, we thought we had.

PAHLS: Well-- well, because--

FOLEY: One minute.

PANSING BROOKS: --initially--

PANSING BROOKS: OK, I need to get to some other people.

PAHLS: OK.

PANSING BROOKS: I'm sorry. You can use some time. Senator Kolterman could you-- could you speak, please.

FOLEY: Senator Kolterman, would you yield for questions, please?

PANSING BROOKS: Sorry. Sorry.

KOLTERMAN: Yes, I will.

PANSING BROOKS: Did-- did you know that we were only voting on District 27 on Friday when we moved that map off of General File?

KOLTERMAN: My understanding is we were voting all-- all the Lincoln senators that-- Lincoln, Lancaster, and I was involved in Dorn and Brandt. That-- what we had all agreed to is what I thought we were voting on.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you. I-- I agree. Thank you, Senator Kolterman. Senator Williams, could you please answer?

FOLEY: Senator Williams, would you yield, please?

PANSING BROOKS: Was it your understanding, Senator Williams--

WILLIAMS: Yes, I'd be happy to yield.

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PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Senator Williams. Would-- was it your understanding we were voting solely on District 28 and not the map as a whole?

WILLIAMS: My understanding Friday, after a lot of negotiations, we were dealing with the entire legislative map, and that's what I believed I was voting on.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Senator Williams.

FOLEY: That's--

PANSING BROOKS: I have no more questions right now. I'm out of time, I think. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I'm the senator that represents the border to Iowa, but I don't represent anybody in Iowa. I go to the Missouri River to the east in Cass County for District 2. I oppose the motion to recommit. And not talking about LB1, but we've been talking about the legislative map and I had some comments about that. On Thursday, the map for Legislative District 2 was shown to me and it was agreeable. It was a square area directly west of Cass County, adjacent to the east side of Lincoln, and that was very compact. It looked fine. But then on Friday, actually, I had-- nobody had told me, but suddenly the map that was up for a vote Friday morning was a complete different. It changed my portion of what I'm going to be getting in Lancaster County quite a bit. And I-- I call it the elephant. You know, the-- Cass County is the body of the elephant and the portion that was going to be just a square straight into Lancaster became an elephant's trunk, dropping straight down 18 miles and the previous map had been like 7 miles by 7 miles square, whatever it took to go into the edge of Lincoln to make a compact square edition. And so Senator Dorn and Senator-- but that was giving me some of what Senator Dorn currently represents and moved him over to take some of Senator Brandt's. And so the three of us agreed that we'd be willing to switch that back to how it had-- had been on Thursday and we asked the Speaker and the Speaker did work with me yesterday to put it back to pretty much what was on Thursday. And so it's now compact where, the Friday vote, I did vote for it to move things along with the understanding that there'd be some amendments made, but I considered these minor changes. I think I moved from 98th Street to-- to 84th Street. And changes are happening statewide. I'm sorry that, you know, Senator Matt Hansen is worried about some people that are being represented differently than they had been, but I have 14,500

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people in Sarpy County that for at least ten years have been represented by District 2. And a person just to their south in Cass County, where I live, now they're going to be represented by someone from Gothenburg, District 36, and I think that's a much bigger change than what's happening in east Lincoln. And so I just live 20 minutes from east Lincoln and I'm very accessible to the people. They're probably a shorter drive for where I live to east Lincoln than it was up to Sarpy County when I had that-- when I've had that area currently. And so I-- I have worked with the system. I was very surprised Friday that the elephant trunk appeared, but was very pleased the Speaker and--

FOLEY: One minute.

CLEMENTS: --Senator Linehan were willing to make adjustments. And I was told that there was agreement to make some adjustments of that sort. So I haven't even actually-- I saw what changes were proposed yesterday. I'm not sure that's what today's amendment is. I'll have to wait until I exactly see it, but I do object to the recommit to committee and would like to get on with voting on LB1 and will talk more about LB3 later. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Clements. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Good morning again, colleagues. Colleagues, I want to agree-- or clarify something I appreciate Senator Clements speaking his mind because his objection to the district that was drawn on-- on Friday is how we got here. That's how I understand the moving parts. And I want to say I don't object to Rob Clements personally representing parts of Lincoln, and I don't object to my constituents going to Rob Clements, Senator Clements, personally, I object to the city of Lincoln being cut up in a spiral pinwheel over ten legislative districts. Colleagues, we're going to do some math on the record here. I got it all up on my phone. So according to the census numbers I have, Lancaster County has 322,608 people. If you divide that by our target district of 40,031, you get the answer of 8.0589, so rounds down to eight. Lancaster County should be a closed map of exactly eight senators. And every time we allow another senator from another county to come in, it is breaking a community of interest in the city of Lincoln and it is inappropriate. We blew up the entire congressional map because Papillion and La Vista said we have to hang strong, you cannot possibly break up our two separate towns. And yet here I'm supposed to allow the state-- sorry, the city of Lincoln to spiral everywhere. There should be eight districts in-- self-contained in Lancaster County, probably about six Lincoln districts and maybe a north and south, or east and west, however you want to cut it, rural

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district that comes into town and represents Waverly, Hickman, and others. That's where we've got. So it's not just that a district came into Lincoln and I'm upset about a particular precinct. I was uncomfortable with this situation to begin with. I think it is suspect to begin with. And now we have Districts 21, 25, 26, 28, 27, 46, 2, 30, 32. We have so many districts and all of them, except for maybe 32, I'll have to check, have parts of the city of Lincoln, and 32 certainly gets close if it's not exactly in. So we are asking constituents of Lincoln who live next to each other, who live within a mile of each other, to potentially vote for election representatives that live not only in other counties, but they could live in three other counties; actually, they could live in six other counties if you count all four counties that are in LD32 in addition to Lancaster. Lancaster should be a closed map. We should not break county lines. There's no need to break county lines. But in order to give all of the districts around Lincoln what they wanted, we started carving up Lancaster County, and that was something I could agree to as long as the city of Lincoln was kept relatively in Lincoln districts. Just to give an example, this isn't like you come up to the edge of town. If people want to walk through me with this [SIC], envision the intersection of 70th and Van Dorn in Lincoln. That has been a built-up area, that has been a place that has been part of town my entire life. But beyond that, this is a core part of town right by-- right by Holmes Lake Park. You are now in a situation where the southwest-- sorry, the southeast corner of that's represented by District 25, which goes all the way out to Bennett; the northeast corner of that is represented to District 2 that all the way goes out to Cass County; and then the west side of that 70th Street is represented by a Lincoln district, District 29. You have people who live across the street from each other in neighborhoods in Lincoln that have existed intact for longer than I've been alive who are now split and spiraled into many different rural areas when you very easily could have just six Lincoln districts and two rural Lancaster County districts and you don't split the county at all. Similarly--

FOLEY: One minute.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Similarly, as I understand it, Senator Dorn's district, District 30, comes all the way up to Old Cheney. And I know he came up into the southern part of town last time, and I would have objected to it last time as well, but it comes all the way up to Old Cheney, to The Knolls, where my father-in-law lived as a child, like this is the core level of neighborhoods that we're dealing with in Lincoln. We are taking districts that have been in Lincoln for decades and decades and decades, and we are pinwheeling

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them. And if Senator Clements wants to complain about the elephant trunk, that LD2 happened, that's fair. I-- it did-- wasn't the prettiest district. We now have what I'm going to call-- going to call a shepherd's crook that comes up and loops in and grabs what used to be 29 and 27 and throws it in with Gage County. There is-- and I will pantomime for the cameras, but there's definitely a left-leaning hook that grabs kind of the 14th/Old Cheney-40th/Old Cheney area. I mean, if we're calling out bad shapes, we're calling out bad shapes and that's a bad shape.

FOLEY: That's time.

M. HANSEN: Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Groene.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in support of LB1 as amended, but I'd like to discuss the blue dot. I happen to believe this is a time for the second house to act. They should have acted a long time ago because we have two aberrations in our state government. One is the Unicameral, which should go away. The one-- the other is how we apportion our Electoral College votes. It is us and New Hampshire that are the oddballs, needs to go away. In Nebraska, we have the initiative process, petition process. Across the state, we have people organizing. I'm sure, if you are a conservative, you have been contacted by people in your district, people across the state. They want to do something. What can we do? How can we get involved? They got involved and organized over the perversion that was attempted to be taught in our schools. They got involved about the vaccine mandates, the tyrant in the White House and his policies. You are organized. What you can do without my blessing or this body's blessing or the Governor's blessing is the initiative and the petition process. You have an opportunity of the petition out there on voter ID. You can also change our law on how we apportion our Electoral College. In 1991, this thing passed by only 25 votes and it was a "Unicameralist" who was being nice, who changed his vote to make sure they had 25 back in '91. They even had a bracket motion that received 22 votes. I still don't understand why that bill was not filibustered. It needs to go away, people. That's up to you because it's not going to happen here. Senator Gragert, when I-- first two years will go down in history as the vote because he was mad. Senator Hilkemann brought a bill to get rid of it. It failed by one vote. He got mad, pulled his vote. That's how government-- you talk about making sausage. That's what happens down here. This is your opportunity, people, to do an initiative, take 7 percent of who voted in the last Governor's election to change the law, because this is a law-- this is not in our constitution-- a bad

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law. I'm going to finish by a quote that somebody sent me that hit home from Winston Churchill: If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without bloodshed, if you will not fight when your victory is sure and not too costly, you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory because it is better to perish than to live as slaves. I look at that as under socialism, when you become chattel, when you're told what shot you should take on your personal healthcare, when you are shamed by the radicals, when you have the pronoun Nazis attacking you when you say a pronoun that they don't like. People, you need to rise up. There are other petitions you could do. You could do one on sex education. You could do one on vaccine mandates. Fifty-eight, nearly 59 percent of Nebraskans voted for Trump.

FOLEY: One minute.

GROENE: They voted for Governor Ricketts. They voted for Senator Fischer. The numbers are there. The numbers are there and this body will not do it. You have to do it yourself. It's time. I will help. There are a lot of people who will help. I'll be just a peasant like the rest of you and go out and get signatures, but you need to do it and you need to do it now because we have reached that time where we are in a precarious situation in our country where it might be too late within ten years. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I still stand in support of motion 7. And I just-- I appreciate what Senator John Cavanaugh said this morning about the mothers' room. And I did intend to speak about the mothers' room more this morning. I was asked to meet with the Chair of the Exec Board this morning with not very much notice, and I was in a meeting at the time, and my office did say that he could come and find me on the floor. He has chosen not to do that. So I don't really appreciate him telling people that I refuse to meet with him. I just was busy doing the work of my constituents and the people of Nebraska. So I will continue talking about the mothers' room until we have a clear answer as to what is happening next. And right now, it has been one week since my office on the 11th floor has been empty to be utilized by any staff member that needs to be rearranged to reinstate the mothers' room. The mothers' room is just down this corridor near the Clerk's Office and the Speaker's Office and the Exec Board office. It was never intended to be temporary. It was intended to be permanent. Everyone who agreed to it in that room with me in

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2019 agreed to it being a permanent, dedicated space. Private dollars were utilized to pay for it. And I just want to make that very clear because there's been some gentlemen in the state of Nebraska that have contacted me that they didn't want their taxpayer dollars going to this. Don't worry, gentlemen. While we do populate the world, I'd hate for taxpayer dollars to go to support us doing that work while also providing for our families, so no taxpayer dollars were used in the formation of the mothers' room, just private dollars, because, you know, who cares about 50 percent-- actually, it's over 50 percent of the legislative workforce is female. So when you say women choose to work in this building, what would you all do if they all chose to just walk out right now? Because I'm looking in front of me and I see a lot of ladies that could choose to not work in this building and this building would not function. So maybe have a little bit more respect for the people that work in this building. The people that choose to work in this building, all of them, deserve our respect and deserve to be supported in the workplace. I have been contacted by so many people who have visited this building, who have worked in this building, who have been lobbyists in this building. I was contacted by them two years ago. I've been contacted by new people. People keep coming up to me about their experiences in this building. I shared my experience as a state senator in this building and it wasn't good. It was not good. And I get notes from, again, men who say, what's wrong with using a public restroom sink to wash your-- your parts, you only have to use them like once, it's not that big a deal. I mean, you're supposed to sanitize it, first of all, so, like, I mean, you know, where people poop isn't a great place to sanitize things. That's not where I sanitized things when I was at home. I didn't take everything into the restroom to sanitize, so why would I do that when I'm at work? That makes no sense whatsoever. Whether you think women should be working or not is pretty much irrelevant. In Nebraska, I believe it is 78 percent--

FOLEY: One minute.

M. CAVANAUGH: --of parents are in the workforce, whether they're male or female. And we have a workforce shortage, but we just keep on digging in on things that impact that, that make people want to flee from this state because we don't care. We want to have a workforce, but they can't be brown. We want to have a workforce, but they can't have ovaries. We want to have a workforce, but they can't be gay or have pronouns, apparently, is now a new thing. It's-- it's mind boggling to me that this is still a thing. It's mind boggling to me that that mothers' room hasn't been reinstated, that that room has not

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been vacated, and I'm going to continue talking about it because I have a lot more to say today about the mothers' room. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh. Senator John Cavanaugh.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. So, well, I wanted to continue my conversation about the congressional map. So, well, I got a lot of thoughts on it, so I'm trying to get them all. I appreciate Senator Hansen giving us the time to talk about this, because these maps did seem like they were dropped on us and that we were going really fast. And so I took the weekend to think through what my concerns were. But I've heard a lot of people talking about, you know, elected officials shouldn't pick their constituents, it should go the other way, constituents, people should pick their elected officials. And then we have a lot of people who seem to say they hold that belief and then get up here and talk about how they don't feel comfortable representing this area or they don't want this area or they think it should be changed in some way to accommodate them, the elected official, which I guess is not really the reason I rose to speak, but that just bugs me. So I just thought I'd let you all know, since we're-- I guess, you know, we're all friends. This is a safe space. I'll tell you what bo-- it bothers me. So the-- you know, I have long been in favor of a nonpartisan Redistricting Committee. Senator McCollister has presented that before. This body has, I think, passed it and was vetoed before. So I think the one big takeaway I have from this entire process is the necessity for taking it out of the political sphere. I recognize-- I did go down to the map room. I did spend some time trying to figure out how that worked and wrote the map. So I-- all of my complaints, considerations, objections to these maps has baked in an understanding of how difficult the process is. And so I have a lot of respect for everyone on the committee who did this work, for the staff that did this work, that drew these maps, to find out, to get these congressional maps in particular, to so close a deviation. However, the congressional map itself has decisions baked in, not logistical problems, but decisions baked in that are political. And so when you look at the congressional map, you can see there may have been hurdles to drawing a map. And Senator Wayne, I think, accurately articulated a number of these very well on the floor last week and the week before, the problems that we have in terms of drawing maps that are-- that meet the requirements that we ask them to, but also meet the number requirements that the constitution dictates. And so this map meets the number requirement, but the requirement that we asked it to meet is clearly demonstrated on the face of the map, which is we cut out a whole big section of central Sarpy County, put it to the 1st Congressional District, and

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then swapped that for Saunders County. And I have not heard a nonpartisan explanation for why we did that. We did have a consideration, and Senator Wayne in his original map drew to include Congressman Bacon's house in the 1st con-- in the 2nd Congressional District, which is not required but is certainly a-- a courtesy and a-- and a congenial thing to do. And so the map he drew included his house. We have come to find out that there's a-- a second house on the horizon that Sen-- that Congressman Bacon wants to build. And Senator Linehan correctly pointed out that Congressman Bacon served this country in the military and had to move, I believe it was, 16 times and doesn't want to move again. And I feel for him. I do. I don't want to move again either. I've only moved about four times in my life and I don't want to do it. But we drew a congressional map that included all of Douglas County, which I was in favor of and I asked for and I stood up here and argued for, and I appreciate that. But then we went out into Saunders County to get a bunch more Republican-leaning--

FOLEY: One minute.

J. CAVANAUGH: --voters and then cut out parts of Sarpy County that were apparently unfavorable and then swooped back in to go from Congressman Bacon's current house almost right up to exactly where the proposed new house is. And so I was thinking about this when Senator Groene was talking about the uniqueness of Nebraska being a-- a Unicameral, one-house state. And we are here arguing, advocating for drawing a congressional map that draws our congressman's two houses into it. So I just thought that was something that was interesting and should be pointed out. But nonetheless, my opposition to this map is the choices we made and why we drew it the way we drew it. There are less partisan ways to draw this map, and a nonpartisan Redistricting Committee would have drawn them that way. And so I'm still against LB1 for the same reasons I always have been, which is politicians should not choose their constituents, the constituents should choose a politician, and when we draw maps specifically for that reason, we're doing them a disservice. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator John Cavanaugh. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I always have trouble figuring out what I'm going to wear to work here. I always have trouble dressing for this job. At home, my background is in fashion and-- and design and retail, and I work in design and retail now. And so the things I wear today-- day to day are a little different than what I would typically wear here when I'm trying to look a little more professional. And every day before I come here, I look at the weather and I see, oh, it's going to be 90 degrees, 91 degrees, 98 degrees, 20

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degrees, whatever. But here in the Chamber, it's always really, really cold to me, and so no matter how hot it is outside, I always have to bring a few extra layers with me. And I think it's because most people wear suits, and if I wear a suit every day, I would probably want it to be a little cooler in here as well, so that's something I always think about every day here. But on LB1 and on the maps that need to move together between Congress and the Legislature, I would like to understand why this is all happening on this timeline. I understand ostensibly that we need to make sure that Senator Clements' concerns are taken care of. But when we took care of his concerns without having transparency and communication with the other members, it lowered the trust in the body, it raised new concerns for other members that it's understood that we're not going to take seriously, that we're not going to take any time between now and, you know, Final Reading, we're not-- we're not going to have another amendment to discuss those concerns. And that's a partisan decision, and it's-- it's based in power and it's based in party and, you know, there's no real reason for us to think that it was ever going to be any other way. The people of Nebraska, of course, hoped it would not be this way. But I think that all of us would be fooling ourselves if we thought it wouldn't go this way in such a partisan way. It also-- this process has highlighted to all of us the technology problems that we have in this body. When COVID started in March 2020, it became apparent immediately that we had a lot of limitations in the Legislature with our technology. We weren't able to have remote hearings like many other legislatures were doing around the country. We all had to convene together, which posed a huge risk, you know, that-- that summer when we were all meeting together, especially knowing that there's so many people in this body and in this Capitol who don't believe in vaccines, who won't get vaccinated, who won't wear a mask, putting all of us at risk, you know, many of us who have to go home to young children who are not yet eligible for the vaccine, for example. So that lack of technology really created-- it exacerbated a public health problem that we were facing in this building. And, you know, you have to think to yourself, in Nebraska, we have the smallest Legislature in the country with 49 members. What if, you know, a huge percentage of us had come down with COVID or died? What if we'd been incapacitated? Like that would have just been horrible for the security of our state. To me, it was a state security issue. And with redistricting, I don't think it's super different in terms of a state security issue. We are getting maps passed out to us with paper. We're waiting, you know, hours for these to all get printed off because they're printing, like, so slowly, I guess. I was hearing people talk about that. I wasn't in the room with the printer, but that's the story I heard. We all have laptops that the state gives

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to us. We all have staff. Many legislatures don't have any staff at all. Many legislators don't have offices. In states like Maine, they don't even get offices.

FOLEY: One minute.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I have so much more to say. So we obviously have the workforce and we have the power to get all of this information distributed, whether that's via email or through our staff or whatever. So I have to wonder if the lack of technology and the lack of advancement that we have in this Legislature is a little bit strategic at this point because it's not serving the minority and it's not serving the majority. It's not serving anybody who needs to have the information quickly to get stuff done. So during COVID, we talked about doing an interim study about the technology capacity of the Capitol. And I think that's something that we should move forward with so that we can work more efficiently, save money for the state, honestly, and this process has really reminded me about the need for that as well. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Good aft-- good morning, colleagues. I support the motion 7, the motion to recommit to committee. This whole conversation this morning kind of reminds me of the famous movie Cool Hand Luke, that 1967 movie where the line was: What we have here is a failure to communicate. I understood the deal on Friday was to-- was the whole enchilada, all of the motions, that we had a deal and there wouldn't be any significant changes on Tuesday when we came back. And I'm not that cool on Saunders County being in LD2, legislative or Congressional District 2. It's my understanding that the committee needs to bargain in good faith and I'm starting to see that some evidence that we are not bargaining in good faith. We're moving the goalposts between General and Select, and I think that that's a failure by the committee. We also see shifting alliances inside the committee itself and that's troublesome. The process, I think, is becoming checkered, and we need to examine this process. Maybe the wisdom of an independent commission is becoming more obvious as we undergo these conversations today. I don't know where the conversation's going to lead us today, but I hope it's bargaining in good faith and the members of the committee take their respective positions and come up with an equitable solution. I don't think we should be pushing for every little bit of partisan advantage in these negotiations. I thought we had a deal. Thank you, Mr. President.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McCollister. Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized, your third opportunity.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. A couple of things first into the record: One, I heard the horrifically offensive anti-LGBT thing a few minutes ago. I don't have the bandwidth to fight this right here and now, but be assured, I heard it and I will make sure that it's aware, and we'll try and solve it as best we can. Second, I agree we had a deal. I am 100 percent open to voting on the maps line for line as we approved them on Friday. I didn't even particularly like those maps on Friday, both Congress or Legislature, but I had been assured that we had gotten to a deal and that we were going to all stand by it. And part of the reason I'm extra heated of this, if you'll remember, I did similar things on General File and I had position to maybe not outright block an amendment, but I had position to at least make it uncomfortable and at least take some time and eat up time and maybe disrupt the process. I chose not to. I withdrew my amendment proposing the Wayne map-- Senator Wayne's maps on both LB1 and LB3 to clear room for what I was told was a compromise amendment. And then I was further told many times that it would only be technical tweaks, it would only be a line, a block. I was even told that Lincoln was kind of set in stone, and apparently it wasn't. That's where I'm coming from. I cleared the field, was a good sport, whatever the metaphor you want to use, and let a compromise move forward on Friday, a compromise that I was hesitant about at the time because it was my absolute line in the sand, it was the-- what I could take and what I could live with and what I could justify to the people of city of Lincoln that we kept the city of Lincoln from being broken up too much. And I just kind of had to trust people that Omaha was also not broken up too much, because that wasn't my focus and that wasn't my thing. Had this map came over and shuffled up, western districts, honestly, had this map came and shuffled up Sarpy County districts, I don't know if I would be leading this. I doubt it, because my focus the whole time has been protecting Lincoln, which has been dangerously cut up repeatedly. I didn't even necessarily think the maps we've had for the last ten years are appropriate in the sense that 32 and 30 both don't have to come that close to city limits. There are ways to draw that to keep those more rural seats, and I thought we made progress this year. As I've said before, there is a math, and actually the appropriate math, if you just was like how many legislative districts should Lancaster County get? The answer is eight, should be eight on the dot. It's within less than half; it's less than-- yeah, like less than-- less than half a percentage off from that. Tiny deviation, it could be closed ecosystem or, worse, you could have one person come over the line for some population shifts. That's possible, and those are maps we didn't

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progress with because I kind of knew they'd be nonstarters. I'd be-- knew they'd be nonstarters because they'd probably start messing with Senator Dorn, and Senator Clements, Senator Brandt, honestly, Senator Slama's districts and I kind of knew that would be a nonstarter. So I've approached this from a spirit of compromise the whole time. There's some difficulties with us literally being in southeast and eastern Nebraska, boxed in by the other states. But there's a way to get Lincoln to have core districts and core neighborhoods stay with Lincoln senators, and that's what I want. That's what I have been wanting and that's what I thought I agreed to. You know, even with me personally, I was talking about it. People have come over and over and over again.

FOLEY: One minute.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I've had several people go, you know, Matt, Senator Hansen, LD26 didn't change from the proposal, and I know it didn't. But the precincts that I have lost on the eastern side of my district have changed what district they go to into a number of times, and there are some senators that make sense and there are some that don't. And that's fundamentally-- I cannot know how somebody goes from being in a Lincoln district, being in a Lancaster-only district for decades and decades and decades and decades, and all of a sudden gets pinwheeled out to other side counties. Maybe a small town on the edge of the county line, I get that; maybe if you've got to grab Hickman or Malcolm or something, I get that. I could support that, I could understand that, and I think it's, if you're keeping those towns intact, that makes sense. But to pinwheel like 70th and Van Dorn, 80th and O, 84th and O Street, you know, the community college, like we got pretty close to Lincoln East High School--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

M. HANSEN: --on one of the maps. Thank you Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Matt Hansen. Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I rise opposed to LB1 mainly because I think LB1 would make it difficult for someone like me to win a congressional seat in CD2. I support the motion to recommit as well. But I rise to talk about prisons again because we have a prison overcrowding crisis and a staffing crisis in our state, and I just wanted to share some data. So in 1991, the poverty rate in my district, which is LD-- LD11, north Omaha, was 34 percent. The budget for the De-- for the Department of Corrections was \$55 million, a

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little-- \$55,640,919. In 2019, the poverty rate in LD11 was 33.5 percent. But the budget for the Department of Corrections ballooned to \$200-- \$2-- \$228,390,827. So the poverty rate between '91 and 2019 went down a half a per-- not even a half a percent, but the budget for the Department of Corrections went from \$55 million to \$228 million. Tell me how that makes sense. And we wonder why we have a prison crisis. The average poverty rate for the last 30 years, which has been my lifetime, has been 35.66 percent. For the last ten years it's been 38 percent. The average budget the last 30 years for the Department of Corrections: \$145,364,649. For the past ten years, it's been \$207,629,187. I bring this up because a lot of times people stand up and support voter suppression and all those other things and talk about people should pull themselves up by their bootstraps and all the other things that people say around this country. But this state has not invested in north Omaha. The poverty rate is what it's been my whole lifetime, then we wonder why we have a prison crisis. The state is failing kids in north Omaha year after year. I-- I don't know if you all really understand what it is like to grow up in poverty and grow up poor and not feel like there's any hope for a future for you when your-- your state doesn't support you. Drive through my district. It's a clear lack of investment. It's not only from the state. The city of Omaha is horrible as well and Douglas County is horrible as well, and I'll get on them later. But we-- we're going into January and we're-- we're going to have bills concerning the prisons, and I support full reform of our sentencing and all other things. But we also have money coming to the state. And I just want to make it clear, if we get into January and there isn't real, intentional commitment to make sure we invest in north Omaha, there's going to be a real problem from me and other senators in-- in the body because we cannot continue to go down the road that we've been going down for the past 30 years. If-- if this state doesn't want to-- want to invest in north Omaha or other communities of high poverty, then we don't need to give property tax relief, we don't need to create new lakes across the state or any of those things, if you not-- if you're not committed to-- to decreasing the amount of poverty--

FOLEY: One minute.

McKINNEY: --that has consist-- that-- that has been in my district for the past 30 years. And I just-- I'm-- I'm just rising to say that. So we-- what is it, September? We have until January. I hope everyone comes in, in January, with good intentions to make sure we invest in communities of high poverty, like my district. But also I hope others in the body support reforming our criminal justice system, not just in

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the prisons, but also on the front end as well with the police, the county jails, and everything else. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McKinney. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized, your third opportunity.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, colleagues. So I had talked about-- oh, I still stand in support of the motion to recommit to committee. I oppose LB1 on redistricting the congressional maps. So I've talked about the private dollars for the mothers' room. And they're not just private dollars. They are actually a grant that the Capitol Commission sought. So for those of you that aren't familiar with how grants work, they're very specific. You ask a foundation for money for a specific thing, and then you use the money for that thing; if you don't, you give the money back. You don't take the money from a foundation, use it, then do something totally different with the space and then not tell them. That is what we call a no-no in the nonprofit world. It should be a no-no in the State Capitol. There is my office on the 11th floor that is still available, so the email that we have received about this still not being resolved, it could be resolved right now. I am not going back into my office. I will stay in the hallway as long as it takes. I have been up on that floor since I started here. I can be in the hallway for 18 more months. I don't care. I care about the women that work and visit this building having the dedicated space that they deserve. That is what I care about. The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, which covers companies with 15 or more employees, says employers must provide break time and appropriate facilities for expressing milk. This is something that the Legislature passed, LB627 in 2015. So why don't we have to be held accountable to our own laws? Why don't we have to take care of women who are pregnant and nursing in our own building? I hear people talk about how this is the people's house. This building is open every day of the week. So when I say it's been seven days, it's been seven days. It's been Saturday; it's been Sunday. Any woman who walks into this building and needs a mother's room has been denied that opportunity, and really a privilege that they should enjoy in their own State Capitol for the last seven days, longer because we didn't know about it, the pod, the pod, the pod. OK, so I went to the pod last week and I put in the code to open it and it didn't open. So then I tried to download the app to open it on my phone because I'm fortunate enough to have a phone and I have a data plan that even if the Wi-Fi in here isn't working, I can still use the data on my phone. I tried both the Wi-Fi and the data and it took an hour to download the app. Now, let me just tell you, gentlemen, if I were in need of expressing milk and I had to wait an hour, it would be a very messy situation. It would be

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a lot of people looking at me like you got some stuff coming through your shirt. It would be extraordinarily uncomfortable and it could be medically dangerous because you can get an infection from not expressing milk--

FOLEY: One minute.

M. CAVANAUGH: --when you need to express milk. So it is a medical necessity. It's not a luxury. It's really not a luxury. It's a commitment. It's a commitment that not everyone can make. But when somebody does make that commitment, it should be honored in the workplace or outside of the workplace. The pod, you can't even get into it, so downloaded the app, figured out that I had to put in all this information. I didn't go through the process because, you know, redistricting, and I didn't need it, so I didn't take the time. So I asked my staff today to go and see about getting into the pod. And I think I only have a few seconds left, so I can't give you-- walk you through that entire story, so we'll have to save that for next time. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Well, gosh, there's just so many things to talk about right now. One of them is, of course, the mothers' room, and Senator Hughes has sent out something saying that they'll take care of it as soon as possible. And that's-- leaves a lot of wiggle room for me, but hopefully it will be soon because there's already an office up on 11 that Senator Cavanaugh has moved out of and hopefully we can resolve this. Otherwise, I think there's some issues about misappropriation of-- of funds and-- and other legal issues like that. So I'm happy to think about those issues. The other thing I wanted to talk about is everybody's whining and upset about the fact that-- that the western part of the state is losing people. And what do we hear today on the floor? "Pronoun Nazis," literally, "pronoun Nazis," and these terrible people that care about, you know what, I'm a "her" and I really don't want to be called "him" or "his" or have those pronouns used when discussing me. I presume Senator Aguilar doesn't want "her" applied to him. I also presume that about Senator Groene and Senator Dorn. We know your pronouns in this building and we respect those pronouns and we talk to you with respect in those pronouns. Now, if some other people come to us and tell you, these are the pronouns that I use, for goodness' sakes, where is your kindness and compassion? You want to grow the western part of the state, but that's one of the things that comes out on the floor in redistricting is grammar Nazis? Come on. Kindness-- what does it hurt you to call somebody by the pronoun they want? How

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in the world does that affect any part of your life? But it might affect that person and it might affect you because you've shown kindness to that person. Kindness, that's all it is. And it's welcoming people, welcoming all sorts of people into the state. Continually we have all of these issues and people say, well, why are we losing senators in the western part of the state? Well, clue number one: grammar Nazis; clue number two, I mean, there is issue after issue that makes young people think, I don't want to be out there anymore. And that's too bad. That's a beautiful area. And as broadband gets moving and growing, that allows more people to be out there and live out there. I think we're in a-- in a little-- a little part of our-- of our world right now and a little moment of time where we're having this issue. I think as we expand, as broadband gets expanded across the state, as new opportunities arise, as we welcome young people, welcome young people, then the western part has a chance to grow because of its beauty and the nature and the skies. But to continue to say no to all these things that people care about in their lives, about who they are and who they tell you they are? Goodbye, western Nebraska. That's the problem. Now, again, we've talked today, I think Senator McCollister talked about miscommunication. That is a huge part of what's going on. To say that Satur-- that last Friday's General File vote was just about--

FOLEY: One minute.

PANSING BROOKS: --District 27, I talked to so many people, conservatives, progressives on the floor, that did not understand that. Now maybe some people did understand that. But again, we need to have better communication, better understanding. And what's to cause us to agree to something today on especially-- well, either one of these maps, and then you're going to come back again on Final and say, oh, well, this senator was not happy without it. And we told you about that. Well, we have senators that aren't happy on the progressive side, so I don't understand why we're supposed to jump. We're supposed to jump because Bacon bought property outside of his district. That, to me, is one of the most shocking things. And as I talk to people, yeah, let's just create districts for people who want to live in other places. Thank you, Mr. President-- or Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wayne would move to bracket LB1 until 9-30.

FOLEY: Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

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WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I wasn't even going to speak today. I really haven't spoke at all to Lancaster County because it was never part of my negotiations, at least. But when people start lying on my staff, I got to get up here and talk, so I used this motion to jump to the front of the line because it seems that senators are saying that my staff and me made changes yesterday to Lancaster County. Let me be clear. The only changes we made yesterday is we moved-- Senator Lathrop's district had a notch that we tried to remove. We actually flipped it to make it within deviation, a little bit lower. Senator McCollister, LD20, was above 4 point-- or a 4 percent deviation, so we moved Boys Town to the next district. When we moved those two things, District-- Senator Pahls's district became slightly heavy, so we moved 36 into that area, about three to four blocks. I didn't touch, nor did my staff touch Lancaster County. In fact, throughout this whole process, we've never touched Lancaster County. So you want to know how we got here today? We got here today by running around a process. Before we even started redistricting, there was a deal done in Lancaster County. That deal fell through. Then, all of a sudden, we had another deal in Sarpy County-- I mean, in Lancaster County. Both of those should have been Lancaster. There was a deal done in Lancaster County. That deal fell through before we even started redistricting, then a second deal in Lancaster County, which put pressure on Douglas and Sarpy County because of Senator Clements. When you bring Kolterman in from the east and you move things around, Senator Clements has to go into Sarpy County, which moves 36 all the way up to Valley. And that was the one thing the Vice Chair said she didn't want to happen in the district, the-- I mean, Chair, sorry, Chair-- got corrected, I'm so sorry-- Chair. She didn't ask for anything else regarding Douglas and Sarpy County except for that one thing. Well, then there was another thing that came later in negotiations about moving her district to Bennington. So we honored that. And if you look at Sarpy, Douglas, Sarpy County, pretty much everybody got what they wanted because there was clear communication on both sides throughout the whole process. And then at one point last week, I stood up and told all of my colleagues on-- on this side of the fence, I said, we are going to put 36 into south Sarpy, which is going to move Clements out. And if you start from the west and you move to the middle, you got Lancaster-- and sorry, Senator Clements, I'm being clearly transparent-- we're going to box Clements into Lancaster because there's nowhere else for him to go. After the maps came out on Friday, there was a big huddle right over here, Brandt, Dorn, Senator Clements, Senator Geist. I said then and I said it today, that's not my issue. They know their communities better than me. They should be able to work it out. Yesterday, I was in the map room. There were senators there and they could name themselves who

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were there. I was not one of them dealing with Lancaster County, nor my staff. But I want to remind people it's been three different deals of Lancaster County that has ran around this committee that has caused delays in this whole process. That has nothing to do with the Chair or Vice Chair and many people on that committee, so don't spread rumors about my staff down there working on Lancaster County when Trevor has done more for this damn body in the last two weeks than anybody else on both sides of the fence. And for a senator to lie, that's unacceptable. We had delays because people were lying about data, making up their own data just to keep things going. We had a delay of 36 hours because a map wouldn't get done. I literally haven't worked for four weeks, so that's why I'm frustrated, because we put time in. And you ask anybody on the committee, it's been Lancaster County the entire time and it's been people who are outside of the committee trying to figure it out. So am I going to support this? I don't like LB1. I didn't vote for it the first time. But what we're doing here today, trying to put everything about this Lancaster County deal, is wrong. There were four people over here negotiating about their districts and now somehow it's about the core of Lincoln. So I don't care if we want to delay. I don't care if you want to filibuster. I don't care about any of that. But what you're not going to do is make lies about my staff because that will carry over for every year that I'm down here. I understand politics. I understand games. I consider myself pretty good at it, according to Senator Erdman. Sarpy and Douglas County have 25 districts in there and yet Sarpy and Douglas County figured it out. Lancaster County over lunch should go in a room and figure it out, and if you don't figure it out, we go back to the original, your changes in Douglas and Sarpy County that had no objections, and we move forward. That's my simple proposal. But the next time I hear especially a senator, and you can count this as a threat, lie about my staff, every one of your bills are going to be filibustered and I'm going to try to kill everything you got because you don't do that. Thank you, Mr. President. I withdraw my motion.

FOLEY: Motion's withdrawn. Continuing discussion, Senator Groene.

GROENE: Thank you. I still stand in support of LB1 as amended. I just wanted to correct the record so people heard me earlier. It's-- the second state is Maine, not New Hampshire, that has-- doesn't have voter-take-all, a Freudian slip, something like Senator Wayne just did, the Vice Chair. But 'cause New Hampshire pops in my mind a lot because it's a dream state that doesn't have any income tax, sales tax, or-- or capital gains taxes. It only has a tax on interest earned and dividends. Plus, it's got a very low property tax. I've always wondered how they survived up there with those lower taxes, but

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apparently they don't believe in less government, so a Freudian slip. I apologize. It's Maine and New Hampshire. As to my other comments, I'm sorry, but I do follow science. There are two sexes, male and female. I will never call my bull a cow and I will never call a boar a sow. Now, as humans, we have free will. Who you want to have love with, who you want to have sex with, you can do that. I don't care. But I'm going to follow science. That is not an insult to anybody. That is just common sense. I don't want to know. Who you're married to, how you live your life, your personal life, I don't care. But when I meet a stranger, I'm going to be polite, call them sir or madam, she or he. You're taking it too far. That was my comment. And as far as sexual behavior in a free society, I will follow the Bible and I will use the definition of something. I'm not going to judge you. I'm going to hire you if you can do the job. But you are not going to silence me and a majority of Americans who have certain values. You can "twit" all you want-- Twitter all you want to the twits, Senator Hansen, but that's fine. I'll stand and I will be persecuted for what is right, if that's what you wish to do. Thank you. [MICROPHONE MALFUNCTION]

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Matt Hansen would move to bracket LB1-- LB1--

M. HANSEN: Yes.

ASSISTANT CLERK: --to September 30, 2021.

FOLEY: Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized to open on your motion.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. For the sake of the body today, I'm not going to respond to Senator Groene's bigotry right now other than to condemn it as flat-out bigotry and we'll leave it for there. We've got more important things to do. And I'm going to start off by agreeing with Senator Wayne. Yes, Lancaster County has been working together as a county, which is what he also just credited Douglas and Sarpy Counties for doing. So I don't know why us working together as a committee is a-- sorry, as a county is a bad thing. I have spoken to a number of Lancaster County senators. I thought that's the whole purpose of having regionally based congressional districts, caucuses, the regionally based congressional district Redistricting Committee members. I, too, have been told many times things that 100 percent contradict by senators with a straight face. I have been told who drew the map I'm arguing about has been accused of being two different senators, and I don't believe it was either of them. But I agree these lies are flying around, and that is why trust is 100 percent empty for

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me. I feel that I have been lied to-- to-- by my face, by a number of other senators, and I'm going to stand and agree with Senator Wayne that this is not appropriate, how we operate in the body. I have been careful in what I've even said because I've been worried that even just sharing information that I couched, that I don't know if it's true or not, is going to get-- somehow come back to me and I'm going to get blackmailed for it. I feel like I've been baited into be looking at a map and then somebody spread a rumor that I agreed to a map that I did not agree to, just to cause doubt and discord in this body. And I feel like that's happened at least twice to me, and I know it's happened more to other senators. So if we're just airing grievances on the microphone, this process has been broken from the beginning. The Redistricting Committee has been too walled off from the rest of the body, apparently in both directions. I think we're now at the point where Senator Clements and Senator-- and I both dislike two companion maps as much as the other one dislikes the other one. I see the frustration and I see the frustration coming over from everybody. We need kind of a straight answer of what we're supposed to do to get to a compromise map. Am I supposed to work it out with my three Congressional 1 members of CD1 redistricting? Am I supposed to only go through the Vice Chair as the person who's supposed to talk to my party? Am I allowed to talk to the Speaker? Am I not allowed to talk to the Speaker? Am I allowed to draft a map? I don't know, and I've been told all of those things and I've been told not to do all of those things over the course of this past week. Maybe this is just the compression of special session dumping on all top of us. Maybe this is just chaos and this is how special sessions go. I don't know. I've never had the privilege of serving in one before. But fundamentally, I've just been trying to get eyes on a map of Lancaster and agree to it. And if you don't need my agreement, stop showing me the maps, like just go around me. Don't pretend like you're bringing me into the process if you're just going to pull the map, change everything around, throw up every li-- line, and then claim the deal was different, as has been claimed a number of times. Lancaster County has tried to work together and has tried to work together bipartisanly, want to be very clear, to understand what should happen in Lancaster County and the city of Lincoln. If we're just putting cards on the table, it started off as a city of Lincoln deal, which is what I care about, the whole point. This is the thing I care about is the city of Lincoln, and I thought we had a good deal for the city of Lincoln. We were going to basically have six Lincoln districts and one rural Lancaster district that came into the city of Lincoln. That got taken away before Redistricting Committee had hearings. I understood that. But to then say somehow that trying to be very clear in how we approach it is the problem when we're the ones who have been working

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and being transparent as best we can, probably to some of our own fault or some of our own kind of backslide that I can't look at a map without being claimed that I've sold out my party, I've sold out my caucus, I've sold out congressional district caucus, I've sold out Lincoln, I've sold out Omaha, this is where we're getting to and this is the level of mistrust we have in this body. I would really encourage us to take a long lunch, maybe to get some leadership in this body, to get some people in a room and see if we can get to an agreement. That's my proposal right now. I don't have to make that motion. I'm sure it's coming. Let's take a long lunch. Let's talk about it. But for me, as a senator in this process, like I'm sure probably all 40 of us who aren't in Redistricting Committee, maybe other than Speaker Hilgers, I don't know how I'm supposed to operate because every time I try and do something, every time I try and do something, I get told I'm subverting the process when I thought the process was for me to be a senator and advocate for the maps that I want. This is how-- this is how I am trying to operate, and this is the duty I owe to my constituents. And this is why I have been so upset on both General File and Select File that I've been told time and time again that I should air my grievances on the microphone, that I get trapped into something, that I should work it out under the balcony, then all of a sudden, oh, my God, I looked at a map and I must be committing to that map, there's no-- and don't believe what I'm personally saying or how I'm describing it to anybody. This is the level of high school politics that's going on. It's like-- it's-- it's student council body, oh, my God, did you see who's talking to who under the balcony, that is driving us nuts and, frankly, our voters should be ashamed of it. We should be embarrassed by how this session is going. Even if we get to a resolution today, which I'm open to, there-- I'm not even-- I want to go back to the map that we were at on Friday. I can vote for that right here, right now, and vote for the map on Friday. I could probably fudge some of those lines a little bit and live with it. But I need to know, what's that process for doing that? Who do I talk to? Who am I allowed to talk to? Who am I allowed to talk to without being said I'm subverting the process or going out of my lane or have rumors spread about me? And I'm sorry to just dump out all of this inside baseball on the floor, but frankly it's time. It's time, people of Nebraska. You should be looking at this process. You should be seeing how this is happening and know that it is as messy as it seems. It is as messy as it seems, to our misfortune and, frankly, to your misfortune. So I'm going to stand up here-- I'm going stand up here and I'm going to keep talking. I'm going to leave my motion up. I'm not going to pull it. I didn't mean to jump in the queue solely. I meant to jump the queue a little. But I'm going to leave it up to talk about it, because this is how much we need to get

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this squared away before we move on. If we've been told openly on this microphone that the deal is all six have to move together, we are holding up all of them until we have an understanding of what's going, and then ideally we could pull all the motions, sing "Kumbaya" and move on. But somebody actually has to work with me and my colleagues on a legislative map for Lancaster County and has to agree on what the process is and how we do the process and everything else, because apparently meeting with the Speaker directly is inappropriate; apparently meeting with my committee members on redistricting is inappropriate; apparently talking on the microphone is inappropriate; apparently offering an amendment is inappropriate. So I'm at the point where I'm not even necessarily negotiating, I'm just taking time and taking time and forcing other people to squirm a little bit to see if we can actually get some progress and actually get some people to say things out loud, to write them down, to put them on a map, whatever we need to do that we have an understanding of how we are going to move forward. This is grinding up and it's going to continue to be grinding up and I think we owe it an obligation to our constituents to get it done this week. I do. Truly, I do, and I think that's possible. But apparently it's not going to be done on the floor, it's not going to be done with us all splintering and running under our different balconies and then getting upset that so-and-so is talking to so-and-so under that balcony when they should be talking to so-and-so under that balcony. That's the level of frustration that people are getting at right now, myself included. It is tough. It is inappropriate. It is dysfunctional. And I understand why so many states and so many members of the public don't want legislative bodies to draw their own maps. I understood the concept before. Now I believe it, having been a relative outsider to this progress-- process. We are going to have to work and actually see some maps and actually know what is and is not on the table. And from my perspective, I need to know who I'm allowed to negotiate--

FOLEY: One minute.

M. HANSEN: --and who the in-betweens are going to be. Do I have to talk solely to Redistricting Committee members? Do I have to talk solely to a specific Redistricting Committee member? Can I jump to the Speaker? What is the answer? What is the answer? Because we all deserve to know that. We all deserve to know that because everything I've tried to do on this microphone, support a sincere amendment, talk, talk amongst my colleagues, talks amongst some of my colleagues, intentionally, bipartisanly in Lancaster, are all been told is the wrong thing. We need to figure out a way to move forward, and the first step in figuring out the way to move forward is to explain how

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the process is going to move forward for the rest of us and how I, as a senator not on Redistricting get to make a change and get to at least propose a change and have my change adequately considered in a way that is not going to be held up on the floor afterwards and told was inappropriate. So with that, I will conclude my remarks, Mr. President. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator John Cavanaugh.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I didn't know if I was going to get to talk before lunch. So while I again, I guess, I would echo a lot of what Senator Hansen said, being on the outside feels like a minefield just to get information, which maybe is why we're in certain situations we've been in. But the reason I rose is, again, to continue my comments on LB1 as currently amended and the reasons I don't like it. But in a broader context, we're all here to enact laws, changes in this particular case. We're changing the law as it pertains to the description of the legislative, congressional, judicial, Board of Regents, and State Board of Education maps. And one question you have to ask yourself whenever you are making a change to the law or proposing a new law is, does it make sense? And then you have to be ready and willing to defend the change you suggest and-- and adopt and explain why that's the thing that makes sense for the state of Nebraska. And so these maps came out on Friday. I said I'm going to reserve comment until next week on Select for what-- the reasons I don't like it or why I think that this doesn't make sense. And so I've articulated those, that the 2nd Congressional District in particular is where I've focused because that's the district I live in, that's the one I'm more familiar with, and so I would-- I would ask others in the 3rd and the 1st, perhaps, to-- to articulate their complaints about those districts. But the 2nd District has-- we had a lot of conversations about Douglas County has always been the core of the 2nd District and has been whole for the entirety, for over 100 years. Douglas County, we had that debate. We got to this point when Douglas County is whole. That is a good outcome. That makes sense. And so then the question is, how do you go forward? How do you get the remaining, I don't know how many, 60,000-80,000 people into the 2nd District and out of the 1st or 3rd? And there were several maps proposed that were more in line with the historic foot-- footprint of the 2nd District. So those maps, of course, had a elegant simplicity to them, which was that they took the current map and took out the required number of people and put them into the 1st or 3rd District, simple, makes sense, defendable way to draw the map. And that was a map I-- I supported. I supported actually several iterations of that map with no consideration of how the partisan breakdown went in any of

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those maps going forward and I-- because I thought our objective was, of course, to make logical maps for the people of Nebraska, not make political maps for the parties, political parties. And so that was why I supported those maps and why I oppose this map. I think there's a much simpler way, cleaner way, logical way to draw these maps that is not injecting partisan politics into it. To add Saunders County to the 2nd Congressional District has no defensible logic, and I haven't heard any articulated defensible logic to why we would add Saunders County to the 2nd Congressional District. If there is one, I'm-- I would be happy to hear it. I would consider it in the same way that I attempt to consider everything, which is rationally and logically without consideration of party. But I don't know what it is because I haven't heard it from anybody. I've heard some arguments as to this is how this gets done, this is a compromise, this is negotiation, which, of course, the people, being on the outside of this body, the people of the state of Nebraska, when they heard that the-- the maps were the result of a negotiation, they were not happy, the people that I've heard from, because they don't believe that the maps should be negotiated, they should be mathematical. I tend to agree with that, which is why I'm in favor of a nonpartisan Redis-- Redistricting Committee. And so--

FOLEY: One minute.

J. CAVANAUGH: --what I'm saying is I'm against this map because of what I see, and what I see is naked politics exerting strength to impose its will, which is not the-- the call of this special session, not the call of this Legislature, not the task we are to undertake. And so I would ask that anyone who favors this map explain why this makes sense. I would like to hear an answer as to why we should add Saunders County to the 2nd Congressional District, why we should cut out a large chunk of central Sarpy County and then add-- then go back to the southern portion of Sarpy County to include Congressman Bacon's house and his future house. The-- those are two questions that-- that we deserve answers to before we adopt this map. Why should we adopt this map? Not just because it's a compromise that we can get people to vote for, but why are people voting for it? Why is this the right thing to do for the state of Nebraska? Why should we--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Mr. Clerk.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Aguilar would move to recess the body-- priority motion-- excuse me. Senator Aguilar would move to recess to body until 1:30 p.m.

FOLEY: Motion is to recess until 1:30. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are in recess till 1:30. The speaking queue will remain intact, members.

[RECESS]

FOLEY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. The afternoon session is about to reconvene. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any items for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have no items at this time.

FOLEY: Members, please come to order. We'll proceed with discussion. I'll recognize the Clerk first, please. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hansen-- I understand, Senator, you wish to withdraw your bracket motion--

M. HANSEN: And the recommit, yes.

CLERK: --and the recommit as well.

M. HANSEN: Thank you.

FOLEY: [INAUDIBLE]

CLERK: So at this time, Mr. President, I have no amendments pending to LB1.

FOLEY: Thank you. Now proceeding to discussion. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good afternoon, colleagues. Good afternoon, Nebraskans. I rise in continued opposition to LB1 and I'm also not too busy today to stand up for the trans and nonbinary people in Nebraska. I'm not too busy. I have time. Senator Groene, who believes in science as long as it is in the Bible-- to hear him tell it-- has shared his bigotry here once again by talking about people as pronoun Nazis. And it goes without saying that people are not cattle,

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but to use his example of bulls and cows, there are more than just bulls and cows and anyone who knows the difference between a bull and a steer and a heifer and a cow should understand somebody using he, she, or they. It's good etiquette to call people what they want to be called. It does nothing to you, period. If I say I'm a woman and you think I'm a man, you don't need to tell me that you think I'm a man. You can go write it in your diary. You can keep it to yourself. You can go tell your hetero wife over your hetero dinner while you're surrounded by photos of your children that you had to have sex to have because when you talk like this about people's pronouns and people's identities, you're the one obsessed with sex. You're the only one talking about it. Nobody else cares because you're the one who keeps bringing it up, period. A lot of people like Senator Groene say stuff like I have no problem with LGBTQ people, but why do they have to talk about it so much? Nobody cares who you have sex with. But something that straight people often fail to understand is that for queer people, for people who aren't straight, we spend years oppressing our identity and oppressing a very fundamental part of ourselves and that can be very traumatic. And a lot of us grow up coping and living with that trauma from our childhoods and when we come out, we don't want to just quietly exist in the world. We want to celebrate ourselves just like everybody else by having a picture of your spouse at your desk or saying what your pronouns are. Letting people know who you are, that's a gift and I think that what we have to do is make up for lost time in our culture and make sure that there are no LGBTQ kids who have to live in shame the way we did, the way people in my generation did and people before me. And that's a big part of the work that I do here and the value of the platform that I feel like we have here. It's not just about gender, it's not just about who we have sex with. And imagine that in reverse. Whenever someone heterosexual, which is all of you, as far as you say, whenever you say something like, oh, I went out to a movie with a guy, I went on a date, my wife and I are having a picnic, we're expecting a baby, I have to go to a baby shower, there's a christening, we never say stop talking about sex. We never say we get it, you're hetero, stop rubbing it in our face or, you know, you and your baby talk. You're always talking about doing it. Like, that's ridiculous, but that's what you're saying about us. It's prurient and it's gross and you're the only one talking about it. When LGBTQ people talk about their lives and normal stuff that happens in their lives, so many people sexualize it for no reason and that's what Senator Groene is doing when he does this stuff. I'm glad that Senator Pansing Brooks brought up the pronoun Nazi stuff. It is so inaccurate and low and honestly anti-Semitic to draw any kind of comparison between kids who want to be referred by who they are and Nazis. Someone, especially a child, especially a young person, saying, you know, my name is this

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and these are my pronouns, they're giving you a gift. They're giving you the gift of allowing you to know them. They're being vulnerable, they're opening up to trust you, and to crap on that and turn around on them and say you're pronoun Nazi? That's low-down.

FOLEY: One minute.

HUNT: And it's the kids who hear this kind of stuff. And yeah, that is what makes them want to move out of Nebraska and their parents too and their friends and anybody of a modern mindset in Nebraska who says, you know, we just moved here and, and we've got a great job here in Nebraska, but then I turn on the Legislature and I hear some guy saying pronoun Nazi from western Nebraska, saying why doesn't anyone want to come live out here so we could get some more senators and some more representation? Well, look at yourself in the mirror. Be nice. Don't worry about what people are doing. It doesn't affect you. Relax. Write it in your diary. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Good afternoon. I see maybe we have began to talk about LB1, which we should have been talking about a long time ago, but I want to share with you something that a wise lawyer shared with me just before we left today. He said when the law is on your side, pound on the law, when the facts are on your side, pound on the facts, and when neither are on your side, pound on your desk. I'll let you guess who told me that, but I want to address something Senator Wayne had commented about-- my comment about Senator Wayne playing games. I never told him he was playing games. Senator Wayne may be the most effective senator in this body getting things done. I told him that and he knows that. But what I want to talk about-- I want to change gears a little since how we're not talking about the bill anyway. I want to talk about Game and Parks. They made a decision yesterday to advance Tim McCoy who's the associate director. They did a so-called national search and the final three candidates were all inside employees. Why do a national search when you know who you're going to hire? So I feel sorry for the landowners in the state of Nebraska because we will continue to get what we've always gotten from Game and Parks. Nothing's going to change. And I have told them that if you want to make a culture change in Game and Parks, you are going to have to change the leadership because the current selection has been working there for 20 years, so every one of those people that reports to him are his friends. And so if he needs to make a change, put somebody in a different seat on the bus or not on the bus at all, it'll be very, very difficult, nearly impossible for him to do that. And so we will continue to get what we've always

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gotten because that's the definition of stupidity: keep doing what you've always done and expect different results. So Mr. McCoy will be the new director and he will continue to move on with the same failed philosophies they've had for 20 years or more and the landowners will continue to suffer under the damages that these wildlife cause. And when you ask them how many wildlife do you have, they'll say we're not sure, but we think it's this number or that number. And then when Mr. McCoy came in last year and testified on a bill I had to relocate the headquarters for Game and Parks, he testified it was going to cost \$11.5 million to move Game and Parks headquarters to Sidney. That's the gentleman they chose to be the new director. So I'm not at all pleased that they made a decision such as they did because I have served on enough boards to know that when you want to make a cultural change, you can't do that from with inside, but we'll see what happens. I'm going to be here three more years. It could be a tough three more years for Mr. McCoy and Game and Parks or it could be a lot easier if they pull up their big-boy pants and learn how to deal with the landowners in a way that they need to be dealt with instead of what they've always done. So to say this will be my last time to talk about Mr. McCoy is not correct. We will talk about him a lot and we will continue to bring up Game and Parks until they fix the issues that they're dealing with. And I seen the proposal of what they are going to try to do and it makes no difference to anybody anytime soon, so we need to advance some bills out of the Natural Resources Committee and others that come to the floor so we can put some teeth into what we're trying--

FOLEY: One minute.

ERDMAN: --to do, getting control of Game of Parks. So all of you who are listening who have wildlife problems, I want to apologize in advance. Your problems are not going to be solved and things are not going to get any better. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Wayne. Is Senator Wayne on the floor? We'll move onto Senator Machaela Cavanaugh.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good afternoon, colleagues. My pronouns are she, her, hers. It's an interesting thing to be brought up because I actually did want to talk to our Executive Board about the possibility of having my pronouns added to my nameplate on the floor. So I guess now everybody knows I would like to have my pronouns added to the nameplate on the floor and actually my nameplate in my office as well. I think that it's a thing that is courteous to do to those that want to be identified by specific pronouns, to show allyship in that because I also want to be

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identified by specific pronouns and so I think it's good to have that level of transparency. I'm really grateful to Senator Hunt for her comments and she's right. I've been talking about sex for days now, heteronormative sex, but I do want to, I do want to speak to the people of Nebraska who have had children not through heteronormative sex. There's more than one way to, to make a baby and many, many women go through IVF to achieve that end and I know of couples, same-sex couples that also go through IVF and of when one of the moms, mommy or mother is the carrier. I have had friends who have then also taken hormones that allowed them to also nurse their child. So the mother's room, I just want to be clear, is not to be a heteronormative sex place. It is to be a place for all women who have children that they need to care for in that way and for all women who are expecting children so that they have a space that is comfortable to take a break. I have been just overwhelmed by the outpouring from women in this body, in this building, in this community, and in this state. The level to which this rises is very high. I, I know that I'm viewed in this body a certain way. I can be brazen. I am bold. I am outspoken, and I am a mother and I struggled with breastfeeding my first child. It was awful and I cried a lot and I blamed myself and I, I asked why couldn't I feed my child? Why couldn't I do that? Why was I having so much trouble? And it got easier with the other two kids, but when I look back on that time, it was stress. I was so stressed out about returning to work, about taking care of my child, about paying bills, and I didn't know what I was doing and I didn't have a dedicated space and I didn't have paid leave. It was so stressful. And my daughter's fine. She is lovely. She's seven and a half. But this is important and if it weren't so important, we wouldn't have so many women speaking out about it. There are women who work in this body right now who were pregnant. There are women who work in this body right now who may be pregnant.

FOLEY: One minute.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you. This is really important. It is so important that I gave up my office and I didn't give up my office for theater. It is literally empty because I want this room back and I want it back now. I want it back today. You've had a week, a week to put it back. I'm sick of this chauvinism, masculism, patriarchy. The women in this building, the women of the state deserve better and everyone should be rising up. Every single senator should be rising up and demanding action. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Lathrop.

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LATHROP: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, good afternoon. When this bill was up on General File, I intended to turn my light on and the debate lasted so short that I-- it was over before I even had a chance to turn my light on. This, on General File, moved in about 15 minutes. I was surprised by that because this is a significant change to the congressional map. Today, this has been up here. We've talked about a lot of different things, each of them important in their own way, but we haven't really talked about LB1 and the map that we have. And specifically as it relates to the 2nd Congressional District, I have strong opposition to the way the 2nd Congressional District has been placed onto this map and therefore with LB1. Let me talk about and start with the resolution. We've talked about this resolution a lot. LB1-- or LR134 said that we shall-- may maintain the core of the district and shall maintain communities of interest. Historically, Douglas County has been the core of the district and Sarpy County. Senator McCollister and I have talked about his father representing CD2 at a time when it went north and south, but as time has gone on and as we've redistricted in this body, the congressional maps, CD2 has been Douglas County and Sarpy County and, and there's a logic to that. They have a community of interest. As my friends from Sarpy County have said during the debate during this special session, this is the fastest-growing district and it's growing not in rural interest, but it is growing in urban interest. People are developing the land in Sarpy County. They're building shopping centers. They're building houses, apartments. It looks more and more like Douglas County does and less and less like a rural district, although certainly there are some rural parts of Sarpy County not yet developed. For us to maintain the community of interest, an urban area, we should be taking Douglas and Sarpy to round out the total amount of population needed for a congressional district. Including Saunders County serves one purpose. They are not a community of interest. As much as we like the folks in Saunders County, they are a rural area. Placing them into the 2nd Congressional District is done for one purpose and that's a partisan purpose. It's a partisan purpose. When we were talking about Sarpy County earlier, many people stood up and said we can't split it, we can't split it. Well, here we are. It's split and no one is standing up and talking about it. Saunders County doesn't have anything in common with Douglas. It doesn't have anything in common with Sarpy. It makes no sense other than to recognize the sole purpose is to make it more difficult for an individual from the Democratic Party to prevail because we've gone to Saunders County to find apparently a better population of partisans than we would by rounding out CD2 with the balance of Sarpy County and it is for those reasons that I stand strongly opposed to LB1. I will

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be a red light on this and I would encourage your opposition to LB1 as well. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Senator McKinney for a motion.

McKINNEY: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I move to advance LB1 to E&R for engrossing.

FOLEY: Record vote has been requested. Machine vote. Those in favor of advancing the bill vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 10 nays on the advancement of LB1.

FOLEY: LB1 advances. Next bill, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB3 on Select File. Senator McKinney, I have Enrollment and Review amendments, first of all.

FOLEY: Senator McKinney for a motion.

McKINNEY: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I moved to adopt the E&R amendments to LB3.

FOLEY: You've heard the motion to adopt the E&R amendments. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The E&R amendments are adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment to the bill is by Senator Matt Hansen.

FOLEY: Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and before anybody rushes up to my side of my desk, I will pull this at the end of my speech. Colleagues, I am intending this to be the last time I speak today, but everything I said before lunch stands and people of the state of Nebraska, this should absolutely be a process that having now seen up front, shouldn't be on our hands. We are balancing the threat of sine die, the balance of the threat of maybe a court case. We're balancing the threat of so many things that I don't not think we're getting pretty maps out of this. I don't think we're getting necessarily-- anyway, I won't go into it. What I'm saying here is we have the ability to really draw a line in the sand and blow it up. And there's people willing to do that, there's people not willing to do that, so in the effort to get our constituents maps that they can at least

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understand and get a look at, I am pulling my amendment, FA1, and I'll pull my other amendment as well. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Amendment's withdrawn. Thank you, Senator Hansen. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have, Senator Linehan, AM43.

FOLEY: Senator Linehan, you're recognized to open on AM43.

LINEHAN: Good afternoon, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. So AM43 makes most of the adjustments in Lancaster County, which I think there have been several discussions about on the floor this morning. It makes a couple of changes in other districts, including in Grand Island where we failed to bring in a group of a minority district that's-- a minority precinct that should be in Senator Aguilar's district and now it is, so that's a change there. We made a change between 4 and 20 because the deviations were out of whack and made a change in my district where I took back the ridges and then gave up a little part-- took back the ridges from 4, gave a little part of Elkhorn to 4 so that kept the deviations right. I think there was another change between 4 and 20. I think Boys Town went back to 4 and it had gone to 20. So they are basically just changes around the edges except for Lincoln or Lancaster County, which I think you've all talked about for the last two or three hours. So that's what's represented with this amendment and I would appreciate your green vote on AM43. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Any discussion on AM43? Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues, and I just want to make sure people are clear that the process in which we went through on this had everything to do with LR134 and preserving the core. In addition to preserving the core, it was about communities of interest and so the two ways we informally have divine-- have defined preserving the core was areas of the core-- areas of the district that have been there historically, but the other part of the communities of interest, which is kind of commingled, is we had a bright line throughout Nebraska's history, starting back to 1800s all the way to 1921 when there was a big shift, was county lines. County lines seem to have defined who we are and what are cores and communities of interest. So while county lines historically may have shifted from here-- I mean, not county lines, but legislative districts have shifted here and there from a legislative history standpoint, county lines have been true because it's in our constitution and the word is

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practicable. And there isn't a clear definition from the court of what is practicable, but what we tried to do is preserve those community interests and those cores. So I'm going to talk for a little bit about some of the maps, particularly in Douglas and Sarpy County, and then in some of the rural areas where you see some deviations that go into some different areas. When you look at those deviations, those deviations, whether it's 48, 47, 43, 42, 44, those deviations, including 38, is primarily to preserve the county lines and to preserve what we deemed communities of interest, which we have defined in committee and through conversations, there isn't a written document around communities of interest and preserving the core sucked in to combine both to be county lines. So if you look at the Douglas County area, you'll notice that anywhere where there is a-- what you would consider over a 2 deviation is-- or whether-- in either way, negative or positive, had everything to do with the county lines. And I'm going to give you one example just so people down the road can understand what this means because that's why I pushed my light again. So if you look at Senator Hansen's district and you look at Senator Walz's, which is 6-- Senator Hansen, 16? I can't see his light. 15? 15-- no, Senator Walz is 15. Senator Hansen is 16. You'll see pretty much a negative 4 in both of those or a positive 4 and negative 4. I can easily-- and the committee can easily fix that, but that would require another county line to be split. And looking at court cases and looking at what the court has determined as county lines being practical and looking at what the committee has defined as preserving the core and communities of interest as defined by county line, that is why that has stayed. We had great conversations, Senator-- or Vice-- not Vice Chair-- about called you that again, you probably would have ran over and smacked me this time-- Chairwoman Linehan and I had great conversations over the last week resolving this, but we're trying to find what the courts have laid out for us, which is preserve the county line. That would have been a very easy fix, but when I say easy, it would have divided up communities and that's what we're trying not to do by the county line is divide up the community and keep the community of interest the same. How do I know that? Because my county or my legislative district, District 13, bumps up to Senator Hansen's, which is District 16, and there is a difference. There is a difference from my community in Douglas County and when you cross over and you can feel that district as soon as Knoxville and Fort Calhoun. That's why it's important that we keep those county lines. Same when you look at south Sarpy. When you look at--

FOLEY: One minute.

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WAYNE: --south Sarpy, you'll see right below the county line, there is a negative deviation. The reason that deviation is there is because we didn't want to cross over into Douglas County. We heard a lot of conversations on LB1 and LB3 about crossing county lines, particularly in Sarpy, and that is one of the reasons why you look at Senator McDonnell's legislative district, District 5, and the, and the ones below it, you can easily probably put those together, but those are different communities and those are different cores and that is the reason why we did not split Doug-- or we do not cross over from Douglas County. It is truly just about communities of interest and preserving the core. So I just wanted to give people a clear understanding and those who will read it ten years from now, keeping county lines to us help preserve the core and keep the communities of interest, which follows the LR134. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Any further discussion on AM43? I see none. Senator Linehan, you're recognized to close. She waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of AM40-- AM43. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 2 nays on adoption of Senator Linehan's amendment.

FOLEY: AM43 has been adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Clements would move to amend, AM40.

FOLEY: Senator Clements, you're recognized on AM40.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. A map has been handed out to you showing on the front page "Legislature Statewide LEG21-23001" and this is a map my staff and I and Senator Bostelman's staff have been working on. This is what we preferred to do, but I want to let you know we're going to talk about this, but I do intend to withdraw this amendment when we're done discussing some of the ideas that we came up with. So I did support Senator Linehan's amendment and I'm satisfied with that will be what LB3 becomes, but I did a lot of work on the alternative to moving a district. The map 23001, first of all, I do want to thank the Redistricting Committee for all your hard work and, and working with us as we've been trying to figure out a way to keep all the core districts. This map would have preserved the cores statewide. It did not move any district. As we all know, there is more population in Douglas and Lancaster County and it does change boundary lines toward the east from the west, from the north to the south, from the south to the north and toward Lincoln and Omaha. But it was just mentioned about county line splits, the current-- our current

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districts that we represent, there are nine counties split. The map that I've got here as an amendment had 11 county splits, very much the same as what we currently have, was not making a lot of splits and there is only one city split. Holdrege was going to be having to be split to equalize districts, but outside of Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster, only the city of Holdrege would be split and so we worked hard to have a map that had very few county splits and only one city split. From a selfish point of view, this map would have had Legislative District 2, which I represent, would have stayed in southern Sarpy in Sarpy County and I would not have been moving into Lincoln and bothering people on the edge of Lincoln like is going to evidently happen and I'm sorry to be losing about 14,500 people I've been representing for about four and a half years in Sarpy County. I thank them for their support and I've just-- in the process, we wanted to have this ready earlier, but it's been a lot of work to, to get it fine-tuned, so we tried to meet the criteria with compact districts and no county splits and city splits. So we did not have it ready by the time LB3 was introduced last week and I didn't really-- but I still wanted to have it on the record for people to see that there was an alternative. You may think it has some flaws in it. Of course, it doesn't move-- a lot of different people had to move-- their district's lines had to move toward the east and so it does change districts from what they are now, but so does the LB3 map that we've already amended. And so it was-- I just want to thank my staff, Senator Bostelman's staff. They did pay-- spend many hours especially wanting to preserve the cores of all districts, preserve the rural districts so we didn't have to pick somebody to have to be kicked off the island, as they say. But I am just appreciative of the opportunity to present this as an alternative and to get it on the record. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Clements. Discussion on AM40? Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Good afternoon. I was remiss when I made those comments about pounding on your desk. That was told to me by Senator John Cavanaugh. There you go, Senator. I will like-- I would like to talk about Senator Clements and Senator Bostelman's bill-- ABC is what we refer to it-- and it exactly did what I suggested that the Redistricting Committee do when they started the process and it kept all the core districts in place and it allowed the urban districts to exceed the, the average 40,000 people by a small percentage and the other districts remaining would be slightly under. The rural part of the state is losing representation and that may be just fine for those people who live in the east, but it's difficult

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for rural people to get involved in our government and the more seats that we move to the east, the more difficult it becomes. Moving District 36 seat to Sarpy County was not necessary. This map proves that it wasn't necessary and I appreciate what Senator Bostelman and Clements did and their staff. They need to be commended for the number of hours they put in. So when we get ready to vote on LB3 and the-- LB-- AM40 and LB3, I'll be no and I'll be a no till the end because this didn't have to happen. So at some point in time, the people who have the most votes got to start considering those people who have less representation as time goes by. It's difficult for us in the west to get involved in government because we keep losing representation and we get the situation that such that it costs a lot of money to come and get involved in government and testify. And so we continue to move those districts and as representation continues to move east and the number one industry in the state has less representation every time we do this. This was an opportunity for us to do it right. We did it wrong. We should have started with dividing up those districts and "irregardless" of what the red or blue or whatever it is in the districts is, divide that 1,098,000 in those three big counties and then move onto the rest of them. But that won't happen because that's a commonsense approach and common sense is not common anymore. So I'll be a red on all of this. I appreciate the fact that they're making some adjustments to Senator Clements' district and Senator Geist's district. I understand that that's an improvement and I appreciate that, but we did a disservice to the people in Dawson and Custer Counties, but those people won't be forgotten. They'll be well represented with the new representatives they will have, at least for now, who knows who will get elected, but this was a mistake and I'll believe this was a mistake and never change my mind. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I do like the map here that's presented by Senator Clements and Senator Bostelman, much better on legislative districts. The thing I like about it the best is it does preserve the core of the greater Nebraska districts as much as possible. There's less county splits and it makes all of the districts in-- or at least I think most all of the districts in greater Nebraska more compact and it is easier for the senators to know their constituents. And of course, preserving the core does make it easier for the constituents to know their senator. The senator that they've known for the last, well, up to eight years will most likely continue to be their senators, so I think, think that's a great thing. On a personal level, District 38, it does make the district much more compact and I'm within about 50 miles of any point in the district and

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the district is-- a, a large part of it is-- was in the district previously and the part that is added is, of course, more compact and closer. I do, do-- there are disadvantages to splitting Holdrege, but there's also advantages. Holdrege actually would have two senators representing them in that case rather than one, so splitting the, the city can be good or bad. And of course, with the map that probably will be adopted, I will gain three counties to the west and lose most of three counties that I've already represented, but I know there's great people in those three counties that I will be gaining and I do appreciate that and I will represent them to the best of my ability. Like I said, it will be a little more of a challenge because they are, they are further away, but I will do that and just wanted to voice my support for this map and just the way things turned out. Probably won't end up being this map, but it does have some great advantages, mainly the compactness and closeness of the districts and keeping everything together. Thank you, Lieutenant.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator-- thank you, Senator Murman. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Take a few minutes to talk a little bit about the map that Senator Clements' office and my office worked on. I want to thank Dan and Riley, Senator Clements and Mark for the work they've done on this. I can tell you there was, as I said before, easily 100 hours put in on this map, wasn't taken lightly. We listened to a lot of concerns a lot of people had, was on the floor, a lot of things senators said on the floor, and other-- and, and when we met with them. We, we addressed a lot of those in this map, but really, the-- you know, one thing that I, I think we always need to remember in the body-- and I mentioned this last time on, on General File-- agriculture is our number one economic driver in the state, agriculture. Western Nebraska is far, far different than eastern Nebraska and the intent of our map was to keep everybody whole, if you will, keep those cores, make sure western Nebraska, central Nebraska had a voice. So we've taken that voice away because if you're in the Sandhills or if you're in southwestern part of the state or if you're in the southeastern part of the state or the northeastern part of state, I tell you what, the soils are different, the water is different, the rainfall is different. Your life is different. I have friends that live out in Gordon, by Gordon, Nebraska. They-- their driveway, driveway to their house is longer than some of your district-- longer-- wider, if you will-- than some of your districts. So you've got so many city blocks that's your district, they've got-- those senators, say Senator Brewer, has got counties. Ten, 15 miles to get to the road? It's not unusual. So how are those people going to be

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represented in this body just like the people on the eastern side of the state? So what our map did was try to provide those core districts, keep those represent-- that representation there as best we could. Senator Clements talked about that a little bit, a bit as how we did that and we thought we had a good map and we do have a good map and a lot of people, I think, support-- in fact, 29 people at one point in time supported it, but we understand and we realize Redistricting Committee has done their work, has done a lot of work and I appreciate that and I do. I'm not saying that lighthearted because we've put the time on the maps, on the computer. We've sat there and looked at how do you, how do you change-- move this population so that this district fits with this district that affects the other district because when you touch one, you don't touch one, you touch three or four? It's not easy. So this is our opportunity just to speak a little bit on this, on the amendment, AM40, and have it on, on the record, have it filed. We appreciate that opportunity, but I also understand Redistricting Committee has done some good work that needed to be done and I respect that. And I think Senator Clements and I both feel that, that the map that we have is a, is a good map, but Redistricting Committee, Redistricting Committee has done what they needed to do and we respect that for, for the time they have. Just remember, as we go forward in this body in the years to come and our sessions to come, we've got vast differences across the state and the needs of the people and we need to make sure that those needs are recognized and are heard. And we make sure we have senators in those areas, representatives in those areas--

FOLEY: One minute.

BOSTELMAN: --that can bring those concerns, those needs, those wants to this body. So as we go over, if you will, the next ten years, for us-- for those of us here the next three years or more that you're here in the body, for those new senators who will be coming in, you need to remember the importance of agriculture in this state, what agriculture brings to this state, what those men and women that are farming and ranching bring to this state. And it's not to take away from anybody that lives in the cities at all. Omaha will have-- Omaha greater area will have 18 senators. Lincoln has seven or more. So if you count Kearney and Grand Island as cities as well, it's that many less. So rural Nebraska, outstate Nebraska--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

BOSTELMAN: --thank you-- are very important.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Bostelman. Senator Groene.

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GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I was one of the five who voted against LB3, I believe, the first time. I would ask everybody to overlay this map over what the committee came up with and see how more concise it is and more-- it's amazing. It's, it's-- keeps everybody together. You know, I never thought of this, but I own some land in Custer County. Custer County's land and the way it lays fits better with Valley, Sherman, Howard, Greeley, Wheeler than it does to the west. It's like a-- it's like one of those climate lines, custom lines. It's a different breed of cowboy over there. It's a-- was thinking outside the box when Senator Clements and Bostelman put Custer County into 41. If you look at 44, it's more precise. It-- with the-- ties into the Republican River Basin and 38, same way, it blocks it into two. It doesn't draw a major county from the north. It's in the Platte Valley into 44. I think we really ought to reconsider this thing and take a look at this and let the egos go away from the committee if there's any. They worked hard, but there is a better idea outside of the committee. We have to live with this for ten years, all of these people do. This map fits. This map-- and as far as Lancaster and Douglas County, it fits it. I mean, if you wanted to tweak those and blend the two maps and urban areas with the rural that, that Senator Clements and Bostelman came up with, I think it's the way to do it. And I will continue to not support LB3 as written because it's wrong. As far as my district, you haven't heard me talk about my district much, whichever we-- that district grew in geographical area. It fit us because we were right in the heart of that-- and the-- that line between the Sandhills and the hard ground to the south of the Plattes-- between the Platte and the Republican, but-- and I believe the people are pretty like-minded there. There's nobody going to be left out. Just a comment, I missed the vote on LB1. I guess, I've been here seven years. I thought Select File was a voice vote and I would have thought it had been a courtesy if when somebody wanted a recorded vote, somebody would have called the house so that all of us could have voted. That was a quick vote. When, when, when the normal practice has changed, I would have hoped one of my friends would have thought let's call the house, but it didn't happen because people want to get out of here. But there's two or three of us didn't get a chance to vote because we took a break from the floor to attend to other business. Anyway, just in the future, if that happens, I would appreciate somebody would-- I'll do it if I'm here-- call the house. Also I guess I owe an apology to Senator Gragert-- I said Gragart instead of Garrett. All you people out there, don't send him nasty emails that he did not-- he was the deciding vote not to do, not to do-- return us to winner take all. He wasn't even, wasn't even dreaming about being a senator that-- he didn't have that nightmare yet. So anyway, I wanted to correct that. But please overlay this map

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over the, the LB3 as it is now. It's a better map, absolutely a better map. It fits cultures. It fits communities. It kept everybody--

FOLEY: One minute.

GROENE: --cored in place. It, it works. It gives everybody a sense that they don't have a loss. No community has a loss because they still remain pretty much within their geographic areas. So anyway, I'll support AM40 and I have a hard time-- LB3, I just don't like what it did to some of the rural areas, how it divided us in different-- where we belong together in certain philosophies and issues such as water. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Looks like I'm last in the queue and I had every intention of calling a question and all of my friends, both of them, said don't do that, so I didn't. But Senator Groene explained it quite well. I thought he was very accurate in his description. I appreciated what Senator Bostelman had to say. We will deal with this change for ten years and we'll get what we continue to get and it's amazing to see the shift that is happening and the most, most amazing, it didn't have to. That's the part that bothers me. So this is going to pass. I'll predict it will be 47 to 2, so-- maybe, maybe 46 to 3, but I don't know what the over and under is on that, Senator Wayne, but I will not vote for this. This is a mistake. So if you're in the media and want to report that as a statement that I made, I would just be OK with it. This is the wrong thing to do. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Nothing further on the bill. Senator Clements, you were going to withdraw AM40. Is that correct?

CLEMENTS: I'd like to make a comment before I withdraw. May I?

FOLEY: You may.

CLEMENTS: May I close?

FOLEY: You may.

CLEMENTS: Well, conventional wisdom said that there were 5,000 more people in the east since the, this census and conventional wisdom said that means you had to move a, a district, but I wanted to-- my staff is a staff that says if some-- you tell me something is impossible, they'll show you that it is possible. I didn't want to be on the

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Redistricting Committee and it wasn't on and I'm wondering now if I could have made a difference, but I, I do thank them for their work, but I think it does show us that rural Nebraska needs growth. We need-- it needs jobs, needs housing. It needs broadband to try to retain the population and I hope that as we have some stimulus money coming and some good revenues, that we will target western Nebraska and try to maintain the population that we have there for those good people, so that ten years from now, what we've done doesn't happen again. And so thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to show an alternative. With that, I withdraw my amendment.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Clements. AM40 is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, I understand there's nothing further on the bill. Is that correct?

CLERK: I have nothing further, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I move to advance LB3 to E&R for engrossing.

FOLEY: Record vote has been requested. There's been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLEMENTS: 27 ayes, 3 nays to place the house under call.

FOLEY: The house is under call. All senators, please return to your desk and check in. The house is under call. Senators Wayne and Vargas, please return to the Chamber and check in. The house is under call. Senator Vargas, you're needed on the floor. Call is under house-- house is under call. I'm sorry, Senator Groene.

GROENE: Roll call. Oh, it's a record vote. Sorry.

FOLEY: We're told that Senator Vargas is on his way. We'll wait. All unexcused members are now present. The question before the body is the advance of LB3 to E&R for engrossing. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 37 ayes, 6 nays-- excuse me, 38 ayes, 6 nays on the advancement of the bill.

FOLEY: LB3 advances. I raise the call. Next bill, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB6. Senator McKinney, I have no amendments to the bill.

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FOLEY: Senator McKinney for a motion.

McKINNEY: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I move to advance LB6 to E&R for engrossing.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to advance the bill. Machine vote has been requested on the motion to advance LB6 to E&R for engrossing. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 44 ayes, 1 nay on the advancement of LB6.

FOLEY: The bill advances. Next bill, please.

CLERK: LB5. Senator McKinney, I have no amendments to the bill.

FOLEY: Senator McKinney for a motion.

McKINNEY: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I move to advance LB5 to E&R for engrossing.

FOLEY: Machine vote has been requested. The question is the advance of LB5 to E&R for engrossing. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 3 nays on the advancement of LB5.

FOLEY: LB5 advances. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, next bill, LB8. No E&Rs. Senator Linehan would move to amend, AM41.

FOLEY: Senator Linehan, AM41, please.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr.-- yes, AM41-- Board of Regents-- thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. So this is the Board of Regents. We realized yesterday we had a problem with deviations, so we moved District 1, which is in Lincoln, further enlarged that district so the deviations weren't out of whack so much and everyone is still in-- the current incumbents are all in their district. So that's the only change in this from what we passed on Friday, so I would ask for your green vote on this. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Discussion on AM41? Senator Machaela Cavanaugh.

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M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I just got myself in the queue because I wasn't aware that there was an amendment pending on this and we are moving so quickly through these bills, which is why I keep asking for a machine vote because I don't think we even know what bills we're voting on, what the numbers are and I know I'm not. A number comes up and I'm, like, oh, which one is that? So this is-- feels very rushed and I get it because it's almost 3:00 and we're all tired of each other, but I just want to-- I'm just talking now to give you all a chance to look and see, make sure you're all OK with this map. I know we-- we've done a lot to the Board of Regents and I, I-- honestly, I'm not even sure if we already voted on the State Board of Education or not. I haven't had a chance to look. I know that we made a big change this, this session because the two maps always were aligned and mirrored one another and now they no longer do. And so I guess I'm just wanting to make sure that everyone has the time to do, you know, your, your due diligence on here. I-- of all the things that I was told about today that there were going to be amendments on, this was not one. So I-- not that I have any issue with it, Senator Linehan, I just wasn't aware of it and so I'm just taking time now to catch up on it. Senator Linehan, would you yield to a question?

FOLEY: Senator Linehan, would you yield, please?

LINEHAN: Certainly.

M. CAVANAUGH: Can you just tell me which districts-- two districts this impacts so I can look at that more quickly?

LINEHAN: On the-- OK. Wait a minute. Which two districts--

M. CAVANAUGH: Well, you, you said it moved the one district.

LINEHAN: The regent?

M. CAVANAUGH: Yes.

LINEHAN: 1 and 5.

M. CAVANAUGH: 1 and 5. OK, thank you so much. And it just moves one a little bit further--

LINEHAN: East.

M. CAVANAUGH: --east and to--

LINEHAN: Just east.

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M. CAVANAUGH: --even out the, even out the deviation?

LINEHAN: Yes.

M. CAVANAUGH: OK, thank you. I appreciate it. I just wanted to make sure I knew what we were handling today. That's really all I wanted to know and the only reason I got up today, so thank you. I yield the remainder of my time.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Seeing no other members wishing to speak, Senator Linehan, you're recognized to close. Waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of AM41. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 42 ayes, 1 nay on the adoption of Senator Linehan's amendment.

FOLEY: AM41 has been adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I move to advance LB8 to E&R for engrossing.

FOLEY: Machine vote has been requested. The question before the body is the advance of LB8 to E&R for engrossing. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of the bill.

FOLEY: LB8 advances. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB7. I have no E&Rs. Senator Linehan would move to amend with AM42.

FOLEY: Senator Linehan, AM42, please.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. AM42-- so I think Senator Cavanaugh already mentioned historically these maps, regents and education, have been alike and what has happened-- since I think they're probably at the end of the day, they weren't-- previous legislatures ended up with both had the possibility of electing four members from Douglas County. So now they're down to three and we did that in a rather rush last week, so when we looked at it this weekend, we had separated-- one of the requests was to keep Grand Island, Kearney, and Hastings all in

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the same district. We have done that with this amendment and we also-- it just-- it's more compact and looks better and the deviations are better and we managed to keep-- still keep all the incumbents in their districts. So I can answer any other questions, but with that, I'd ask for your green vote on AM42.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Again, I am just rising to give everyone a chance to play catch up if they needed to because I know I do on, on these amendments and these bills. And I went through and I looked, so this-- we only have one left after this and I looked up-- it is the appropriations just so everybody knows that that's the next one that's coming because we don't typically-- for those at home, we have an agenda on our desks and we typically have the bills listed in order and so we really know what's coming up. But right now, we just have bills as ordered and so it's just kind of things are coming up on the, on the, on the board and there's a lot of moving pieces happening here today. And I just, again, want to make sure that everyone is, is aware of what we are doing and when we are doing it. So I don't know that I have any issue with this particular map, so I will yield the remainder of my time. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. In my earlier presentation, I forgot one thing that I was going to present and it was another reason for not moving a district to-- east to Sarpy or Douglas and that's the Nebraska Constitution page 10, Article III, Section 5, "One member of the Legislature shall be elected from each such district. The basis of apportionment shall be the population excluding aliens, as shown by the next preceding federal census." And Senator Groene had passed out a chart showing the registrations and it appears that some of the-- a lot of the growth to the east is noncitizens, but our census numbers that we have doesn't split that-- split those the way our constitution required. I think that was another reason I had for not moving a district to the east, that their overrepresentation to the east by noncitizens, which should not have been in our census, was a problem. That's all I had. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Clements. Senator Groene.

GROENE: I support LB7. Thank you, Senator Clements. I want to make sure everybody understands that immigrants are who we are. Somebody asked me why would you be concerned if these undocumented workers or visitors, whatever you want to call them, to our country are counted?

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I said imagine a foreign-- a student coming to you and staying with you and you accept them as a guest and then the patriarch or the matriarch-- I get those pronouns right or nouns-- passed away and they said well, no, this immigrant lives in the house, so they should share an inheritance of the house. That's what we do when we count visitors to our shores. They're not citizens. Exchange students, they're counted. And you want to say one vote, one person? They're represented back in their home country because they're still citizens there and they're also counted here. So anyway, it is something that needs to be looked at in the future. On LB7, I, I really don't like the fact that we don't have identical maps. I know why it was done. I support LB7, but to say we draw lines in odd shapes because of protecting an office of an elect-- of an official who already is elected for that district is, is the definition of gerrymandering. It was a governor from Massachusetts back in the 1700s or 1800s or something who did it, but when you draw lines-- not because of-- to keep a cohesive group together so that the same politician can be reelected, that is not what we're supposed to be doing here. But anyway, that said, it's been done and the biggest ob-- thing was to not have a-- one community, Douglas County, dominate half the board of two major elected boards in our state. So that's why I will support LB7, but I don't know what a judge would say if you showed him to-- a elected official and he'd say which one of these maps is correct? It should be the same if it was drawn correctly, but we do what we do to get the results we need and that's called politics. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm not going to respond super long to this, but I think when we read the constitution, we should start with the whole sentence and when you read the whole sentence, it says excluding aliens based off of federal census. Not to surprise anybody, I don't want anybody to be shocked, but we stopped asking that question so we don't have the data. That's why the committee didn't even consider it and that's why, if you recall in 2018 when Senator Murante introduced a bill on it, it never got out of committee-- and I was on the committee-- because there's no way to get that data except for what conservatives call biased sources. So there's, there's no way to get that data unless you want to use somebody other than the federal government, which actually goes against our constitution. So just make sure we read the whole paragraph and the whole sentence when we talk about that. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator McKinney.

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McKINNEY: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll be, I'll be brief as well. First, I want to say, Senator Groene, my ancestors did not migrate to the United States, so we're all not immigrants or ancestors of immigrants. I also will say that if not for immigrant populations, there probably would be a strong argument from the body that there should probably be an additional senator east of-- in, in the eastern part of the state, but I'm not here to make that argument and that's all I got to say. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McKinney. Senator Linehan, you're recognized to close on AM42. She waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of AM42. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 1 nay on the adoption of Senator Linehan's amendment.

FOLEY: AM42 has been adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Nothing further on the bill. Mr.-- Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I move to advance LB7 to E&R for engrossing.

FOLEY: Machine vote has been requested. The question is the advance of LB7 to E&R for engrossing. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 2 nays on the advancement of LB7.

FOLEY: LB7 advances.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB14. Senator, I have no amendments to the bill.

FOLEY: Senator Cavanaugh, I got, I got to put a motion on the floor first. Senator, Senator McKinney for a motion.

McKINNEY: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I move to advance LB14 to E&R for engrossing.

FOLEY: That's a debatable motion. Senator, Senator Cavanaugh.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Colleagues, this bill, as I mentioned the last go round, is authorizing the funds for the special session. I have decided that I am not going to vote for this today because I don't think that this

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body is deserving of those funds so long as we are marginalizing women in this building. I think that it is inappropriate and disgusting that this hasn't been addressed and that many of you remain silent on the issue. This is really important not just to me, but to your constituents and your staff and so I don't think that it's right and I don't feel right about supporting paying ourselves for the time that we're here if we aren't doing our job. And if we aren't taking care of working mothers in this building, then we're definitely not doing our job. We are failing. We are failing at our job and I, for one, just-- I can't live with that, I can't stomach that. I'm not voting for this. On a separate note, I wanted to note, note that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services posted four days ago on Facebook, on a week-to-week basis in Nebraska, people who are not, not fully vaccinated are being hospitalized with COVID-19 at rates six times higher than fully vaccinated people. We have a pod. I don't think anybody knows if it's ever sterilized or clean. We have a pandemic. Women are supposed to go to that unsterilized, unclean spot to take care of their babies. Every time I think that this Legislature couldn't disappoint me more, you all just rise to the occasion. This should be every single person's priority and it-- most of you don't even care. The apathy for working moms is abhorrent, but I realize that you don't care. So thank you. I yield the remainder of my time.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator McCollister. We're not voting yet, Senator. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I want to say something on this topic too because we're getting closer to the end of this process and I've been meaning to speak about the mother's room, but as we talk about other things, it just keeps getting lower and lower and lower on my, you know, notes about my comments and I, I did want to get some comments on the record for my constituents and for the people of Nebraska before we close this process today. This speaks to a theme that I've talked about a lot in this body and in this special session of not listening to the people who are affected by the policies we make when we vote to make those policies. When we advance LB1 and LB3, we're doing so over the objections of most of the testifiers who came to speak in the listening sessions and the hearings that we had on these bills. And when we do things like remove the mother's room, it's always a bunch of other-- of men, you know, in power saying, oh, no one's really using it, people don't really need it, over the objections of people who are affected by this, who use the room, who do need it, who it's there for saying, no, we still want it, we need it, we use it, and it's something that we need to have in this building for everybody who comes into the people's house. We're not

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listening to the people affected by the policies we make when we make them. And last time I was on the mike talking about this, which I think was last Wednesday, Senator Hughes had the last word that day and I've been thinking about it for a week. He said I would like to remind Senator Hunt that we have a pod and, you know, we got rid of the mother's room to make an office for a man, which was funded by a grant from a foundation, that now, you know, we could be in violation of that grant, of course, and have to pay all the money back. But don't worry, Senator Hunt, I would like to remind you that we have a pod. Well, I want to talk about that pod. When we started the-- well, we-- when Senator Machaela Cavanaugh started the conversation about needing a mother's room here in the Capitol, getting a pod was never a solution that anybody was really looking for, that anybody was really asking for. These pods are appropriate for football games, for, you know, festivals. To me, it's like a porta potty and for that reason, I would never use one of these pods to breastfeed my baby in my workplace. I would maybe use it as a-- at a football game if there was, like, no other option for me, but to me, going into a, a porta potty shack basically in the public mailroom in the Capitol building, which is what this is, if you can get into it, if you can get your app or get the right key or the password to even get in there, if it's sterilized, if it's ever been cleaned, going into that pod in the public mailroom, you might as well just be holding up a neon sign that says I'm going to go squeeze my boob because that's what it is to people when you walk in there. It doesn't give you the privacy and the comfort and security that a mother's room really calls for. It's like a menstrual tent. It's like saying women who have this condition, you can go over here and be separate in this place that we don't even know is clean or if it's sterile. If Senator Hughes intends to reinstate the mother's room, he should talk about that on the record because that's how the public is learning about the news around this and what it is that we're doing. Senator Hughes sent an email earlier today saying don't worry, we're working on it, we hope to solve the problem, but we just keep trying to reinvent the wheel, whether it's all the amendments that we're doing for a legislative redistricting bill that we passed on Friday that we didn't really need to change or whether it's figuring out what to do with the mother's room. The solution is easy. A woman, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, made a sacrifice by giving up her office to solve the problem so the man who took the mother's room for an office--

FOLEY: One minute.

HUNT: --can use hers instead. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. She took the steps to solve the problem and the men are saying there's

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nothing they can do and that they hope to look at the issue and they hope to solve the problem and they really take it seriously and they know it's important to the women of Nebraska when the solution is right in front of you. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. It's really easy. So I would encourage the man who has taken the mother's room for an office to take Senator Cavanaugh's office going forward while Senator Hughes finds his magical solution and then we can get the people of Nebraska who need to take care of their infants back into the room where they can do that safely and securely. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. It was brought to my attention, colleagues, that this doesn't only pay for our reimbursement, but also staff's reimbursements and travel, so I will not be opposing it because that is unfair to the people that work in this building. However, if the mother's room is not reinstated by the time that we bring this on Final Reading, I will have an amendment to bring this back to Select File to strike our portion of the reimbursement because we should not be getting paid anything if we aren't doing our job. I've been rereading-- there was some floor debate over the mother's room back in 2019 and I won't bore you with the conversation because it's like 2019 all over again. It's the exact same thing and I just don't get, I don't get you all. I do not get you. I do not understand your politics. You will fight tooth and nail to make sure that a woman cannot make her own healthcare choices, but then you will say all kinds of outrageous, anti-science things all of the time talking about your rights. You want to take my rights away, but you want to preserve your rights and then you take my rights away, but then don't give me a space that is necessary to be a mother. It is so beyond hypocritical and bananas. Don't tell me that you are pro-life. All of you that campaign on, get up here, use your bully pulpit, and say that you are pro-life, not a one of you has stood up and said that this should be reinstated. Not a one of you has replied to Senator Hughes's email and said this is an immediate need, but you're pro-life and I'm supposed to believe you. I think you're a pack of liars. I walk the walk, I talk the talk. I do what I say I'm going to do. I am who I am and I've never pretended to be anything else. I am passionate about mothers in this state. I am passionate about minority mothers. I am passionate about poor mothers. I'm passionate about rich mothers. I am passionate about working mothers. I am passionate about stay-at-home mothers. I am here for the women of Nebraska and you all pretend to care, you pretend to have-- want to protect us from our own decision-making. The pretense is over. I'm

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sick of it. I'm sick of men in this body acting like you know what's best for me and my girlfriends and my sisters and my daughters. I am so sick of you. It is disgusting that not a single pro-life man can get on the microphone and say this is wrong, not a pro-life woman for that matter, but definitely not a pro-life man. Not a single pro-life man has gotten on the mike today or any day in the last seven days and defended the need for a mother's room and it is so disgusting and disappointing, but I guess that's who you all are. You talk out of both sides of your mouth all of the time. This is why people don't like politicians. You are not genuine. You say things, but you don't mean them. You don't live those values. This is a value that you should be living, but none of you are. I, I shouldn't be surprised after you all filibustered children with developmental disabilities, but somehow I just keep hoping against my better angels--

FOLEY: One minute.

M. CAVANAUGH: --thank you-- against my better angels that I just-- I hate to give up hope on people, but you all are making it really hard to not give up hope on you, really hard. You're pro-life? Say something. Stand up for women or stay silent and just be a talking point. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Members, Senator McKinney's motion on the floor is to advance the bill. I know I heard a request for a machine vote earlier. The question before the body is the advance of LB14 to E&R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 44 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill.

FOLEY: LB14 advances. Speaker Hilgers.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. Appreciate everyone's work today. We are near the end. Let me-- I wanted to give you two updates. One really is the important one on scheduling and with that regard, we're aiming for Thursday. So Thursday will be Final Reading. Thursday will be Final Reading of all the bills we just moved today. In order to get to Thursday and be ready for Final Reading, we have to have a layover day, so tomorrow will be a check-in only at 9:00, check-in only. We have nothing else on the agenda. In order to do that, we have to stand at ease today for a couple of hours while the work that we just sent up to the Revisors comes back down. We need at least a quorum here. I know we've got far more than a quorum. I know some people have to leave. As long as we've got 25 here, there's nothing-- no other official business is going to

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happen here on the floor today except when we adjourn and except for those bills when they come back down to be read across. So what I need-- so what will happen this week or from today through Thursday is I just need 25 to be in the building, be around so we have a quorum and then we will have those read across. We will adjourn. We will come in tomorrow morning for a check-in, check-in only, that's it, and then we'll come in Thursday morning and we will have Final Reading of all the bills that we moved. The other thing I just want to mention is-- and a couple of people have commented on it this morning or this afternoon-- and I, I appreciate everyone's consideration of the way that the agenda has been drafted the last couple of days with, with allowing us some flexibility. We've had a lot of-- as you've seen, some-- a lot of these amendments come through LRO, go to the Revisors. It's a very time-consuming process. We didn't know exactly what order things would be ready to go in, what, what items might have amendments. For Final Reading, we will have the explicit bill by-- bill-by-bill agenda, so you will know in advance exactly the order of the bills, in what order they're coming and explicitly, you know, one through seven or whatever the number is. So I just want to make clear on the record that you should expect that on Thursday. There won't be any sort of catch-all by the order of the Speaker. It will just be one through seven. With that, please-- we're not done today, so if you can stay, please do. We're going to stand at ease for a couple hours while the Revisors do our work and after that, we'll see everyone tomorrow morning. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Legislature will stand at ease.

[EASE]

DeBOER: Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: Madam President, Enrollment and Review reports the following bills as correctly engrossed: LB1, LB3, LB5, LB6, LB7, LB8, and LB14. Madam President, the Speaker would move to adjourn until Wednesday, September 29, at 9:00 a.m.

DeBOER: The question is, shall the Legislature adjourn? All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. The Legislature is adjourned.