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LB 406, 523

Who hears the bill may not be as significant as who drafts the bill and who develops the concept. Now I appreciate the fact that Senator Hefner has granted that Lancaster County would be able to caucus and develop a map. Senator Kahle has done the same thing. I think that that...certainly I am glad that that is a privilege that will be extended to those of us in Lancaster County. I think it is a privilege that should be granted to the full Legislature, that those of you across the state, whether it is in Douglas County, Sarpy County, Scotts-bluff County, or whatever, will have input into development of the bill before it happens. I think that is very crucial. I think Senator Kahle has indicated his willingness to involve the full Legislature in the development of this bill, and I think the reapportionment question is not really the property of any single committee but must be the property of the full Legislature. Now obviously we will have a chance to rewrite the bill on the floor of the Legislature. That is coming in too late and that is somewhat inefficient. I think the best structure is to involve through some sort of caucus system, whether it is the established caucus of the Committee on Committees or a kind of a...as Senator Warner suggests just a grouping of appropriate legislative districts, that somehow we involve the full Legislature in developing the bill and I think the Government Committee has indicated its willingness to have the full Legislature involved in the development of the bill before the hearing process and before it comes out on the floor. I think that guarantees all of us the input that we need. As Senator Kahle said, obviously the Government Committee may have to become the arbiter if there are disagreements within a caucus or between caucuses. But we must, I think, have a guarantee and I think Senator Kahle has provided that, that the full Legislature is involved in the development of this bill. For that reason, I am comfortable with the reference to the Government Committee as well as the fact that tradition is on the side of the Government Committee, and the whole question of subject matter reference is also on the side of the Government Committee.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would call for the question.

PRESIDENT: All right, the question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.