

May 18, 1981

LB 523

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I oppose the committee amendments and I am sure you know why. Out of 93 counties they picked Cass to split. Now I don't know if that is pointed or not but I don't like it. I didn't to begin with and the committee is aware of it, and I add, Cass County is also aware of it, and we don't like it. I think the committee did a good job when they started out and I think they listened to fine tuning too finely. I think when you get to redrawing maps of the magnitude of the state, that when you get down as low as they have gone, they have gone too far and I don't believe that it is correct, I don't believe it is good for the people in Cass County to have to work with two different Congressional Districts. It is bad enough for a legislator to have to work with more than one county and I am sure you are all aware of that. I do have a proposal, Senator Hefner, and it is up there as an amendment and it is not as fine tuned as your committee but it is an attempt to equalize to some degree the population problem in the state. It does not cross county lines and it is within a level that, in my opinion, is defensible and I will get to that amendment later. I do think, ladies and gentlemen, that you need to look at this seriously before you cast your vote for the committee amendments and give us a chance to at least modify the committee amendments to what is realistic, not unrealistic. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Maresh would move to amend the committee amendments. I believe copies have been distributed, is that right, Senator?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I guess I am in the same position like Senator Carsten. Thayer County residents are real unhappy with the way Thayer County was handled. They were taken from the First District which they have real close ties with and placed into the Third District. They would like to be returned to the First District so we drew up amendments. Instead we're splitting Knox County as the map shows, the eastern part of Knox County of Frankfort, Eastern, Dolphin, Dowling, Lincoln, Columbia and Morton would remain in the First District and the rest of them would be placed into the Third District. I think Thayer County is more like the rest of the First District. It has some manufacturing and has real close ties with the center of the district's population which is Lincoln and they would like to remain