

May 18, 1981

LB 523

Subjects Committee doesn't know that Cass County and myself don't like it, you are mistaken because they do. We did appear at the hearing and we did have a hearing and we expressed our views to them and our reasons why. Once again I remind this body as I did earlier that to have one county split between two Congressional Districts is extremely disrupting, not only from the political party standpoint but from a county level and the different subdivisions that work with the Congressional people. I remind this body, to the best of my knowledge, that heretofore in the reapportionment Congressional process, we have never split counties and I don't know why we need to start now when it causes such a disruption. The proposal that I am giving to you is not that far off. If we take those six precincts back out of Cass and leave them in the Second Congressional District, and you have now decided to leave Thayer in the Third, the First District would then be .106 minus the target, the Second would be .99 over the target, and the Third would be .07 over the target, or a differential or deviation of 2.05. Now it seems to me that any realistic sensible group that had to look at our state and look at the division three ways would realize that this is not that far wrong, and I suggest to you that this is realistic and that it does not cross county lines and that it is workable. For that reason, and those reasons together with the people from Cass County, I recommend to you that we adopt this amendment to the committee amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Warner, did you wish to speak to this?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to support Senator Carsten in his amendment because I, too, share a concern notwithstanding the fact that I represent a part of Cass County. But aside from that I share the concern of splitting counties up. Now I would agree with those that once you decide to do it, then you may as well get the difference down to virtually nothing but I would subscribe that there is every good and justified reason to not begin to split counties on Congressional redistricting. It has been held time and time again that social-economic considerations are justified for differences in the population of any kind of reapportionment areas. There isn't a soul in this state that does not recognize that particularly in rural areas county boundaries serve as the area that everyone associates with for a whole host of organizations and that any splitting of county to attain such a small difference here has absolute adverse impact on the county so split. Now obviously we can all understand that no one would want their