

county split. I represent parts of five counties now. Even on a legislative basis, I am exceedingly aware of the concern that people have for splitting counties even on a legislative district. It seems to me it is even more significant on a Congressional basis. So I would urge that you do support Senator Carsten in his amendment. I certainly would subscribe to stay with a proposal that split no counties. I think that that can be as close as we need to get. We may have to move a county or two but we will not need to split and I think that the citizens will be better served if counties are not split, certainly those counties that are proposed to be split, and I would hope you would support Senator Carsten.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, it is very hard for me to rise and oppose Senator Carsten's amendment. I have a feeling for him. I have a feeling for the people that are affected in Cass County and certainly I hate to oppose it when Senator Warner thinks that we should not split a county. But just let me explain it a little bit to you here. If we leave these six precincts in the Second Congressional District, we have a total population variance of two point or slightly over two points, I believe. If we are going to do this, then we just as well leave the Congressional Districts as they are now and this is what the committee decided to do at first, but after very careful research and in talking to the Attorney General's Office, we decided that we should get the population variance a little closer and we did this with all sincerity. The committee, the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee, has spent many long hours, spent many meetings in debating this issue, going from one map to another, and I don't know how many maps we have drawn but it is quite a few, but like I told you before, we still came back to removing the six precincts from Cass County. I would say to Senator Carsten and Senator Warner, think of it this way that Cass County will be represented by two Congressmen instead of one and we certainly do this in a lot of legislative districts and I don't think it is all that bad to split a county. I realize that we haven't in the past but I really do not believe that it is that bad, and when you talk about the social-economic conditions, we felt or the committee felt that the west one-third of Cass County had more in common with the First District than they did with the Second District and so, therefore, with the heavy population that we have in district #2, I would strongly urge you to oppose the Carsten amendment.