

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner will now move to amend the committee amendments (read Warner amendment).

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, one more effort to bring closer the disparity between the districts but preserve the concept of not crossing or splitting counties internally and this will do it. The effect is that it leaves Thayer in the First Congressional District, it would move Pierce to the Third Congressional District and move Burt back to where it used to be in the First Congressional District. It will be a lesser disparity than the existing boundaries of the Congressional Districts now, but I think that it is significant and important not to break with precedent and again to split counties for Congressional reapportionment unless you are going to go all the way and get down to just a handful of votes difference between each one. I think that it was pointed out by some that Cass County, which is split now, proposed to be split, that that area is more orientated towards Lincoln. I would agree that three of the six precincts perhaps are, but I would strongly disagree that the other three are because I represent them now and I know that those folks by and large tend to look towards Plattsmouth and Weeping Water and east of their area more so than they will towards Lincoln. But, I would hope that the body would accept and acknowledge the importance of retaining those county lines. There is a whole host of reasons, you are all familiar, there is no purpose served in adding to that discussion. But, I would urge your adoption of this amendment. It will reduce the disparity, it is not unreasonable. Burt County will be back where it was prior to ten years ago and the one county of course that would be moved would be Pierce to the Third District. I move adoption of the amendment Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body I hadn't originally thought that I would speak on this issue today, but, Senator Carsten I think has been successful in showing that there is a lot of opposition to the present plan, or at least the desire not to split counties. I just want to say one simple thing about this that I would draw to the attention of the Legislature and that is that if it is in fact the Legislature's desire not to split counties, this is the preferable way to do it. It is probably the only thing that could stand up in court as the Lincoln Journal indicated in their editorial. Now I'm not sure that this is the preferable way to do this whole process. I would much prefer to split Burt County of which would bring us much closer to the one man one vote principle, but if in fact we