

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose the DeCamp idea. In fact, I thought Senator Hefner's point was one that made a lot more sense than Senator DeCamp's. Basically, let me review for you just for a second what Senator DeCamp is proposing. He is saying, well, we made a policy decision and it may not have been the best policy decision and, gee, we ought not adopt this amendment because then it is going to take some votes to turn this off and we really don't want a public hearing because we have a solution but we really don't want the public to come in and discuss that solution, and so basically in a nutshell Senator DeCamp is saying, let's just leave it like it is and return it to the back rooms for the good old boys to kind of work it out. Now I think that that not only is wrong but I think that that flies in the face of Senator Hefner's intended motion and I was a little disappointed to see Senator Hefner get up and say, yes, that is a better idea. So I would just like to kind of help steer what I think is a reasonable course here. I think we ought to adopt the committee amendment. We have a bill then which is in the form that this body says it ought to be and we ought to advance that bill to Select File because it really is too late in the session to return it to committee for a public hearing and almost everyone agrees with that but that does not mean that we do not have to or cannot have a public hearing. In fact, I think it is a good idea to have a public hearing on this issue. I think that this body probably very easily could have a public hearing on this if that is the real need here, the real desire is to do this, but I think in any event, returning this to the back rooms to be worked out by the good old boys is absolutely the worst signal to send to the public. It is the worst thing to do at this late hour on the redistricting issue. Policy decisions are not easily arrived at but once they are arrived at they ought to be dealt with on the floor of this Legislature or in committees, not in the secrecy of whatever rooms might be chosen. So I would urge that the committee amendments be adopted, that the bill be advanced, and then if there is to be a public hearing, Senator Hefner, the chairman of the committee, could easily call such a hearing and we could have an opportunity to discuss this at that time.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to support the adoption of the committee amendments. Had the vote of the amendment to the amendment been less than by twenty-five votes in its adoption, I might have taken a different attitude because I have a lot of reluctance to try and amend an amendment,