

PRESIDENT MOUL: Okay, thank you, Mr. Clerk. I will now recognize Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, and thank you, Mr. Clerk, for reading this resolution. This resolution can be found on page 202 and 203 in the Journal. This is resolution number 3. This states that the policy of counting college students as residents of the community where they attend college should be changed, by the Bureau of Census, to instead count them as residents of the community in which their parents reside, or allow them to declare their residence. The 1990 federal census counted students in the communities where they attended college rather than where they declare their permanent residence. This gives cities where a college is located an exaggerated population total, and reduces the number in communities where there is no college or university. The policy of counting college students at their college was adopted by the Bureau of Census. And the Bureau of Census is a department or an agency of the United States Commerce Department. Congress has delegated the determination of where college students should be counted to the bureau of the census. And, ladies and gentlemen, prior to 1950, college students were counted where they declare their permanent residence. So, before 1950, they were counted in the communities where they resided. This resolution calls on the bureau to change the present policy back to the way it was prior to 1950. And this would take effect ten years from now, in the...for the 2000 census. If the bureau doesn't change the policy, then the resolution calls on Congress to change it, because I feel that this is the fairer way to do it. The most important use of the census is the original purpose that it was created. The U.S. Constitution specifies that a census be taken every ten years to properly apportion the U.S. House of Representatives among the states. States then use the results to redistrict the U.S. House of Representative districts. Every other level of government uses the results to redistrict their elected districts. And we'll be getting into that later on in this session, like the legislative districts, the Supreme Court districts, the Regent districts, and there are several others. Another very important reason is that a lot of the services and funds are apportioned based on the census population. They are based on the census population results. The way it's done now it hurts those small communities that do not have a college located in it. And, of course, this hurts the rural areas here