

the voters' votes in each congressional district to be reflected and I do believe that that will create some added interest and I do believe that it even could possibly increase the voter turnout. My reason for introducing it though is not for voter turnout but really for giving a fair system of evaluating people's and reflecting people's votes. I want to tell you that this district plan actually goes back further than 1940s or '50s, that actually we've been talking about a district planning Congress since the early 1800s. It's not a new idea. There have been various alternatives of district plans that have been introduced and one of them in the 1900s, the 1940s I believe it was if my memory is correct, did come very close to passage. This is not...we're not asking Congress to do anything in this bill. All we're asking is that we here in Nebraska do something a little bit different. It would not change the system nationally and, in fact, if you recall from the General File debate, I indicated to you that on only three occasions in the last 50 years would any kind of electoral vote been changed at all, if the system had been in place, presuming that that wouldn't change other things as well. But 1964, for instance, when Johnson went statewide, Goldwater would have won the third district and would have received one electoral vote. In 1944, when Dewey went statewide, Roosevelt won the second district. He would have gotten one electoral vote and in 1940 when Wilke won again, Roosevelt would have won one electoral vote. We have to go back quite a ways to 1964 to find any difference. I'm not sure that we will see any difference in the next 20 years if we adopt this system, but I think it's a fairer system. I think the argument about state boundaries is not a strong argument unless you think the electoral college is an infallible system. I think that the boundaries moving according to the population is a good thing. I believe in proportional representation. And I guess the question that we really want to ask ourselves is, do we really want the people to have their vote reflected in the electoral vote.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. We'll go to Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'll pass for now.