

Pierce Counties from the northern part of the First Congressional District results in an approximate loss of 35 percent of the total population of the region from the district. This would be a substantial loss. As I said before, Madison County has been in the First Congressional District for many, many years and does not want to be moved. Madison County is also a media center for the region. We have a predominant Norfolk Daily News. We have radio stations at...AM and FM, based in Norfolk offering programming to a substantial portion of northeast Nebraska. Although Norfolk and Madison County do not have television stations currently based in the county, three Sioux City stations...Iowa...three Sioux City, Iowa television stations do play a major part in Madison County as well as the other counties in the northern part of the First Congressional District. This helps to strengthen the region and I wonder what would happen with the coverage we would get if we was in the Third District. I doubt whether we would get that much coverage. Norfolk is definitely a hub for higher education with Northeast Technical Community College and Wayne State College. They are part of the center for technical, baccalaureate, graduate and continued education for the region. Finally, there is a common attachment between Norfolk, Wayne and South Sioux City in the Sioux City, Iowa region. Elected officials from these areas as well as the other northern counties have consistently worked well together. The loss of any of these counties to the First Congressional District would be disruptive and representation for the region would be lost. I ask for adoption of the Conway amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Warner, followed by Senators Wesely, Schimek, Withem and Schellpeper. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, just briefly, I suppose the plan which I guess we're referring to as the Schimek plan has some merit in that maybe it will make elections, from what I read in the paper, more interesting in the First District if the Republican-Democratic balance is changed. And I certainly like interesting elections unless I'm in it. The (laughter), no, no, no. I do think there's a great deal of logic to the argument for Norfolk as a hub in northeast Nebraska, which has been mentioned. I have another interest that intrigues me more. If, in the year 2001, we drop down to