

two districts, at that point, I would like to see Lancaster just move one district over to the...to the western district and the Conway plan would accommodate that much more readily, it would appear to me. And I think it would lead to potential reapportionment ten years from now, assuming we do not gain in population and other states continue to gain that have. I think in the long run it's the more logical division of the state if Lancaster is just one boundary away from moving into the western district should we go to two.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I think Senator Warner has a lot of foresight and is frequently correct about times to come but let us hope he's wrong about that potential ten years from now to go from three to two districts. The potential is there, obviously, and we should be cognizant of it. In the meantime, we have ten years at which we have three congressional districts and we ought to utilize those ten years as best we can. I continue to believe that the Schimek plan best addresses the community of interest issue I raised earlier and an attempt to try to diminish and dilute the role of Lincoln in that district is a mistake. The fact that again it accounts for 40 percent of the district population in and of itself reflects that it is right and just and fair that that influence be reflected in the district boundaries and an attempt to change that and dilute it is inappropriate, in my view. And that's not to say that it is...I think it's unfortunate that Madison County and Norfolk if we could find a way to form a hub and to work something out, that would make sense. But the sacrifice of trying to keep that community of interest for Lincoln, I think, is inappropriate. And it's not...as Senator Conway talked about, well, you can forget about the First District north of the Platte without a town the size of Norfolk. Well, you've got Fremont, although it's further south, it's north of the Platte and that's a town bigger than Norfolk and there are many other communities and a great deal of influence that would be retained north of the Platte with the Schimek plan. So I don't think that's really going to happen. I think, as Senator Lamb probably struck upon what's really happening here and that is the question of whether it's Republicans or Democrats that get moved from the First District to the Third District. Now let's...Senator Warner talked about competitive races and what are we talking about here in terms of registration changes under this proposal? Well, currently there