

is 20,000 more Republicans in the First District than Democrats. Under the Schimek plan, that drops all the way down to 17,000, still a rather substantial advantage to the First Congressional District for any Republican choosing to run for Congress. The Conway plan goes the other way and there's 24,000 more Republicans than Democrats, clearly a much greater shift than proposed under the Schimek plan. That's what we're really talking about here, by and large. There's community of interest issues. There's other issues involved here, obviously, but the bottom line is it's, in many cases, whether it's Republicans or Democrats they get moved to the Third District and it appears that nobody wants to go to the Third District whether they're one or the other. But, nevertheless, I continue to argue that if you happen to be Republican and concerned about Republican advantage in the First Congressional District, you don't lose that much under the Schimek plan, you still have a 17,000 vote advantage which is substantial in anybody's book. And still, again, you reflect the actual population influence that should be reflected in the boundaries. So I would urge you to reject the Conway amendment, to support the committee amendment. I think the committee did the right thing in advancing the proposal as it's now before us. It better reflects the situation, in my view, that it's not taking anything away from Norfolk or northeast Nebraska. It's unfortunate that they have to be moved at all. It would be...if there's another plan out there, another proposal that might be able to accomplish all of this, obviously, we would be more than interested in taking a look at it. But something has to change. I think the proposal by Senator Schimek makes more sense than the proposal by Senator Conway, again attempting to balance out the various interests involved here.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Before we proceed with debate, I would like to introduce some special guests of the Legislature this afternoon. Seated under the north balcony are guests of Senator Cudaback. They are Joe and Dorothy DeLate of Kearney. Would you please rise and be recognized and welcome to the Legislature. And seated under the south balcony are special guests of Senator Labedz. They are Bill and Linda Somerville, Kermit, and Phyliss, Herman and Delores and Warren Kalskett. Would you please rise and be recognized and welcome. Thank you. The speaking order now is Senator Schimek, Withem and Schellpeper. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam President and members of the body, I