

district any more than it currently is and to assure ourselves that we will have an area that will be controlled by...by racial minorities. We also created a new suburban district in the Douglas-Sarpy County area and drew our map to be in line with the committee amendment so that a portion of western Douglas and northwestern Sarpy County would be in the newly created District 21. I think the map works. I think it's a plan that deserves the support of the body and I would urge the body to support the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Crosby, followed by Senator Peterson.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, my...what I'm going to say are just some generic remarks about the redistricting in general. And one of...the first thing I want to say is that I do thank the Government Committee. I think they have worked very hard to try to bring in a plan for all of the political entities that is going to be as fair as possible and all the things that have been said, I know there are some amendments to the amendments coming along that I may support or may not support. But, in the long run, when we look at the division of the districts, as Senator Withem said, what we were...what we're trying to do is create 49 legislative districts. And when the first plan came in Senator Schimek took the lead in Lancaster County and she did a really very good job. When the first plan came in I felt a little heartsick because...and it's still going to be true, when we finish today I'm going to lose my treasurer and I'm sure that he can...he'll still...maybe he can still be my treasurer but he's not going to be able to vote for me. My campaign manager whose garage we used for building yard signs and whose wife worked out all of our divisions for all of the workers on the days that we canvassed, I'm not...again, they will probably help me because we're good friends but they can't vote for me. And I think that's the way we all feel today in the legislative thing is that you lose some people that are very close to you but then when I started looking at the new precincts that I will have and the ones that I will continue to have that I have had before, I started feeling better. And the point I want to make to all of you, and remember this as we go along, parties are there and we're supposed to be a nonpartisan group but, of course, with political people that's...that's a dream, I think, for us to say that we're nonpartisan. But just remember when it comes right down to it the voters are the ones who elect us. It's not the