

SENATOR PETERSON: I found just in the last day or two that Madison County is not only split up two ways but three ways. Will you...in talking to the...some of the committee members, they are not aware of it, how did this come about?

SENATOR CONWAY: I believe the third person split that you're talking about is because of the community of Newman Grove.

SENATOR PETERSON: That's right. Is that correct?

SENATOR CONWAY: Yes. What we found is that Newman Grove, like many other...or I should say at least a few others around the state happen to sit on the county line and because of the community of interest concept some people felt that...and again also looking for that 2 percent variance that Newman Grove could, should be united rather than having two senators serving that particular relatively small community, that it was more in their interest to try to put that town intact into one district, much like there was no...also no discussion towards splitting up Norfolk or splitting Madison, the City of Madison away from the City of Norfolk. But...

SENATOR PETERSON: Senator Conway, are you aware that there is only, at most, six houses in Senator Robak's district, and there...and 99.9 of Newman Grove is in the 21st District. It's not splitting up the town.

SENATOR CONWAY: Well, it is splitting up the town and you would have...if you use the county line, you would have two senators serving Newman Grove, or even though there's not very many people on either side or on one side. In some people's analysis, there's not very many people on either side of the county line.

SENATOR PETERSON: But...oh...that's kind of a low blow, Senator Conway. But consensus...census officials have said the Nebraska population may be undercounted. I'm wondering whether that will happen and what if it does happen, what happens then? If District 21 is moved, rural Nebraska loses a voice and I just stated that a little bit ago. Is this what rural senators want when we need all the help we can get in Nebraska, in rural Nebraska and for economic development. You can't do that by losing a voice for rural Nebraska. We need to, as I said before, work together. District 21 has been one of the top leaders of the state in economic development and that has been