

that there were not many people doing and working on a statewide plan at all. In fact, you certainly had the Douglas-Sarpy County senators working together as everyone understood that they were to develop something that might be workable in the Omaha area. We certainly knew and there were the Lancaster County and City of Lincoln senators who were working together to do what they felt was in the best interests of the districts in those areas. But there wasn't much else going on outstate in Nebraska. So it's simply one evening that I was a little bit bored and I decided to sit down and just fiddle a little bit. And I started with the basic concept of forgetting all the politics, forgetting all the individuals that may or may not be involved, what is the best plan that could come out looking at community of interest and geography of interest, with the understanding that you're not...one is not going to be able to be as consistent as one would like when you're trying to put a very, very complicated puzzle together. And at the end of a couple days of late night, we finally came up..I finally came up with a plan. Started working with other senators, certainly other senators knew areas better and there were adjustments made. It was submitted to the committee. It was the only statewide plan that the committee had, the only one that was actually submitted and followed through and, consequently, the committee felt that it was good enough to send to the floor. A couple things I would like to stress. Number one, the concept was not anything but what is in the best interest of communities and areas. And I wish all senators would have been able to take time to actually try to put a so-called map together because I think only once you go through and start putting all those numbers and all those ideas statewide do you begin to understand the complexity of trying to do something that is as fair as possible to the people of Nebraska in regards to their representation in the Nebraska Legislature. And when one does that you traditionally will come to an agreement that there are two major areas of problem within the state in regards to making things work. One of those areas is in the central part of the state and another one is in the northeast part of the state where, quite honestly, they need 20,000 people to find and there's a lot of expansion needed in that part and very little room to expand. When you get into those two areas one finds that if you truly want to try to keep to as much as possible community of an area of interest that you need to need some merging and consolidation of districts and that is why those occurred. In fact, the original plans didn't have any of these things happening. It's something that I came to a conclusion