

that had to be done in order to make the concept of community of interest work. That's basically how it came about. Another point I would like to make concerning a comment by my good friend, Senator Peterson, concerning the rural senators and losing a rural voice. Absolutely not the case. In the plan as submitted by...to the Legislature by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, actually there is created a brand new rural...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...district. Is that one minute or time, Madam Chair?

PRESIDENT MOUL: We're giving you the one minute back from Senator Chambers.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you. Consequently, the second district, the B district on the Omaha-Douglas County and the Lancaster map, the B district is, in fact, more rural than some of the so-called rural districts. Examples preliminarily, 81 percent of the people in that new district actually live in a community less than 2,200, is a very, very rural district. So we are not losing a rural voice in the Legislature. And I wanted to put...make that one particularly clear. The other one I would like to talk about is counties...county divisions, and I certainly understand Dawson County's concern, Madison County concerns, Gage County's concern and so on. The fact of the matter is when you try to find a 2 percent tolerance, 4 percent deviation on either side of the 32,212 figure there is no way to put a package together statewide that does not divide counties. Madison County's interests are no better or worse than Dawson County or Sheridan County or Gage County. All counties have an interest but we have to divide counties. Counties are divided now. They're divided under this plan and they will forever be divided because of the number of counties we have and the number of people that are needed to find and to create each district and that's the simple matter of the fact. If you keep Madison County whole, the alternative would be to divide other...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...counties. So it doesn't become an issue of which counties do we want to be vindictive to but rather which counties need to be shifted or changed and divided