

in shoe leather, as long as I got breath in my body I'm going to fight against all of those things. But I say again the day will come when I probably won't be here.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Madam Chairman and members, I have to rise in opposition again to this proposal. It was a total surprise to me when, unbeknownst to me, this plan of Senator Bernard-Stevens was put up with no one talking to me in regards to it. I think it would be inappropriate if Senator Bernard-Stevens, with his district being pretty much united as mine, if he'd of come and discussed this with me and worked so...with me in regards so it wasn't a surprise, giving me time to draw a map of my own and for other ones. As I stated before, it also was a surprise to find a hidden agenda that, unbeknownst to me and members of the committee, except Senator Conway, that we are cutting Madison County into three areas. Senator Bernard-Stevens, are you available? I wanted to ask him a question. I don't...Senator Bernard-Stevens, as it says in the guidelines that district boundary lines shall follow county lines wherever practical and shall define districts that are compact and contiguous, wouldn't you say Madison County fits that criteria?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes.

SENATOR PETERSON: Why, then, do you split it up?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Because when you put the whole thing together in the entire map and not looking at just one district, or one county, or one city, we have to do whatever practical and we have to make the numbers so that each district is within 2 percent tolerance one way or another. As it turned out, in order to make this particular plan work it was needed...the City of Newman Grove, for example, was needed to be put in one county or the other. In this case, it needed to be put into Senator Robak's district so that the numbers of both districts were within the 2 percent tolerance. The one thing we tried to do...

SENATOR PETERSON: Yes, but why did you have Madison...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...is keep all communities from being divided.

SENATOR PETERSON: But it does make no sense to split a county,