

First of all, I'd like to ask Senator Hefner a question, if I could, because I don't know if this point has been adequately made to the body to understand it, but, Senator Hefner, do you know what the population of the City of Norfolk is at this time?

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Withem, I believe it's around 20,000, maybe a little over 20,000, maybe 22 or 23 thousand.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, let's just say 20,000. By Nebraska standards, Senator Hefner, is that a rural area or an urban area, by Nebraska standards?

SENATOR HEFNER: I would say that that's a predominantly rural area.

SENATOR WITHEM: A city of 20,000 people in Nebraska is a rural area?

SENATOR HEFNER: I believe I'd have to call it a rural area.

SENATOR WITHEM: Well, by Nebraska, I wonder are there only then two urban areas in the whole State of Nebraska?

SENATOR HEFNER: I would have to say perhaps three.

SENATOR WITHEM: Including Grand Island?

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes.

SENATOR WITHEM: But everything else is rural?

SENATOR HEFNER: I would consider that.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I guess I would differ with that. I would say a community of 20,000, by Nebraska standards, is one of our more urbanized areas and I guess I would...and getting back to the point you made that this plan somehow discriminates against rural Nebraska, the 21st Legislative District at this point is one county, then that county is a community of 20,000 people. Two-thirds of the people in that county live in, my opinion, an urbanized area of Norfolk. The 21st Legislative District, under the committee amendments, consist of a community where 81 percent of the people live in a community of less than 2,000. Ashland is the largest community in the 21st Legislative District as it is drawn by the committee amendments. Valley, a