

firmly believe that the bill is in shape to be advanced. I have heard things relative to the diminishing of Lincoln's influence. That was one of the debates on General File was how much influence does Lincoln want in the First Congressional District. It seems to me they are so unbelievably dominant already that a minor adjustment to that extent shouldn't be tolerated from my point. One of the things, and I would like to redirect the whole discussion relative to this partisan plan, if you will, as Senator Schimek and Senator Wesely have alluded to, you notice that there's been no discussion relative to the Second Congressional District. The Second Congressional District, as it was changed, both in the original plan that Senator Schimek offered, that came through the committee and was advanced to the floor and then was amended by me on General File, was a very significant change allowing the Second Congressional District to probably shore up a democratic stronghold in that particular area for on into perpetuity. Nobody talks about that side. Now all of a sudden it was like, since that was not on the table and that happened, then that's a "gimme"; let's go see what we can grab elsewhere and try to position ourselves in a stronger position of partisan fashion elsewhere. The poor First Congressional District is the one that's really taking a hit. If you go back to the malapportionment statistics that came out, it was kind of curious when I found they came out of the computer, the First Congressional District with the population it has in its current geography, had 21 people off from the target. It didn't even show up as a...out of five hundred and...the target of five hundred and, what was it, twenty-six thousand people in a congressional district, the First Congressional District, without changing any of its boundaries, was within 21 people of that target. There was zero, zero, zero deviation, but yet the First Congressional District has to take the...absorb the hit over the 32,000 people that have to be tossed out of the Second Congressional District and then tossed out the back side out of the First Congressional District. If I had my druthers. I would leave the First Congressional District just the way that it is, but instead we had to absorb those 32,000 on the east and we had to diminish the First Congressional District by that same amount basically on the west. The argument of the R & D, the argument that the Governor mentioned the other day in terms of he would rather not split counties, well, if he doesn't want to split counties let's go look at Cass County and see whether we ought to rewrite that Second Congressional District. That county is split and nobody even talks about that. All they want to talk about is poor Gage