

Senator Wickersham and I were just visiting and I saw the provision in the Constitution that probably allows this to happen. But as a policy consideration to leave a legislative district, 32,000 people in the state, in a situation where for at least two years they will be represented in this body by an individual who does not live within their midst is not a good policy decision, and that's what this plan does and I think also it's what the next plan, the Schrock plan, also does; that there is something about having the representative live up the street. I live on Donegal Drive in Papillion and the people in my district know that and they know when something in that district impacts upon them they can contact me. They can come by the house. They can call me. They can meet me at the local coffee shop and we can talk about it and we have an impact because I live there, number one, and, number two, that if I seek to continue my career in the Legislature those will be the people who will be passing judgment on my performance. I mean, we all know Senator Elmer. We know Senator Elmer is one of the hardest working members of this body and that he will do his level best to provide good representation for the people in the 38th Legislative District no matter where in the state that may be, but it's just not the same not having one of your neighbors represent you in the Legislature, number one, and not knowing that you can hold that person accountable. Can't tell you how many conversations I've had with constituents that have ended with "and we'll be watching this in the next election". I don't like that. I don't like being threatened with a vote, but that's what our process is all about. We're not allowing that for the residents of Dawson, Phelps, and Gosper County if we adopt the Elmer plan. The other point, and this is just looking at how it affects the area which I represent, I know I look at the 43rd District in this plan and I look at the 49th District in these plans and I know what you're talking about, about a big area to represent. But in our area of the state we...our districts are much smaller and much more contiguous. In looking at the 16th District that starts all the way up in northern Burt County, and I'm not sure if it goes into Thurston or not, but all the way up in Burt County and ends up down in Sarpy County, that is not a contiguous area and that is not an area of commonality of interest. We all know Senator Robinson would just do a fantastic job representing that area. Even if he does write bad congressional redistricting plans, he would do a fantastic job representing that area, but it really is not a contiguous area. The Bernard-Stevens plan or the committee amendment as it is out there is a workable plan. It's a plan