

little more population that I could give away. And another about this is we only lose one rural district and I think Governor Nelson awhile back had expressed a desire for economic development and keep rural communities together and growing. This flies in the face of that. I think Senator Owen Elmer's plan makes districts much more uniform and the '91 redistrict guidelines state that district boundary lines shall follow county lines whenever practical and shall define districts that are compact and continuous (sic) with few exceptions. I think his plan does that. Further, the district boundary lines shall define districts that are easily "identifful" and understandable to voters, and they reflect unity in character and economic interest. I think Senator Owen Elmer's plan fits pretty much most of our desires and I know that it doesn't on some, but for rural Nebraska I think it is imperative that we stay that...with this plan and hopefully, like I said, the standard of keeping geographic areas and community interests intact and this pretty much does it. I ask for your support on the Owen Elmer plan. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I think the last few speakers have missed the point. The point is when we do redistricting, in my opinion, the least of our concerns needs to be what we like in our particular district. I mean we represent that district fine, but as state senators we need to try to come up with a plan that fits the spirit of the Constitution, that fits the spirit of representation, that tries to get as much of the community of interest and geography of interest as possible for Nebraskans, period, so that all Nebraskans have what they would consider their voice in the Legislature, not a plan that I like or someone else likes because of what it does to a particular county. I think we need to rise above that. I know some times it's difficult to do and those of us on one plan or another may be voting one way or another because of what it might do to a particular county, and I understand that. But the majority I think have to look at the main point, I think, of the...of Senator Elmer's plan that, to me, is a problem. Number one, I want to compliment Senator Elmer because he has done a tremendous amount of work and it's nice to have choices out there. It's too bad that we wouldn't have had more choices when the committee hearing took place, and it's also too bad that