

reached a consensus that we needed to send a plan forward and when the only whole plan before us was what was then referred to, and I guess still is, the Bernard-Stevens plan, we said to Senator Schrock that those of us who do not live in his part of the state really don't have a strong interest in how the specific district lines are drawn in that part of the state; that it is up to those senators and that there needs to be some sort of consensus among the senators in a given area about how the districts should be drawn that we'd have no objection to it. It's kind of the same thing people have told us in the Omaha area. You know, unfortunately, the next plan that we deal with doesn't necessarily honor that commitment. It does make some changes in the Omaha map that the Omaha senators did not deal with, but that's a debate for later on. We said, go ahead, western senators, form a consensus, you know, it is your district. Senator Smith was 100 percent right as far as that was concerned. She gave an accurate description of what the committee said. I guess where I part company a little bit with what I heard her saying is I don't think that consensus has been reached. In my discussions with senators out in the western two-thirds of the state, geographically, which probably make up about ten legislative districts, I see at the very best there will be a split, an even split. There might even be more...there's more likely to be more opposition to this particular plan than there is support for it. So, for that reason and also for the reason that it just philosophically bothers me drawing a district that will exist past the next election for another two years that does not have an incumbent senator residing within it. It has nothing to do with the quality of how hard anybody would work. It just, when you don't have to do that, and there are plans where you don't have to do that, I just think it's bad policy for the same reasons that I used when I talked about the Elmer plan. So, because I'm speaking as somewhat as an outsider to the western two-thirds of the state, quite obviously, if there was a consensus out in that area I would say, fine, do what you want to do, but just for the other people from my part of the state who might feel the same way, I'm raising that red flag that I have not detected that that consensus exists and I invite you to, you know, watch the votes as they go up on the board or visit with some of the folks from the western two-thirds of the state before making a strong commitment one way or the other on this particular plan.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you Senator Withem. Senator Smith. There's no one else wishing to speak on the issue, so I will