

deviation that's required by this legislative body for legislative districts' realignment. I have done what I think the people of this state would want in keeping the District 21 and District 39 viable, and evidently District 43 is not a problem. We have worked around that district and 43 now becomes a district in Douglas County. So I would only wish for your support of this legislation. I have no particular gerrymandering effort in mind. I only have in mind the wishes of what I think would be the people of this great state. Before I finish, I'd like to also make another comment. Senator Conway mentioned a little bit earlier about the stellar work that the staff has done over there and I can only attest to that. I know that Val Goodman and Pat Hammond have been up all night and I think that's exemplary and the bill drafters have done the same thing. They've been working on this amendment since about four o'clock this morning and they never even questioned me when I went up and asked them what we had to do to get this done. They just said bring it up. I think that's great and I just am really impressed with the cooperation that I've had, and especially from Senator Conway's office. I think that he has gotten a bad rap on the state scene here in the paper yesterday and I'm awfully sorry about that. I think that was undeserved and I'm...and I, for one, think that that was just extremely cruel and I just don't think it should have happened. So, with that, I'd like to just urge your support of this amendment and I'm willing to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Speaking order now is Senator Haberman, Chizek, Wesely and Landis. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Madam President and members of the body, I have not spoken to the issue of redistricting until a few minutes ago. Senator Elmer asked me some questions. I would like to support Senator Dierks' amendment for this reason, and I'll admit I'm being selfish. And if we could work out, if there's a problem in eastern Nebraska, I'll help to work out that problem, but what his amendment does in the 34th Legislative District, it gives that district a community on the interstate. We have always had a community on the interstate. It's important to that district to keep the community of Ogallala which is the community on the interstate. It enlarges the district, makes it more travel, adds more counties, but I'm willing to do that. I'm used to traveling. The people are used to each other. They have the same beliefs, the same feelings.