

Government Committee map, and for that reason I'm finding all of them for the most part deficient in some way or another. For that reason, I'll be voting against the Dierks amendment and returning to the basic Government Committee document and supporting it in its place.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I too rise in opposition to this amendment. I have not been active in the debate on this issue. I have obviously been active in the debate on this issue. I have obviously been active in the redistricting, as we all have, in trying to work with our neighbors and arrange things. Today, however, as we've debated this issue, none of the amendments have affected my particular district and I've sat back and listened to the arguments and voted as I felt was best given the debate. This amendment too does not affect my district specifically, but it does affect a principle that Senator Chizek mentioned that I think is an important one that was developed early on by the Government Committee and that was a willingness on the part of Senator Conway and that committee to allow the various areas within the state to work by themselves and develop districts and go on from there once they agreed among themselves. And I think that in Douglas County and Sarpy County we worked very hard at this district. I know in particular...at this task. I know in particular that Senator Lynch, and Senator Chambers, and myself had to work very hard because we were dealing with a whole other set of variables in that we had to account for a minority district and there are a whole set of guidelines that come into play when you structure a minority district that don't otherwise. So we had a very lively argument among the three of us as we worked things out, and then among our neighbors once we had structured that district properly, and I think that the entire process has worked very well as far as that initial principle that was used today by Senator Conway and the Government Committee, that of allowing senators to sit down among themselves in their particular areas. And this amendment, as Senator Chizek mentioned, does come in and disrupt some of the things that we have accomplished in the Douglas and Sarpy County area and, for that reason, I strongly oppose it in that it violates that initial principle that I think has been the cornerstone of the way that redistricting has worked and I commend Governor or Senator Conway and the Government Committee for coming up with that. I'm promoting Senator Conway a little