

develop a plan that does, indeed, keep Gage County together in one...in the 1st Congressional District. I think that kind of makes some sense. So that tells a little bit, he does still split Knox County up yet but, obviously, you're talking about an area much farther removed from Lincoln, and so, I mean, I guess that if your true goal is to not split any counties, you would not like Senator Conway's proposals or anything he's going to bring forward to us, but given one of the major problems always had been that Gage County is sitting there close to Lincoln, as is Saline and others, but at least you could solve the Gage County program. So, with that, I would still rise to oppose Senator Withem's amendment. Will be supporting Senator Conway's amendment when he introduces it later.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Wesely. Was that a call of the question? Are there sufficient seconds? I see sufficient seconds. We'll now vote on the motion to call the question. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Debate has ceased and I'll recognize Senator Withem for closing.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members, very briefly in closing, my interest in bringing this offering in the first place, feel like I need to say this because of the charges of partisanship that are being offered, this was first suggested in the Government Committee, as Senator Smith has indicated in her remarks, as an alternative to two plans that I saw both as being, frankly, rather partisan in nature. One plan that took most of the excess population out of the heavily dominated Republican northern portion of the state into the 3rd District which would shift the balance somewhat for more favorable Democratic prospects in the district, and the Conway plan which would have taken the excess population out of the southern, more heavily Democratic area. This was offered as an attempt to bring forward a nonpartisan approach. The two members of the committee that had their own plans at that time did not want to adopt either one of these so, bowing to their wishes, we went forward. The Schimek plan came to the floor, the Conway plan was substituted and I offered this as an alternative in a nonpartisan approach. It continues to be, I think, although unfortunately we have kind of followed upon partisan lines in