

position with the idea of giving a little bit and showing a little compromise and, instead, what I got was something other than a compromise. We end up going back to the Senator Withem plan. I, again, have not run the Rs and Ds on this, and maybe that's what you're all waiting for, but the bottom line that I had from the very beginning was that Lancaster County is already an extremely dominant force within the 1st Congressional District. If you go back to the numbers that I ran this weekend, was under the Conway plan or the one that we had before, 64 percent of the population of the 1st Congressional District is below the Platte River. If you'd throw Fremont into that, you would even find a great deal more than that. Under the Schimek plan that we were dealing with before that was advanced to the floor, 72 percent was below the Platte River, so I've been somewhat strident in my attempts to make sure that whatever population was thrown off out of the 1st Congressional District was not thrown off on the northern tiers of counties, instead that there was somewhat of a balance maintained with respect to the southern tiers. The compromise that I offered the Governor today in terms of splitting Knox County was an attempt to keep some balance. We're keeping about exactly the same balance of how many people live north of the Platte River as we do south of the Platte under the old plan as we do today. I thought it was an extremely fair compromise. We maintain the integrity of that kind of a balance. I assume we also would probably keep very close to the same kinds of balances we had under the amendment that was offered on Select File. I offer this to you. I think that to not advance or to attach this particular amendment, particularly in light of the fact that we have now adopted the Withem amendment which, one, takes out two counties, one county of about 9,000 and some odd people, Pierce County also, 7,000 and some, and then we have the audacity to reach into another county and break it up in terms of the Madison County breakup, again defying what the Governor said was his primary principle and that being not to break up counties and communities of interest. So I offer this to the body. I hope that the body will adopt it and, at that point, move forward. Like I say, had I known that we were going to turn into this situation, I suppose I would have worked to hunker down and keep the plan that the body has approved on two different occasions now that we've gotten to this point, but my real attempt is to try to keep that community of interest, to try to keep that balance of population somewhat distributed. It's already, like I say, a one-third/two-thirds basis above the Platte/south of the Platte, and we're now slowly moving into a