

afford to drive down to Lincoln and lobby us or lobby the Governor. And as to the Governor calling a special session, I couldn't...I can't believe that the Governor would call a special session and spend \$50,000, plus the time of 49 senators being down here for seven days. I just...I would think that he'd be a smarter man than that. And so I'm going to have to oppose the Conway plan too. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam President. I'm going to stand to oppose the Conway plan also and I'm trying to show the body that it is possible for a Republican to be nonpartisan. I have been approached by some people that said, why are you voting for the Withem plan. I'm voting for the Withem plan because, to me, it is the most nonpartisan of the plans that we have here. It's a compromise. It's fairer. Senator Conway, in committee, wanted Madison County. It's Republican. Senator Schimek wanted Saline County, in particular. It's Democrat. What the Withem plan does is make them both happy. Well, you should be happy instead of fighting this issue at this time of the night by splitting Knox County and not only including Madison County but giving yourself Pierce back again and cutting out Saline. I am saying that the Ron Withem plan is the fairest plan and we keep talking about the fact that we're nonpartisan and this is an opportunity for you to show that you're sincere in that. I am sincere in that. This is the best plan as far as everyone's concerned because both sides don't get what they want. I am going to ask you to reject the Conway amendment and stick with the Ron Withem plan as the fairest compromise. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I woke up on the wrong side of the bed this morning. When I got up this morning the first thing I did is stepped on the cat and it didn't bother me at all. I liked it. And I came in and it's been that way ever since that way. It's just like I've been looking for a fight and if I'm not careful I'll say some things on this particular issue that I would wish I wouldn't. So I'm going to change tones just a little bit. Senator Conway, I'd like to ask you a couple questions, if I may.

SENATOR CONWAY: Sure.