

state by a river or the goal of observing geographical and political boundaries, since none of such factors had been explicitly shown to necessitate the substantial population deviation and since other less statistically offensive plans were feasible. Now let's apply the Government Committee's number three guideline and the Supreme Court's guidelines on the subject and the rejection of multimember districts without sufficient justification for doing so. If these were followed, no county that has sufficient population to meet the ideal redistricting population figure of 32,212 should be deprived of their own state senator. Under the facts in our case, Lincoln County, represented by Senator Bernard-Stevens, should have retained its District 42 because its population of 32,508 was above the ideal district. And under the Bernard-Stevens plan now, LB 614, it was left untouched. Hall County, with its population of 48,925, retained its District 35; Buffalo County, with its population of 37,447, retained its District 36; Scottsbluff County, with its population of 36,025, retained its District 48. Madison County, with its population of 32,655, which is 443 population more than an ideal district, was the only outstate county with more than the ideal redistricting population to lose its district. And what was the reason for this? Was it absolutely necessary to do it for the limited reasons given by the Supreme Court? No. It was done because the coalition had the raw power and the votes to do it. There are lots of hidden agendas in LB 614 which are not a valid reason for doing this and all of which violates the Government Committee's own guidelines. For example, the guidelines say in number 5, district boundaries shall not be established with the intention of protecting or defeating any incumbent or the intention of discriminating against any political party that is legally recognized by the State of Nebraska and qualified to nominate candidates for public office at the time that the redistricting plan in question is adopted by the Legislature. It is a matter of open discussion with Senator Conway that he wanted to get rid of Dixon County out of his District 17 because he never carried it in the 1980, '84 and '88 elections. Isn't it interesting that the Bernard-Stevens plan, which is now LB 614, eliminates Dixon County from Senator Conway's District 17 and puts it in Senator Hefner's District 19 which necessitates the elimination of Madison County's District 21? If that is not protecting Senator Conway at the expense of the Madison County seat, I'll eat my hat. None of the counties Senator Conway represents approaches the ideal population figure and yet to protect his district and his political insights