

Madison County was made the sacrificial lamb. There were at least three other separate plans which met the guidelines which kept District 21 for Madison County so it is not as if eliminating 21, District 21, was the only alternative. Senators Dierks and Elmer submitted their plans which kept District 21 and they were promptly rejected because the coalition had the votes for 614, the Bernard-Stevens, Wesely and Withem plan. I had a plan drafted which also retained District 21 and which met the guidelines but after defeat of both Senators Elmer's and Dierks' plans, I never submitted my plan because the handwriting was on the wall as far as the votes were concerned. Clearly though, there were plans that met all the guidelines and would not have eliminated District 21, so violating the redistricting guidelines and the Supreme Court guidelines was not necessary which should result in the federal district court throwing out this plan of LB 614. Number four, the guidelines said, insofar as possible and within the context of the Supreme Court standards described in guideline 3 above, the one on keeping counties, district boundary lines shall define districts that are easily identifiable and understandable to voters and that reflect unity of character and economic interests. The Madison County area and the City of Norfolk is the major trade center and the economic hub of northeast Nebraska. Of any place that should have its own senator, should not...should have been District 21 but never mind the guidelines or fairness so long as you have the votes. There are other hidden agendas that I'm aware of and some I'm sure I'm not. This is some of the things I am hearing. For example, Senator Robak wanted to get rid of Boone County so she doesn't have it under 614. Senator Kristensen wanted to get rid of Nuckolls County and get part of Kearney so he doesn't have it under 614. Senator Hall wanted to live in a different area so his district allows him to do so. Senator Lynch wanted to get rid of some republican precincts and strengthen his position with democratic precincts and that happens under 614. We were told early on in preparing our own plans not to affect redistricting agreements made by Douglas County, Sarpy County and Lancaster County delegations because they had enough votes to prevent any plan. So every outstate senator working on a plan pretty much did so with that in mind. That is until it was clear that the coalition was going to take...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR PETERSON: ...away District 21 from Madison County and