

January 14, 1992

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. I will now recognize senators wishing to speak to the Hartnett amendment. Senator Chambers. Okay, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I just wanted to speak briefly for about 60 seconds to let you know the order of things and so you can see the sequence of events and consider what judgments you're going to be called upon to make. But, as you know, the main motion now is the proposal for three districts. Senator Hartnett's very interesting proposal for six districts is an amendment to that. If you adopt Senator Hartnett's amendment, of course, that will then become the main proposition. If you reject his amendment, then you will be back to a vote on the three-district proposition, so that you will have an opportunity to vote on six, and then on three, and finally Senator Robinson and myself in a kind of minority report from the Rules Committee will propose to you a four-district proposition which is based on the minimal, very minimal changes we need to make in order to perpetuate the system. And when that comes up I will be glad to explain to you and will pass out to you that version too. So that's basically the sequence of events for you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam Chair, and members, I suppose I should not be speaking on this issue since I will not be participating in the reorganization next time. But I wanted to share this thought with you that if we go to either the three-group proposal or the six-group proposal, it's not going to work well because most of the committees have eight members. And, under our present system where we have four Committee on Committee regents, that works out well because we have two people from each region on each committee, in most cases. A couple of exceptions, we have a seven-member committee and a nine-member committee. But, just from the logical standpoint, it seems to me we should stay with four groups. Now there's talk about representation, one-man, one-vote. I don't see how that enters into it because if you have...if you have four groups, you have an equal number of districts in each group, except, let's see, three would have 12, one would have 13, that's as close as you can get. And so it really doesn't have any relationship, in my opinion, to the old four congressional districts which no longer exist. It is a merely a method of