

set up by the federal government and this Legislature they should be followed. Logic then can extend that to some degree, if you have a county within which there are two or more multiples of the proper number of persons for a legislative district, and they fall within the 2 percent parameters that have been set up, should that county then be subdivided within itself to repre...so that those legislative districts could be represented from that county. Thirdly and conversely, if you have two or more contiguous counties which are compact and can be drawn within a reasonable and possible state plan so that their county lines are followed, should this be done, too, which I asked the Attorney General. I circulated that opinion among the members of the Legislature on the first day of this session, Friday. The Attorney General said the extension's in that reasoning, the answers to those questions are yes. Therefore, I introduced a plan that left 77 counties without having to cross county lines, and maintained compactness and mutual compatibility within the districts. I did not address Douglas County, which, taking its population, divided by 13, makes 13 almost exactly the proper number of citizens within each district, which, according to the Attorney General then, should be drawn within that county without crossing its lines. As we all know, there are several areas of discontent, people that think they may, and some that have filed some petitions with the courts, or intend to possibly, based on this decision and this reasoning. So I thought it was only proper to have an option before this body that would take into account the northeast Nebraska unconstitutionality and the rest of the state as to being able to keep the maximum number of counties whole. I know that neither the administration nor this body really has the desire, at this late date, to consider a statewide plan that would require ten districts to petition their candidates to the general election ballot rather than only a few in the northeast. So, I wanted to say that if we don't reach a consensus on the plans that are being presented to all of us this morning,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ...there is a good alternative that solves most of the problems that the Supreme Court has presented to us in the redistricting case. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and members.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Schellpeper, you're next.