

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Am I on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise to support the amendments that the committee put out. There's no ideal plan. I think if you look at a lot of different plans, everybody says, well, we should wait, you're going to have a lawsuit, Madison County is going to file a lawsuit. They have already won in the Supreme Court. If we go with the committee amendments, then probably the two individuals in District 19 are going to file. But I think that Madison County, already having a Supreme Court victory, has to take precedence over anything else. They have already been told, you will get a state senator, and you deserve to have a state senator. So, I think we have to do what the Supreme Court has told us to do, even though a lot of us don't like to do it, we don't like the different plans. As far as the candidates in District 19, I don't believe that they have as much grounds as what the Supreme Court ruling, because actually they have a certificate, which, according to the Attorney General, is not a property right as much as if the election, if they would have been elected this fall, I think, then they would have a property right. But at the present time they are just candidates, and no one knows who's going to win that district up there if it would stay as is. But the committee amendments, it makes District 18 look a lot better. If you'll just look at Stanton County, Wayne County, Pierce County, up into Cedar County, those counties have a lot in common. It does make for a better looking district than just taking 19 and splitting it between 40 and 18. And I think by doing that, you do have a more compact district. I realized it opens up District 7 to another election, which will be in the general election. But beside that point, I think it makes for a more compact district for everybody concerned. And even though we don't like to do it, I think we need to approve a plan like this, and then come back in, maybe next year, do a complete statewide, if the courts say we have to. I don't know whether they are or not, nobody else knows. We're all just speculating. The only thing we know for sure is that Madison County has won their case, and that they will have a senator. And I don't think the courts meant for them...that they have to wait until 1994, because I know that they are going to file suit. And they have their victory already, they already have the Supreme Court saying that they will have that senator. So I think we need to do the least disruptive thing. Even though Senator Elmer would like to see us do the whole state, the least disruptive is to do the three senators in northeast Nebraska and that is this plan. So I support the amendments. Thank you.