

maybe the least disruptive. But I still believe it will be the hardest on northeast Nebraska. I would rather that we'd wait until after the election and then redistrict the whole state, or most of the whole state anyway, and try to put out some of these hot spots that we have across. I know there's one northwest Nebraska, there's one in southwest Nebraska, and, as I understand it, there are several others. But if we go with this plan I'm sure that two successful candidates, out of a field of seven, will file suit. And in this suit they will say that we're destroying the election process. They won the primary election fair and square. And, by the way, I feel that elections are a sacred process and need to be protected by the Legislature, because this right is given to the people in our Constitution. And at the present time they are just in the middle of this election process. They have their certificates of election in their hands, and ready to go into the general election. In fact, they're...at the present time they've been campaigning at the county fairs and other functions there in the 19th Legislative District. And I'm sure that the Supreme Court will come down and say, well, maybe we better go with something like Owen Elmer's plan, Senator Owen Elmer's plan. That keeps a lot of counties whole. And so here today I would urge you to defeat the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I think this conversation, this debate this morning has been very interesting. I have listened with great interest. And it seems to me that there are so many unanswered questions that I don't believe this plan is going to solve the problem. It seems to me that the Supreme Court has sent a message to this Legislature that county lines should be followed almost completely. In other words, the plan for redistricting which has the fewest divided counties is the one that's going to get the court's approval. And we don't have it here. This amendment is a piecemeal sort of thing that doesn't solve the problem. Now, I really believe that we need to wait until next year and do a comprehensive job of redistricting. Let the elections go on as they are now, because that's the only recourse we have, as I see it, interpreting the Supreme Court's ruling, as I see it and some other people see it, that there are going to be continuous lawsuits. In my own legislative district I did not have a complaint about the system, the redistricting proposal that was adopted. However, the people in Gordon do, in Sheridan County.