

SPEAKER BAACK: I will go to Senator Schrock for opening on the bill.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to have you take a look at the map that was placed in front of you sometime earlier today. It's a pink and yellow map. I'm not here to cause trouble. And I know there's some people that say, well, let's don't do anything. But the constituents in southwest Nebraska are not happy with what has happened in the redistricting process. The largest county within the two districts, Red Willow County, has been split, has been divided. And it's very interesting if you take a look at the map. It appears to me like the map was drawn for political purposes. It was drawn to keep two incumbents with legislative districts by not combining them. I personally don't have a lot of problem with that if it would have made a nice geographic map. But it does not make a nice geographic map. If you look in the pink part of 44, you will find the two largest communities in that district as being Holdrege and Imperial. I, of course, live in Phelps County. I feel like I live in the panhandle of my new legislative district. It is impossible to get to Imperial and stay within the confines of this district from Holdrege. You cannot drive, you can, but you better have your mud grip tires on and you'd better be ready to cross some pretty rough country. I have nothing against Frontier and Hayes County. It's nice cattle country, but it does not have the best paved roads in it. It is about 130 miles from Holdrege to Imperial. You have to drive through the City of McCook to get there which, and the City of McCook is only about 60 miles away. If you're going to have to divide a county within a legislative district, it appears to me it is not logical to take the largest population county. It seems to me like that would be the county you would want to be left whole. By the same token, if you look at the present District 38, it is a considerable distance from McCook to Superior, the two largest cities in the district. Now I would grant you McCook is quite a little larger than Superior, but I don't think either one of those communities are happy with the present plan. What we would like to do is draw a fairly north-south line and make the district look like you see on the bottom of it. Now I have heard that this is not within the Governor's call. I've checked with his staff, and the Governor considers this to be within the call of redistricting in the State of Nebraska. It's a very simple process because it involves two even-numbered districts. There's been no election. And I would also tell you that I have heard that, well, we don't