

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would urge the body to reject the motion to indefinitely postpone LB 15. Several points to make. LB 614 when it was presented to the Governor contained within it the districts as you see them now drawn. The Governor seriously considered vetoing the bill because, with one of the reasons being the way those districts are drawn. Recognizing that the original bill had 40 votes, of which mine was not one, he's merely let it go into law without his signature. The administration has made it well known to this body and to the Government Committee who considered it that they wanted to have the southwest Nebraska problem taken up and resolved at this session. If you talk to the people within this district as they are now drawn, you will find great dissatisfaction. The people of Superior feel that McCook is completely foreign to what their interests are. You look at the divisions of Nebraska on the maps for various reasons and you'll find along the southern border there's the southwest districts, many of them, the south central districts, many of them, the southeast districts, many of them. The southwest district contains Red Willow and Furnas County, the south central, the central districts, and the southeast contains Nuckolls County, three different sections of the state within one district. It's 150 miles from one end to the other. It's 170 miles from east of Holdrege to Grant or Benkelman. The people of Gosper and Frontier County fit much better with the people in the south central. Red Willow and the portions of Furnas that we're proposing fit much better in the southwest. We already have a district with two incumbents within it as it now stands--Senator Schrock and Senator Haberman. This would not change that. The 44th District would still have 2 incumbents within it and the 38th would have an incumbent within it. I would guess that any voter that looks at this map draws the same conclusion that you do looking at it, that this was drawn for political reasons. I sincerely hope that we can resolve this lawsuit that's being brought from Red Willow County and can resolve the dissatisfaction of the voters out there. I presented in evidence yesterday on presenting this bill to the Government Committee resolutions from the Chambers of Commerce of Benkelman which is in the very southwest corner, from the Curtis-Maywood in Frontier County, from Eustis in Frontier County, from McCook in Red Willow County, and have a great deal of personal input from the entire length, from Colorado clear to Superior, which is closer to Lincoln than it is to Indianola, that they would think a lot better of the plan that Senator Schrock and I are bringing to you.