

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: And I would ask you to go with the consensus of the people in the district which we represent and two of the three senators who are incumbent in the area. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Coordsen, you're next. Senator Schimek, on the amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise against the motion to indefinitely postpone this bill, not because I'm necessarily going to support the bill, but I think maybe it's a little premature. One of the reasons...I, incidentally, did not vote to advance this bill from committee because I really felt that going back to my original message on the floor this morning, this is not the time to do redistricting. We don't know enough and we don't know what the court would say about the rest of the parts of the state. I would still like to counsel the same on this bill. And I think it would be a very bad message, a very bad message to send to Madison County if we don't pass LB 7 and then we pass LB 15. I think that would just be probably the final blow for Madison County. So I would not be willing to consider postponing this bill until a little bit later in the session when I see what's going to happen with the other bill. I think it's a legitimate bill to discuss. I think there have been some valid reasons given for looking at that map down there. They are two even-numbered districts. They're not up for reelection this year. We wouldn't be upsetting any election process. There has been at least demonstrated some desire on behalf of the people in southwest Nebraska to change those lines. But I would not be willing to even look at it if we're going to turn down the bill on Madison County which I think we should do. I originally was going to get up and say that the Attorney General's Opinion given to Lowell Johnson earlier in this session articulated that Article III, Section 5 of the Nebraska Constitution does not allow the Legislature to redistrict itself more often than once every ten years. And I was going to make the argument that because this is a separate bill from the Madison County bill we can't even consider this because we can't redistrict more than once every ten years unless some part of that redistricting plan is declared unconstitutional. I asked Legislative Research to look into this for me and maybe ask the Attorney General the question if we could even consider this bill. I subsequently