

in Phelps County. There's almost 2,000 people in Gosper County. There's 5,800 people in Nuckolls County. There's 4,300 people approximately in Webster County. These are the kind of numbers that are unhappy with the currently drawn districts. I would guess that if you went out there and talked to the citizens that you'd find at least two-thirds or around 40,000-some individuals, if every man, woman and child would give their opinion, that would like to see this minor change. I realize that we have only 32 persons here today, and I realize that some of you for various reasons might wish to not vote or to postpone making a decision on this bill. But I would ask all of you to seriously consider what a vast majority of the voters in these districts would like to see happen and help us advance this bill to Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Elmer is going to make me cry here in a few minutes, when he says that two-thirds of the people aren't happy. I wonder how he knows that. It hasn't been called to my attention that two-thirds of the people are unhappy. And it's said that the people in McCook are unhappy. I don't think that's true. I think what's happening is politically some people have gotten together and they have said to themselves we have a third of the voters if Red Willow County is put in the 44th District. We can control who the Legislature is going to be. We can control this as we will be three times bigger, four times bigger, five times bigger than anybody else. They haven't stopped to think, in my opinion, that as it is now Red Willow County has two state senators. They have the senator from the 44th District and they have the senator from the 38th District. And when a senator is talking to a group of people, he doesn't know which side of the line they live on, whether they're in the 38th or 44th. So he's going to do what he can to please everyone. It seems as though the chamber of commerce in McCook has said, gee, we can't have this because some people who live in McCook might not live in the district. Well, these eleven hundred fifty-some people who are out of the district are all rural people. They're not within the city limits of McCook. They're rural people. Their precincts are outside of the city. So the majority of the city people are not going to be hurt. They're not going to be hurt. The committee, as I understand it, was threatened, they were just boldly threatened that if they didn't put this bill out and if it didn't pass, there would be a lawsuit. This is what they