

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I offer this amendment along with Senator Schimek and Senator Bernard-Stevens. I guess I just as well tell you up front that I would rather wait until after the election before we did any more redistricting, but it appears that this body doesn't want to do this, and so this is why I run this election, or why I run this amendment. I passed out an explanation of the amendment to you, and I put one in your box last Friday after we received the amendment from the bill drafter. And, first of all, I guess I should apologize for not having the amendment ready Friday morning when we were debating the issue, and I appreciate Senator Baack delaying it until this morning. But this amendment affects only one election now in progress and that is District 19. That change is only minimal. It does not eliminate any elections now in progress. LB 7, with the committee amendments, affects three elections, and this is the amendment that is on LB 7 now. It affects three elections, Madison County, also Legislative District 17, and eliminates Legislative District 19's election now in progress. So we would be taking that opportunity away from those two successful candidates in District 19, which are De Carlson and Gus Pick in District 19, and I think that is wrong because I feel that we need to preserve the sacred election process that we have. At the present time, we are only halfway through it, won't be finished until after the general election. This amendment changes only three districts, and LB 7 changes five districts. This amendment follows more county lines than LB 7, and more county lines than in the bill that we passed a year ago, LB 614. I feel that this plan is the most...is the least disruptive of any plan to change districts. The least number of elections are affected, and the most county lines are followed, and is the most similar to LB 614. District 19, under this plan, contains three whole counties and parts of two others. LB 614, District 19 contains two whole counties and parts of three others. Under LB 7, 19 is one county. District 18 contains only one county. Under LB 614, 18 consists of one county and part of another one. Under LB 7, it contains three whole counties and parts of four counties. District 40, which is represented by Senator "Cap" Dierks, contains four counties and parts of another. Under LB 614, 40 consists of three counties and parts of three other counties, and under LB 7, 40 contains three whole counties and parts of another. So this amendment that I am offering you here this morning contains eight whole