

Thank you for visiting us this morning. Next is Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Schimek, Moore, Bernard-Stevens, Peterson, Bohlke, Withem. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I do not support the amendment that Senator Hefner has brought. I think that the plan that we advanced from General File to Select last week was done with approval of the majority of the body, and it did exactly what I felt that the Supreme Court had dictated we had to do. I have gone over this thing so many times. Every day I start at the top and I end up with the same thing at the bottom, and that is that Madison County should have an odd number, they should have an election this fall, and they should have their own representative from their own county when this legislative body convenes in January. I don't think there is any question about that, and for us to put the number 18 on there, take Senator Schellpeper's district and put his number on that district I think somewhat violates the trust that we have because we've, if you remember last year Senator Schellpeper agreed to support the plan that gave him a large share of Madison County. He was not an obstructionist. He did help to and agree with that plan, and I don't think that it is right for us to disenfranchise him at this point. He has been very cooperative and I believe that we need to recognize that when we talk about taking his number, his district number and placing him in Madison County as the representative of that county. He would be living in Stanton County representing Madison County. I think it is very clear that the Supreme Court didn't have that in mind, and I think that you also recognize that, if that were to happen, Madison County people would be right back in that court asking for a change and I think they would get it. So I don't believe that we are serving any good purpose here with adopting this amendment of Senator Hefner's and I'd just oppose it. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I have decided to sign onto the Hefner amendment for a number of reasons which I would like to explain to you this morning. I probably wouldn't have gotten involved in this issue if I hadn't been a member of the Government Committee because initially and really even up until just as late as Friday I did think that this was something that should be decided, if at all possible, by those living in northeast Nebraska. But the more