

that I thought about this issue, the more I have come to believe that that ain't necessarily so, that we, on the floor of this body, may be remiss, that if the court, indeed, says, and we don't know what the court is going to say if there is another case, but if the court, indeed, says that as few county lines as possible should be disrupted, then I think that we, on the floor, at least need to be cognizant of that possibility and we need to look at these plans in terms of how many counties remain whole, how many counties are disrupted, how much of the election process itself is disrupted. That all along has been my overriding concern that we not disrupt the process any more than we need to do so. And I would like to say, in my own defense, that, yes, I still am a registered Republican. Some may have had doubts after they saw the statement of the Republican Party Chairman last week but, yes, I am still a registered Democrat and I do happen to agree with Elroy Hefner. I don't think this is a partisan matter. I think there is more at stake, and what is at stake is the philosophy that we want to use. I keep hearing over and over again on this floor that the court said we must make Madison County whole, and what they probably meant, I think I am hearing by implication, is that we need to do it this year. I asked in committee where is the wording for that? When did the court say that? I am not sure that that is what they said, and if they were to have to balance the two different needs, disrupting the election process or doing it this year as far as making Madison County whole, I don't think we know what the court would say. One thing I do know is that this plan that has been presented by Senator Hefner has a very good rationale behind it. Read that rationale, he sent out a summary. Once this plan is on the floor and we don't choose it, if it is a more legally defensive plan, then I think that the court may strike down whatever else we may decide to pass in this body. If we do that, then Madison County will probably have to be and all of northeast Nebraska will have to be redistricted once again, as well as the entire rest of the state. I don't know that we want to add that much disruption to the process. I understand the argument from Senator Schellpeper and Senator Dierks about giving Madison County an odd number, but I think that the other arguments far outweigh that, and if we hurry too fast, we will be making a major mistake. In addition to that, I think the election process itself will be upset.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.