

Supreme Court ruled that Districts 40 and 18...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...were unconstitutional because they did not follow county lines, and this is the key part, and there was another plan, Senator Dierks's plan last year, that didn't do that, that followed county lines more. Since the Legislature could have had another plan, it was practicable for them to do so, therefore, it ruled those two sections of LB 614 unconstitutional. Those people in District 19 will say we believe the same thing to be true. There was another plan offered, Senator Hefner's plan, that followed county lines much more succinctly than the plan offered, so it was practicable that the Legislature follow county lines and they chose not to, therefore, the plan that they came up with, LB 7 with the committee amendments, should be unconstitutional, and that is what will happen. If that is what the body wants, fine. What we have to do as a Legislature is to say...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...what do we feel is going to pass constitutional scrutiny if we decide to do something now.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise in opposition to the Hefner plan. As I mentioned earlier, we were in a situation where we had a proposal that was offered in the original form of LB 7. LB 7, as it was offered, was a situation where only District 14 and District 19, as we knew it, and District 18, now that those two were adversely affected by the Supreme Court decision, basically came in and picked up District 19 and distributed that geography in order to make those numbers balance by virtue of the fact that one of the five senators that we used to possess the northeast corner were in situations where the population only supported four. Originally under LB 614, as it was drafted and then passed by this body, eliminated District 19. And I will reiterate, as I did the other day, some of the reasons why District...I should say 21, Madison County, why District 21, at that time, was used. It was used because of the density of the population there and being able to distribute the 32,000 population of that county in such