

constitutional amendment. I felt that that was the ultimate solution to this problem, but that issue was not debated here today and so we were left with a number of different options that were available to us. My preference would have been the passage of LB 7 without the emergency clause so that the election in Senator Hefner's district could have taken place, Madison County could have had their legislative district and I believe it would have satisfied all the parties involved. The membership did not choose that as one of the options. The bill did not pass without the emergency clause so we're faced with a situation of trying to decide what the Supreme Court will do with our inability to find a solution to this particular issue. And it's my belief that the Supreme Court will probably, if we choose not to pass anything here today, will probably come to some sort of conclusion on their own prior to our session in January. I don't know what that solution is going to be. Today I was looking through a magazine that Senator Landis had on campaigns and elections and I always enjoy reading what other states are doing in dealing with the different politics of every state. There's a listing of every state and enjoy reading what some of the congressional races are like and U.S. Senate races. And one of the most predominant issues that was faced by a large majority of the states was how the state legislatures were...and as well as the congressional candidates were dealing with court constructed legislative districts and court constructed congressional districts. Do I know for certain that the Nebraska Supreme Court will come back with a redistricting plan of their own? No, I don't. But I do know that in other states this has been an option that their Supreme Court has taken advantage of. I feel that when the Constitution of Nebraska was constructed and reconstructed back in 1920 the language that dealt with counties was probably important because that's the way we constructed legislative district, was along county lines. And that language should have been stricken from the Constitution after the one-man, one-vote decisions in the 1960s in which the U.S. Supreme Court said the predominant issue should be that there is even distribution for elected officials, that you can't have a county with 20 people in it and have one U.S. or state senator versus a county that has 200,000 people and have one state senator. They chose to follow along the lines of population basis. And so our Nebraska Constitution probably should have taken that language out and we probably should have enacted a piece of legislation that Senator Beutler proposed here today, but, unfortunately, we chose not to do that today. We chose not to do it during the session and, as a