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SENATOR JANSSEN: ...in Cherry County. Thank you, Senator Jones. I believe that Senator Beutler's bill calls for to look at 160 some, if that's right, in your amendment, Senator Beutler, but I would hope that if we adopt this that they will look, that this committee or commission will look at other means, not only just that one, but I wish they would look at having one district in 93 counties. If we have a problem with the formula now, look at this...look at the sheet that's been passed out; look at all the systems that are on there. With 93, you could reduce that to two pages. It seems to me it would be a lot easier to figure the needs in those districts than it would what we're trying to mess with now. Thank you. I'd give the rest of my time to Senator Beutler. He was on a roll there. We'll let him continue.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you have about one and a half minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, thank you for the time. Just one other item I wanted to bring to your attention, I think you all noticed in the paper just a day or two ago the 1999 population by county comparing last year to this year, and picking up again on...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...on the long-term trend, a great many of our counties, way more than half our counties, continue to lose population. At the bottom of the chart, in a period of one year, these are smaller counties, but in a period of one year, counties were losing 5, 4, 3, 2 percent of their population in just one year. We need to recognize the fact that our budget doesn't increase at the state level at such a rate that we can continue to supply both...to supply the entire population with state funds and then expect additional state funds into situations where there are declining populations. It...it can't fit.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.