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University of Nebraska at Omaha in public administration. One of the faculty members up there was a former county administrator in the city of Scottsbluff and he's been very beneficial in walking through and showing us some things that we could do. But much of it would be patterned after what is currently in place, I think, on a city, municipal level.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, I talk very seldom on issues on the floor. This one I feel obliged to talk about since I used to be one for so many years, and just so you understand, I was also president of the National Association of County Officials and had the good fortune of visiting any number of the 3,101 counties we have in the country. It's often been said that if counties didn't exist, somebody would have to invent them. Because the city, the county, the city, the state, and the feds need some kind of a wholesaler of services for those kinds of things performed by the counties. Usually when you consolidate or merge, you do it because there's great overlapping of services. Everything done by the county, at the local level, with one or two exceptions, is done by no one else. No one else conducts the elections. No one else collects the taxes. No one else assesses the property. No one else provides, in most cases, the health services. No one else registers the deeds. And I could go on down the list of some 22 fundamental services that are provided by the county. So generally, when you talk about administrative problems, you talk about developing a situation where you can administratively resolve those administrative problems because of overlapping, duplication, and waste. So I hope, I point that out just to make sure you understand that in almost every case, there is no overlapping, duplication, or waste. In fact, in some of the smaller counties, the same person that's elected to county clerk is also the election commissioner, the register of deeds, the treasurer, and some other things. So even in those counties with few numbers, they've recognized the need to elect people and designate responsibilities. One of the most important things that happens at a county level is the taxpayers can identify whoever is in county government and shouldn't be there. Because every four years you have a chance to throw that rascal out. And you have a chance to get somebody in who can, in fact, perform that responsibility in an honest and honorable way. When's the last time you heard of a bureaucrat being thrown out