

duties of a county surveyor, or a surveyor hired by the county, are quite important, because you can get an engineer that can go out and stake out a highway, but he cannot establish a corner, or a mark for the measuring of land and for highways. So when a county wants to establish a corner, they have to hire a licensed, approved surveyor, or have one in their employ, or in their county government. Whether these are all competent people, I guess the licensing and the authority that they have is the only thing that we have to go by. I'm really concerned that if you're going to hamstring the county in any way as to how they handle this, because we have such a variation across the state of Nebraska. It's been brought up by Senator George that perhaps the election process isn't always so hot either, that it gets to be a political thing rather than ability...if the person has the ability. So, I guess at this moment, I'm really not ready to support Senator Haberman. I'm not really against what he's trying to do, but I believe we need to look at this whole situation in perhaps a different light. But I think that the county board are the responsible people that should see that jobs are done correctly, and whether electing that official does it, I'm sure it does in most cases. But right now I couldn't support Senator Haberman because I think we have something deeper here that needs to be done.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Haberman, would you respond to a question, please? I think we're really trying to arrive at the same thing, and the philosophy of your bill is to make it easier for counties, is it not?

SENATOR HABERMAN: That's correct.

SENATOR NICHOL: Now, first of all, many of the small counties do not have any surveyor, or have one surveyor, and that's no problem, is it? Because if they have none, they can hire one from outside. If they have one, that person can either run for it or not run for it, and if the one doesn't run for it, they can appoint one outside the county. Right?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Right.

SENATOR NICHOL: Then perhaps what you're thinking of is the only problem arises when there is more than one surveyor that would like to have the job. Is that right?