

SENATOR BEUTLER: Let me ask you one more question quickly and you can take the rest of my time, but let's say that we have a county out there who is requesting aid, but their levy for the last few years has been about .30, and we have several more counties out there who are requesting aid and their levies are at .46, .47, and .48. How... are we going to give assistance to counties that are not...how do we protect against giving assistance to counties that are not fully using their own resources?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, if I could ask Senator Kristensen some questions. I guess I have...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR HARTNETT: When we heard this bill in committee, I had some concern from my county public defender and so forth. Senator Kristensen, we have a part-time commissioner and so forth, how do you see this interacting? Would we lose that? Will they set standards higher? What does this new, what do you call it...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: The...

SENATOR HARTNETT: ...the chief counsel?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Right.

SENATOR HARTNETT: How will that interact with our system we have in Sarpy County, I guess?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: It would not change the system of your county or of any other county. They still have the freedom, in fact, by statute certain counties are required to have a public defender that is full time. You have a part-time public defender. They're still going to have a great need and they're still going to be in place because you're going to have misdemeanors, you're going to have juveniles and you're still going to have what I call the garden variety felonies, that they're still going to have to work with. This unit is sort of