

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: I have a question of, I guess, Senator Pedersen.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR WARNER: Obviously this is an area that I suppose it's none of my business, but I'm curious. I'm not familiar with the setup that Omaha or Douglas County has on a planning commission. Does the county have a separate planning commission?

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Yes, it does.

SENATOR WARNER: This bill doesn't make any difference to me, but I would think if we're looking for ways to make more effective government, a more logical solution would be for a city/county planning commission with a single staff in which both the county and the city offered or had the joint authority for appointments. And I'm not going to oppose your amendment, but the thought occurs to me that we keep talking about more effective...cost-effective government. It would seem to me...and I'm sure Omaha and Douglas County want to think about it for some time. But it would make more sense to me if you had a joint operation rather than two separate entities. But that's another issue, but it's something that I suspect...and we start looking for ways to cut property tax, we're going to need to do those kinds of things, or authorize them at a minimum.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: I would agree. Senator Warner, I would agree with that. The political atmosphere hasn't been that the two of them have come together. But I would support such a thing to happen. What has really happened here is we have people that haven't...we have decisions being made about areas where people have no representation, the people that live in this three mile area. And I know the two forts together would be great, but obviously in Douglas County now when you get three miles outside of the city limits of Omaha, you have very little left for the zoning...for the Planning Board of Douglas County, because most everything is almost in the city limits now or within that three mile zoning jurisdiction.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Kristensen would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the