

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pirsch, could you check in, please.

CLERK: Senator Janssen voting yes; Senator Pirsch voting yes; Senator Engel voting yes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays on adoption of Senator Maurstad's amendment to Senator Beutler's amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The amendment is adopted. The call is raised. We are back to consideration of the underlying Beutler amendment. Mr. Clerk, I'm assuming we've had opening on this so we're prepared to debate the Beutler amendment. Senator Hillman, do you wish to address the Beutler amendment? Senator Hillman waives off. Senator Beutler on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's an awfully interesting vote. I've been hearing so much this last year about local control as we've discussed the water issue, local control, local control, local control and heard all the arguments in favor of local control. And then we vote this morning ironically, I guess, in favor ostensibly of protecting farmers and ranchers, that they're best protected, not by local control, but by centralized control. And it's hard for me to understand why it is in this particular situation we want to switch principles entirely because the whole basis of a county attorney system is the concept of local control, that therein lies the greatest protection for the local citizens, the greatest understanding of local citizens. Yet we seem to be saying, and I guess I should be paying more attention to this bill that's coming along, we seem to be saying the county attorney system simply doesn't work. They're either overburdened or they're too politically intimidated to do their job or both, or otherwise why couldn't they do this job? Certainly is not a job that's going to require a lot...there's not going to be a lot of violations. An occasional thing comes along, they ought to be able to deal with that, probably is pretty hot politically. But on the other hand, I would think that it would be the local county attorney who would have the best understanding of the person being accused of violating the constitution, best understanding of how the community would understand that violation, whether they would think it was a violation or not, best able to apply the community standards in