

know, don't fix it. It's just that many counties, I think, in looking at the types of things they would like to do with mergers, and there may be a point on down the line, maybe those officials will want to do the administrative work for two or three counties. And the only way you really, I think, come to the table, and I'll discuss this more, to talk about it is some times when you don't have the elected officials, but they are appointed, and when you can do that. The role of that county administrator could be a part-time, full-time, whatever your county board would choose to do for assistance, or not have any. But the point is, is you don't have to do this.

SENATOR JONES: The county commissioners are still elected. They don't have nothing to do with...

SENATOR HILLMAN: They most certainly are, they certainly will be, yes.

SENATOR JONES: Okay, now the school superintendent, or county superintendent I should say, in the counties right now, according to the statutes, the county board can change that from elected position to appointed position. Was that a constitutional amendment at one time and then it was put over in state statutes? Or how did that happen to be in the state statutes and why can't this just be put in the state statutes?

SENATOR HILLMAN: Well, there was a court case, if you were here earlier, that was challenged in Omaha. Because we had it in statute at one time. And that it was challenged and at that time, which was in 1935, and a Mr. O'Connor from Omaha challenged it, turned it over to the courts and the court said the Legislature had no authority to authorize a county to adopt a county manager plan. And so the courts have said we cannot do it until we change our constitution.

SENATOR JONES: Well, thank you. Another thing that I do want to mention that kind of encouraged me to vote for something like this is because our register of deeds in our local county, they had a secretary in there that run for the clerk of the district court and won that position. And I thought, well, we wouldn't have another person there on the payroll, but they said it was already in the budget so they just went ahead and hired another person for 22,000 when the register of deeds could have handled it by himself. And so I, some way or another we got to get more