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government. That happened, basically, I think, in about the last 20 years. And so I keep going back to the comparison, but it's a good comparison. It's how cities have operated, what type of structure that they have. And counties, and even states that has an executive, counties have none of that form, there's no pyramid, there's no structure, there is no place where you actually can hold anyone accountable.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Okay, got you, okay. I'd just like to say one thing before my time's up here. Currently, the elected officials run their offices. County boards do not dictate to them what goes on. The county boards strictly have control of the budget. I was a county board member for 12 years. We do not go into the treasurer's office say you do this, you do that. The only thing we control is the budget. And statutes say...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...(interruption) acquire them. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I agree with Senator Cudaback, that's the way it is. I am going to back away to neutral on this at this point. I've been thinking about this and I'll make some comments, and, Senator Hillman, maybe you can on your time or my time, I'll see, but as I think about this, hiring a person to do this is going to be, in many counties, a significant budget item. I mean I'm wondering if it isn't going to be a thirty to fifty thousand dollar issue for some. And then if you, if you pay those people that are to be replaced that are now elected, I don't know how those salary schedules are going to fit in. Senator Warner, are you... is there going to be a bill coming out of committee relative to county mergers in the Revenue. You're shaking your head yes, I won't ask for the details, but there is another bill that may face this. I was interested in this bill earlier primarily because I saw it as a way for an option. And I'm still thinking maybe it's an option that could be laid out there, Senator Hillman, so I said to neutral, I didn't say to oppose it at this point. But I think it is something that we very seriously need to discuss, which we're having a good debate on the floor this morning, is to whether the efficiency I can understand in terms of having a strong administrator in a county where maybe the activities of