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already in some counties in this state has consolidated various county offices. For example, in Sioux County, the county clerk is also the county assessor, is also the clerk of the district court, is also the register of deeds, is also the election commissioner. So it can be done. Whether that should be done in Douglas County or Lancaster County, I'm not prepared to discuss with the body today. I don't have any idea. The point is that it can be done, and those offices can be consolidated into an elected office. Whether or not we could consolidate all of the elected offices into the sheriff, the treasurer, the clerk, whether all of those could be consolidated and somebody called a manager with responsibility for appointing people, or deputies to discharge those duties, I'm not sure whether that could be accomplished. In the Revenue Committee we were talking briefly about the merger of county offices, and I expressed the opinion that there were some offices we did not want to merge because they represent a valid administrative structure which allows for checks and balances, if you will, within county government. I'm not sure how those issues are resolved in city government, but they're resolved in county government by having separate officials responsible for different functions. County treasurers receive money, county clerks disperse it, for example. I'm not sure that we would want to impair that division of responsibilities, and perhaps that could...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...be accommodated within some sort of a manager structure with somebody with overall responsibility for them. I am concerned, I guess, about the discussion that somehow currently elected officials are less accountable than someone who might be appointed to an office and hold it at the pleasure of some manager. Well, that...it's a different kind of accountability, that's true. But it isn't, I think, any difference in degree of accountability. And I'm not sure, quite frankly, that if you have a system with full protection for appointed officials against arbitrary decisions by a manager that that does not also begin to erode accountability and certainly makes for...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time, Senator.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...(inaudible) in the administration of the system.