

February 27, 1996 LR 46

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: I wanted to point out too, as it applies to Ernie's amendment, that in Omaha we do not have a city manager (inaudible), we have a strong mayor system that was voted in by people when the charter convention was held some years ago. But as it applies to cities, I'll run by a couple names to you, by Dennison (phonetic), anybody ever heard of Boss Dennison from the city of Omaha a few years ago? Oh, well, he worked well under a system, something like this where they appointed everybody, especially their friends. And then a fellow by the name of Daley, from Chicago, maybe you remember that, Pendergast from Kansas City, systems that allow politicians to appoint people to carry out responsibilities have a tendency to get more involved with power than they deserve to be. The reason we have in Douglas County a manager to help the county board fulfill it's policy obligations is because the law now provides that we can do that. The law also provides that in Scotts Bluff County, if the county board wanted to do it they could do that. You know it's kind of interesting that in this particular case we think that people should have a right to vote on it, but this is not a gambling issue so in this case it's all right, I guess. Kind of inconsistent, to be completely frank. I am curious if Senator, my good friend Senator Hillman from the Appropriation would answer a question, I would appreciate it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hillman, will you respond?

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, good friend Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: If this bill (sic) were successful in Scotts Bluff, who do you envision being the boss of Scotts Bluff, and who would, say, replace the register of deeds and the clerk, the treasurer, the assessor, and the rest of those people? Have any idea?

SENATOR HILLMAN: I would envision that the county board would, with a vote if we would have a majority or a supermajority, however we would decide to do that in statute, would put it on the ballot and then would hire an administrator who would then, if you are appointing those administrative officials, would go through a personnel process like anyone else, and he would bring those different positions to the board for approval, to the