

February 27, 1996 LR 46

you were in an area where you want to do that kind of consolidation, even if you allow it in statute, if you have elected officials out there, it's not going to happen because they choose not to. All we are doing with LR 46CA is saying, state government is getting out of the way of restructuring, reengineering, re...whatever you want to call it, reinventing local county government. And I would go back to a system that is in place with the cities, that nothing so terrible has happened. The other thing is that there were, let's see if I can find it here, there were 34, I believe, states that allow this now. And of all the counties that changed to a county manager form of government, the records that we have, one went back to the old form of government, did away with it, and then they came back in again. It's not proven to have been detrimental. In talking about Delaware only having a few counties, Senator Lynch, New Hampshire did away with all their counties, they don't have any counties. And I don't think that's the case, or should be the case in Nebraska because I would very heartily endorse what Senator Lynch said about the role of county government and its importance. I started this discussion by saying I think it's the closest government that we have to local...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...people. And with that, I did promise Senator Kristensen, if he's here, if he would like some of my time. I have a minute left, Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Fifty seconds.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and Senator Hillman. I wanted to go back and begin to examine, and I know Senator Chambers has got his amendment up there. And he either is the most successful man on the floor because everybody agrees to it, or the other way. But, Senator Hillman, I want to visit with you again about what some of this language means, because if we put in here that the Legislature may provide for, by law, a county administrator form of government in which the county officers may be appointed, you and I have talked about prior...you say that those people you would envision the county board being elected. Would you envision that we could pick and choose who would be elected?