

constitution says we can get into this, it doesn't tell you a way to get back out, then I'm stuck. And so that's the reason I'm asking those questions. And I.... You know, I think those are things, that as you begin to write a constitution you got to be careful about not to run and be excited to get in, it's how do I get myself out, if I have a problem, because that's where the big rub will occur.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Time. Would like to recognize, under the south balcony, a guest of Senator Janssen, from Fremont, Larry Gaeth. Larry, could you please stand and be recognized. Senator Lynch.

**SENATOR LYNCH:** Mr. Speaker and members, I just had an interesting thought. If 46CA passes and one of the city/county merger bills also pass, does that mean that the mayor of the city of Omaha could appoint the county clerk, the county treasurer, the register of deeds, the assessor and all the rest? That's, you know, I'm not being silly. I'm curious about how, you know, how this could happen. And that has directly to do with Senator Chambers' amendment. With those kinds of questions out there it concerns me. I am also curious about, you know, would they appoint the mayor of Waterloo, the mayor of Ralston, Elkhorn, Valley, and the other smaller communities outside the city? I'm not quite sure. I sometimes think, and by the way, I'll remind you once more that the people voted in New York state, some time ago, in 1900, in fact, 1899, that they would merge the five counties of New York and New York City because they thought it would probably save money and we know what a wonderful experiment that was, and I've told you that before. But this reminds me of that. We're telling people they have a right to vote for change, but we're really not giving them any help. What concerns me is that maybe if there's a problem in one or two counties, and because county governments are a constitutional system the only way to fix that problem in that one or two counties is to affect the whole state, really isn't the right way to do it either. I think this is something that we should understand a lot better. I support Senator Chambers' amendment for the reason I originally stood and pointed out a possibility, and I'd rather not repeat that again. Thanks.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Hillman. Senator Hillman, yes, you're recognized to speak.

**SENATOR HILLMAN:** Mr. Speaker, members, to go back to the