

mergers between counties or between school districts or whatever actually occur. Other good things can come from it. So I support the concept and I think I see that maybe Senator Beutler's getting close to being done with the rewrite so I...that's all I wanted to say and I thank you very much for listening.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Before proceeding to the next speaker, the Chair would like to announce that Senator Cudaback has some guests: 45 juniors and seniors from Gibbon High School in Gibbon, Nebraska, and their teacher. They're in the south balcony, if you would please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Senator Wickersham, your light is next.

GEORGE KILPATRICK: ..property tax savings (inaudible).

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay.

GEORGE KILPATRICK: You're on.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. That was the voice of George there for just a moment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Just for the transcriber's edification, I guess. Senator Beutler I think now has at the desk a revision of his amendment and basically what is going to happen, I believe, is that the first subsection (1) remains in. The other subsections, (2), (3) and (4), are struck with the intention of giving some express encouragement to counties to examine whether or not savings could occur with a consolidation of the counties themselves, offices, or the conduct of some joint operations. That is, of course, the idea behind the proposal, is that some of those...that cost savings might result from some of those activities. If cost savings could result then I think it's certainly incumbent upon the counties to thoroughly explore those, not only for the sake of efficiency in government in general, but certainly property tax relief to their constituents. Senator Beutler, are you having your amendment passed out? Is that...?

SENATOR WILL: Senator Beutler.