

changing that. They're collecting the taxes, distributing your money, running the courts, providing other services, as a wholesaler of services for the state and federal government. So we'll need something. We'll need something at the local level. I might suggest that back east, for example, the county governments are also the board of educations. Think about that, yeah, they hire the superintendent of schools in each one of the counties. Think that would go over in this state? I don't think so. But if you're talking about saving money administratively and otherwise, you know there's a lot of ways you can do it, but I'm not sure if we're willing to address that kind of an issue or force it onto people. And I don't like that at all. This fact that counties can get together and study is not a bad idea at all. I'm not sure what they're going to talk about...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...except as to which one of the treasurer or which one of the two or three treasurers are going to leave the job, and that's not easy either. At one time, you know, Douglas and Sarpy County were, in fact, one county, and then they split in half down Harrison Street because they heard Ron Withem was going to move into Sarpy County sometime thirty or forty years later after that. But in any case, in any case, all of this debate's interesting. I think we're sending a message we're trying to suggest that we should do something about the property tax issue. But I also believe that we know in our hearts, we're not going to save a lot of big bucks this way. And maybe in the process of this, we can overcome the need for something that would be even worse than having a Legislature try to do this kind of work, and that is with constitutional amendments that can do so much more harm than good. So I stand with mixed emotions and oppose the Beutler amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Senator Beutler, could I just ask two quick little questions? I was interrupted; I didn't get to hear everything you said.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CROSBY: Is this amendment, was it a bill of any kind or