

agreement, spell it out in these areas. Now the reason...I can't...nobody could mandate as to which offices they might consolidate, or in which fashion they might do it, because I'm sure from county to county that would vary. But it's very clear to me, under the provisions of the bill and in part of this is existing law as well amended, is that that's exactly what they are...that petition is requesting the county board...requiring rather, the county board is to develop a consolidation as to failure of a county board to make that effort to do so, that the penalty section would come into effect.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Maybe I didn't make it clear how far I'm talking about going. The petition doesn't just mandate that they consider a plan, but it says what offices ought to be consolidated and that the county shall be consolidated and the county boards shall do this, not just formulate a plan, they shall carry out the consolidations demanded in the petition. Would you agree to that?

SENATOR WARNER: No, because what is the process, Senator Chambers, is that the petition requires the development of a proposal which then is presented to the people to vote and approve or disapprove. The county board does not end the action.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: My time is up, so I won't....

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I'm rising to speak in opposition to Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment striking the provisions out of subsection (2) on page 9. I think others have spoken to the reasons why the language is there. I wanted to affirm that they are correct, that's the reason the language was developed. That language was developed as a part of LB 212, and it was developed expressly as a tool to be used by people in a county who might be more interested in these activities than the elected officials. You can say that the provision is ineffective, you can say that the provision is too harsh, you can criticize it in any direction or from any aspect that you wish to, but the objective is to create an