

their best interest. And I think those of you who have heard me before know that I have always advocated during my lifetime on the...my previous life on the county board, I have always indicated that some type of consolidation would certainly not be in the best interest, if it was, in fact, done because the counties, the people involved in the counties wanted to do it, not because somebody mandated that they had to do it. I don't know if people are going to take advantage of this or not. Nobody does. Maybe nothing will happen, but I can tell you one thing, it is going to give an opportunity for at least people to sit down and talk about it, and it may not happen next year or the year after or the year after, but I guess what we're saying is on the long term it may, in fact, come into the minds of many of the people who are involved in the government process that this isn't the worst idea that was ever brought out and this, essentially, gives them an opportunity to do something they might not otherwise be able to do. So I am going to be supportive of this simply because I think the idea is...the time is right. I think we've reached that point where we should certainly encourage and give the opportunity for counties to get together, and if they do no more than talk about eventual method of which they can consolidate or bring some of their...particularly some of their officers or some of their departments can merge into less costly, less costly, administering, that some people are going to look at that because the people in the county are going to probably say this may be the best idea. And certainly people who sit in the position of power, if that's what it'd be on the county board, they are going to have to do the same as we do here, and that's take a look at what we are telling them. So there is no certainly that anything is going to happen, but on the plus side, I think there is a good possibility that it is going to bring about dialogue, it is going to bring about discussion, and people are going to have an opportunity, at least, and know there is an opportunity for them to do something that they may feel is in the best interest of the people they serve. For that reason, I support the idea and hope that it advances. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Mr. President, fellow members, I am surprised at the day's talk about 1085 and that Section 43 and Section 44 has hardly been mentioned. You will find them on page 36 and 37