

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...actually annex the other. That's happened in Lincoln. I think it's happened perhaps...I don't know, I'm sure it's happened in Omaha over the years. To that extent, the state has provided through annexation for municipalities to in effect merge communities, towns or cities.

SENATOR BROWN: And so you don't believe that the language "that no merger shall take place without a vote of the people" in any way restricts the Legislature's ability to...

SENATOR WARNER: I would quite agree that it does restrict the Legislature to not...to Band-aid or compel. This is permissive language that the Legislature may direct a merger but as the constitution now stands...

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...we do not require it, no.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I have to rise in opposition to Senator Brown's amendment. Various subject matters in the amendment were considered by the committee. We did not choose to include them in 292 for reasons we've already had some discussion of. One of the things that I am curious about in the amendment, Senator Brown, and I don't remember whether this is...I don't remember this being discussed, but it's the provisions of the Section 3 and it would insert in the special legislation section a clause, "except as provided in Article XV, Section 18" and, of course, that's the section that deals with what is in effect a self-executing provision in the constitution that allows local entities to act jointly or in cooperation with other governmental entities or entities. I, Senator, if you could just tell me what that sub 3 is supposed to do, I find that a bit intriguing that somehow we are supposed to be authorized to pass special legislation concerning the location or changing of county seats by virtue of a section that really has to do with joint operations. I do not understand the connection. If you can clear that up for me, I'd very much appreciate it.