

and had a county spend itself into trouble and got the Legislature to tell the state bail out Richardson County for Senator Vrtiska, but he doesn't want to bail out these political subdivisions. Drop the hammer on them. And that's what I'm talking about. We cannot look at what is happening one day and associate it with what's happening a few days later, and that's what we have to do. We have to see the panorama that is unfolding before us. Now if I could expect to get the state to bail me out of every problem that I had, it'd be easy for me to look good by saying, but drop the hammer on everybody else, put the screws to them, make them holler uncle, just so you give me what I need. Those are the kind of positions that I say create such a blatant inconsistency between what we say and what we do that it causes people to have questions about whether we're sincere in what we're saying or whether we are operating from a purely political motive. We, as members of the Legislature, have plenary power to make laws. We can pass any law that we're not prohibited by the state constitution or the federal constitution or a federal law from passing. But we control the political subdivisions. We tell them what they can and cannot do, and we can beat them if we choose to, we can caress them if we choose to, or we can give them the candy store as we chose to do for Senator Vrtiska in Richardson County. So, naturally, they're all happy. They got sticky little fingers, candy all on their little fat cheeks, little bellies just bulging from the largess of the state. So now that they got candy bags under each arm, candy bags in their little red wagon, they look at all these little hungry, dirty-faced political subdivisions and say, but you don't get any; I got plenty of candy, but you don't get any. And that's the way kids will tend to do. As a Legislature, our standard of excellence ought not be taken from the sandbox in which little children play. We have a responsibility and we should manifest a certain maturity of judgment. There can often be an inclination to say fix 'em. They think this is good. We're going to force it on them and show them that it's not good. The child has been told don't put your hand on the stove because you'll be burned, but the child keeps looking at the stove...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ..so not only do we cease warning the child, we take the child's hand and we put it on the stove and say, by God, that will learn you, and that's what the Legislature's