

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR HARTNETT: ...city problems, is with the city administrator having all the say and not making...making decisions maybe for the county board. And so I really have some problems with doing away with... 'cause that's what I see happening if this constitutional amendment is passed, that we will do away with the election of these officials and the administrator, county administrator will become the power in the county, both what the county board has, and also what the other officials. So I really have some problem, I guess my past experience dealing with the cities.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I would like to respectfully suggest that this reminds me of banking reform a few years ago. Remember when somebody said we got to make banks more efficient, we got to give big banks a chance to merge, we got to give big banks a chance to come in, in Nebraska, to help us, the poor Nebraska bankers, for those of you who are Nebraska bankers, cope with the terrible problems you got. We reformed it. Now what happens? You got to get a hold of your friendly banker or maybe in the case of counties you're friendly county treasurer or assessor? Well, now when you call your friendly banker you get some kind of 800 number, down in Tennessee, and you might get a human person somewhere along the line, who knows. We removed one step. By this kind of a potential and possibility we removed the humanity between somebody who's elected to a responsibility, constitutionally, and somebody who's appointed, who really don't have to get elected. And as far as accountability is concerned, accessibility, I got to tell you it just doesn't happen. I, you know, with all due respect to Senator Hillman, I think they do have some kind of problem in Scotts Bluff County, but there's no reason to affect the entire state with this kind of a...this kind of an amendment on this bill at this time, which in its present form is decent, not too excited about it, but it maybe can work, and can add some tools. All counties are different. I'm not sure if Douglas County had a county manager that would mean that they could fire Hal Daub and Clare Duda, our Mayor and Chairman of the County Board, but they ought to, the way you hear the language and the debate. Doesn't that make sense to you? Why have all these levels of