

administration when we can get a bureaucrat to run everything, pay them four times more than probably what we're paying probably the elected officials now and hope that it works. I haven't seen, you know I got to be frank with you, I'm an old county commissioner and I was President of the National Association of Counties. I visited some of the 3,108 counties we have, not all of them are efficient at all. There are different kinds of counties. We got councilmen in New Delaware, we got county commissioners and supervisors in Nebraska, we got aldermen in some counties, and in two or three states they don't have counties at all, like out in Connecticut, and Rhode Island. But they replaced those counties, get this, this is what we're talking about, this kind of a bill, with state agencies. They removed local government from the responsibility of some of these basic things that are pretty important and I think important to all of us. I know they're inefficiencies. I just heard you arguing about school districts and how you didn't want to change the school districts, that's where, you know, 60, 70, maybe in some cases 80 percent of your property tax dollars go, but you don't want to mess around with that. You don't even want to talk about putting a vote of people to that, and I'm not saying you should, understand that. But why on this particular bill, and why in the case of counties are we not recognizing so many of the good things that happen? In Douglas County, when we had problems with institutionalization of people who were retarded and handicapped and mentally ill, we had thousands of people in Beatrice, and thousands of people in other institutions, and the counties were spending a fortune because of those institutional costs. You know we had four or five counties in our area, Douglas, Washington, Sarpy, and Cass, and Dodge got together and voluntarily, because of the laws we now have on the books, agreed to work with each other, and long before it became a region, a subdivision of government, identified and accepted by the state, we voluntarily worked. We got 1,500 people out of Beatrice from our area. We took care of them back home and we did it at about a third of the cost. We didn't need an elected administrator of all three of those counties to do that for us. We did it ourselves. I only mention that because it's important for you to know that. We had a flood control problem, so the Papio winds through Douglas, Washington and..

SENATOR WILL: One minute.