

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, in behalf of Senator Hillman, I signed on this amendment with her. Ever since I was a county commissioner...I'm an old county commissioner, but not as old as Dan Lynch. (Laugh.) But ever since I was on the county board I advocated this form of government, not that the county commissioners are so all-knowing, but I always felt that it would be a more efficient type of government by hiring the people to do the various jobs, and it goes along with the property tax issue here. You could have more than one entity in the same...like the county clerk and perhaps the registrar of deeds and different ones all out of the same office. So I thought that would be much more efficient because a county board does not have really much to say about their various budgets. I don't know why people really are fearing this amendment because it still is up to the vote of the local people to decide whether they desire this, and if they so desire it let them have it. So I don't think that anyone should be afraid of this type of legislation. So just to keep it short, I don't want to delay the main issue here today, LR 292, but I certainly would seek your support for this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is an amendment that is being offered to a bill. And what I think the members of the Revenue Committee ought to understand is that 292, as it stands, is kind of a delicate balance. Senator Hillman's bill was bracketed, but my intent in trying to get it bracketed was not so that it would get a free ride to Select File by being added as an amendment to this bill, it was not discussed again on General File. But be that as it may, if it would happen to be added to 292A (sic), I would oppose 292A (sic) to the same extent that I would oppose her amendment, if it still was a bill on its own. I'm not aware of any overriding problems in any counties that merit our changing the constitution. If there's a problem in one county that is something for local control, and they can work that out the best way that they can. But to say that we're going to amend the constitution to change the entire system because of one problem that happens to exist now in one county is not wise. I'm sensitive about altering the constitution. I would have questions about what Senator Hillman is offering, even if it weren't for the fact that it was triggered by a problem in Scotts Bluff County. But that is not my only reason for being