

because Scotts Bluff County is having a problem and I'm reacting to a local situation, which is entirely untrue. Several things.... When I started on this legislation, before I was even elected, and I did it with a former county commissioner in Scotts Bluff County and the former manager of the city of Scottsbluff, who now teaches public administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, who helped me work on this because they recognized the need for a change in county government. And they're not the only ones that have recognized a need for county government. This Legislature, back in 1950, had a report that it talked about, in commenting on the division of powers and responsibility, one recognized authority on this subject has said, and they're talking about county government, again from a legislative report in September of 1950, said, the government structures established in 3,000 odd counties of the United States closely resemble one another in one important respect, they violate, almost without exception, every sound principle of organization. They are headless and formless, authority is scattered among a large number of elected county officers who usually pursue their separate ways with little or no thought of effective cooperation. No one person corresponding to the mayor or city manager of a city or the governor of a state exercises supreme executive power, no one person can be held responsible for the lack of coordinated administration. Even the so called legislative body of the county has very limited legislative powers and can determine county policies only within narrowly limited fields. The same authority ad's, who wrote this report, the chief and most obvious defect in the organization of county government is the lack of a responsible executive. And I say, ladies and gentlemen, you're going to expect that form of government to come to the table, collaborate, cooperate, and manage budgets. There also was a report that was done by the League of Women Voters, in 1990, that talks about the disadvantage of the plural executive structure that we currently have in county government. It says, the administration is headless, responsibility is not fixed, there can be a lack of professionalism in management. The lack of a chief executive could result in the lack of efficiency. A long ballot may be required. It is difficult to assess the many candidates for the office. There may be a lack of accountability, except for the power of approval at budget time, the county board has no supervisory power over row officers in the terms of policy approaches, performance evaluation, or changing of practices in the row offices. The