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tax relief and/or perhaps raise the salaries of other employees within the county system because there will be a lot of animosity there and so forth because their pay scale is, in most cases, especially in rural Nebraska, is a lot less than state employees' are. So, therefore, I guess my question to you is where is the property tax relief? Because they have that option and I...I also...I served on county boards and school boards and so forth and I do realize where there's money and they look at that as here's free money, here's money for us to spend, unless there's some hold on that money. So, therefore, my question to you is, where is the property tax relief if they can go ahead and spend that to enhance other employees' salaries as far...the way I see it, we're increasing total spending?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you respond, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR ENGEL: I welcome your response.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I guess I don't have as pessimistic a view of things as you do. I think over the years the property tax relief that we've given that has given the counties options has worked to a certain extent. If what you're looking for is something like state aid to schools, to the community colleges at least, it's not going to be quite the same as that. On the other hand, that kind of property tax relief doesn't have the other aspects of this bill. You're very interested in efficient management. I suspect you would agree that appointing managers who meet educational requirements and experience requirements and who fill the requirements of the judges, the people who need to rely upon them, is probably a more efficient way of working a system, of making a system work. It has that aspect. It has the consolidation aspect. So what I'm saying to you is I think, if you look at all of these things together, perhaps you can overcome the fact that it doesn't absolutely require property tax relief, although most of us hope that's what they will do with it. I find it kind of curious that the argument against the bill from some who represent small counties is that their people are going to get paid better. (Laugh)

SENATOR ENGEL: Well...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I mean usually, you know,...