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fairly efficiency (sic). Otherwise, we're scattered out across the state so they can't really make as effective use of appraisers and assessors and their assistants as you might if every...if we had a mandate across the state. And obviously that is one answer, is to mandate it, because we could pick up some efficiencies. I'm reluctant to do that at this point, but at least we recognize that if we're taking on most counties it's about an additional \$200,000 a year which tends to be, sadly speaking, more than what those local assessors are costing. We're in a dilemma. We're in a catch 22. If we stop the program right now, we're going to have counties scattered here and there across the state that...and the present law says we can't go back. If we keep moving forward, we're going to continue to have spotted areas of, I think, counties coming on, on their own volition, and we'll continue that spotted pattern. Only by accident will some counties be adjacent or contiguous to each other, so there can be those efficiency gains. So we do see that as an issue coming, and I hope by next year I'll introduce a bill that will hopefully create some efficiencies and still do it voluntarily. Because I firmly believe, my own mind at this stage, that we can't really afford or justify taking over all 93 counties down the road, not that it might ever happen, but it might. I mean odds are maybe Douglas, Lancaster and other counties won't want to, but if we continue like we are we have...it's almost an open checkbook under our present statutes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schmitt, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and colleagues, I guess I just wanted to stand up here. I was listening to what Senator Brashear was talking about as far as money being spent by these different agencies and Senator Wehrbein discussing what should be happening out there. He doesn't think there's any fat out there within the agencies. I don't know whether there is or not, but for some time, and I know you should never go back but you do and we're going back here I guess when we talked about having law enforcement nonpolitical, and I'm going back to the Patrol, many, many years under the Kerrey administration when Colonel Tagg was appointed. At that particular time, there was a tremendous increase in salary given to administrative