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your bringing up these topics but, frankly, the problem in addressing these is when you try to bring in equalization,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...needs, resources and eventual aid, which is think is a very logical thing to do, the difficulty you run into is if anyone of the subdivisions involved ends up with less money than they would have without the formula, you're in trouble because the fact that somebody will get more usually does not offset the fact that somebody else will get less. So progress is very, very difficult on these issues, but nonetheless, I think it is very important and needed. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Thompson. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I think there are about a half dozen or more of us who were county commissioners and so, as one of those people, I am interested in this bill, particularly if we're going to have a change in philosophy which is where it's going. And I guess my concerns deal with how, and I think the two people who spoke ahead of me here, Senator Raikes and Senator Beutler, are kind of getting to that issue of how we determine if we're going to go to some type of equalization formula, how that would best be developed and how we can, if we're going to do a major reform, take a look at where counties actually have the greatest burden of expenditures and where they should, we as a state, it would be appropriate for us to help. And I know that the committee has decided to focus on poverty and road miles. I asked my county to put together information on how its budget is spent, and I think it wouldn't be very untypical of a lot of other counties in the state, and I do have some information also that's been collected from all the counties. I chaired the Budget Committee in Sarpy County for six of the eight years that I was a county commissioner, so I feel I have a little background in some of the issues that are being discussed in the change in the formula. But a huge portion of counties' budgets go to public safety issues, law enforcement; in our county, that's about 17 percent. Other public safety is another