

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 26, 2006 LB 529

combined into one. I have a real problem of these smaller counties being directed to get smaller yet. I think one of the things that we're really trying to do is trying to build outstate Nebraska. And what are one of the ways that we can build outstate Nebraska? And that is through employment, have more people out there paying taxes, not trying to cut down and eliminating positions, driving these people out of the communities. That, I think, we need to take into consideration. I'm going to listen to the debate. I have not made up my mind. But another concern that I have, and that...and because I've just come from county government, I went through the process of the possibility of the state taking over the assessor's position, and I think they had a good idea initially. But after a couple years, they found that they...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...realistically couldn't fund it. What's going to happen if this goes bad, too? Yes, I know we are looking at additional revenue right now. But what's going to happen in lean years again? Are they going to go have to say, well, county so-and-so, you're going to have to take over those duties? You know you are...you've got the office, you're paying for the office, you're doing it already; I think you should just take over on the salary of that individual in that county. What's the county going to have to do? They're going to have to come back and raise property taxes, because that's the only method where counties can get money to pay the salaries and pay for the functions of the county, through property tax. I do agree that this would be, you know, property tax relief. Like I said, there's only a few ways you can get property tax relief. But is it going to come in the future, in a couple years, when we will have to, you know, increase that again, and it's put...?

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time, Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members