

I am sure, are going to be so that we cut back, and you heard the Governor talk this morning. We are going to have to cut back on Medicare. Then what is going to happen, the counties are going to get more of this cost, and we could end up next year with a total cost of \$23 million instead of this year a \$19 million cost. So that cost could increase. Now putting a lid on what the state is giving the counties or taking over from the counties, how in the world are the counties then going to pick up this cost? And Douglas County is the one that is really going to get hit with this particular issue, and I want them to know that. The outstate counties, some of the counties that Senator Haberman represents, there won't be many of those cases but in the large metropolitan areas there is going to be a lot of those and they are going to get hard. What are those counties going to do? I want you to know this. So I think this is very serious. And even though he puts this amendment on, I think it is a serious situation to put this bill on, and I oppose the bill.

PRESIDENT: Nineteen minutes left. The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan. Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am going to oppose this amendment because I think it would make the bill more saleable and in my opinion the bill is not one which should be adopted by the Nebraska Legislature. I am very much opposed to the bill. We spend a great deal of time in here on property tax issues and on the local governments and so forth. Many of the costs of local governments are attributed I think directly to the actions of the Nebraska Legislature at any rate. We mandate a lot of the programs on them. We tell them...we take away much of their discretion from time to time, and I happen to have a great deal of confidence in local government as a rule, and I don't think it is wise of us to mandate that this be property tax relief in this fashion because I think it unnecessarily limits the flexibility of what I think is one of the more responsive and responsible branches of government, that being the county system in the state. The other thing I would point out is that even if we were to pass LB 212, in my opinion it is completely unenforceable. We can say that this money shall be used for property tax relief, but we haven't, as I understand it, in any way reduced the mill levy authority of the counties and so they can say that it is applied to a reduction of property tax relief and then simply budget what they need to take care of the local needs at any rate, and that