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have this bill coming in open-ended for these political subdivisions. It points out another absurdity in Nebraska. A state as sparsely populated as this one is, has 93 counties, any one of which, because of the small population, the inefficient operation can cause a drain on the state by them applying for this fund. We need to reduce the number of counties. There are a number of fundamental issues of government and state organization that need to be addressed that this Legislature never will address because of political considerations. But then when problems, which can be predicted, result from the...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENSON: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...inefficient structure of this state, too many counties, too many political subdivisions, everybody wants to pretend that this is a surprise and could not be anticipated. Who would talk about reducing the number of counties? Me, perhaps, nobody else. But you want to have a situation where any one of 93 counties can mismanage its affairs, create a disaster, and then come in here and apply for these funds, and if it's a county with enough political clout, whoever the Governor is, is going to manipulate and operate, just as he has tried to do with this bill, since he's running for the Senate now, to impair the state's ability to carry out state functions. The state's responsibility is to state level matters, not to the political subdivisions.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENSON: Thank you, Senator Chambers. While we have a moment, I'd like to introduce some guests to the Legislature. In the north balcony are 66 fourth graders from Valley Public School, guests of Senator Hudkins. (Introduced their teachers.) Thank you for coming to the Legislature, and you are recognized. And, senators, if we'd recognize them now. Also under the north balcony, guests of Senator Kristensen, John and Jami Anderson and their children, Tad, Betsy, Sarah, and Tom. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Hilgert. Here comes Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I wanted to address the discussion regarding the prosecution of these cases. I think that have these not.... I have a problem with the policy of using economic factors in determining the prosecution of these cases. I don't think that if an individual or a county attorney chooses not to prosecute on economic reasons, I don't