

your particular employees. At this particular time some counties have chosen to be a part of the retirement system. We presently have 34 counties that are a part of it, but the remaining counties within the state have chosen not to be a part of the system. I think this is an example. As I spoke earlier on the bill when it came before us in mid-March, approximately a month ago, was that the problem with this is that you have local county officials and they're always complaining that the Legislature does too much, that we mandate too much upon the local counties and as a result the property taxes go up. Well, this is a perfect example of where the Legislature comes in and mandates a program and it's going to increase the property taxes for the local counties. I feel this is a bad bill. I feel this is bad legislation. I feel that this isn't the type of legislation that we should be passing this year when we're encouraging property tax relief. I support Senator Haberman's kill motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch, then Senator Sieck.

SENATOR LYNCH: Members of the Legislature, it is an interesting argument. You know every thing, every single thing a county does is mandated by the State Legislature. So when you use the argument that it is going to raise taxes when you mandate for them to do something, it makes little sense at all. Does it really? Think about that. They conduct the elections, they run the courts, they administer some welfare programs in some counties even yet. You know they provide for the assessing of property and the registering of deeds and all of these are mandated benefits and we expect them to raise taxes to provide these services. Senator Haberman or Senator Abboud or anybody else, I would ask in your counties, what does a county provide in the way of a service that they just voluntarily decided to spend money on? Tell me one. Now you can't think of any, can you, because there aren't any. Everything they do is mandated and it is so basic, so basic to provide a retirement program. I've got to tell you, I've been reluctant to talk on the floor, I guess, because it's so well said by so many others and there is no sense in repeating it, but nobody can repeat what I'm going to tell you now. When I first came on the county board in Douglas County back in 1960 we had four people working for us in their nineties. The average age of the employee was 57. Why? Because we had no retirement program and I think the