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we drafted amendments to restore the statutes to their original language so that cities could not issue those general obligation bonds without first having a vote of the citizens.

With the adoption of the Committee amendments all the bill does is provide a clear state statute that local governments can implement the Federal Community Development Act. I'd move for adoption of the Committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: You've heard the motion. Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I guess I've got a question. It was happening pretty fast. I want to ask Senator Fowler if there is any bonds now that are issued without a vote of the people? Under your law ... your amendment that you're trying to change are the local people, the local governing people, are their hands now tied as to being able to offer any type of bonds without a vote of the people?

SENATOR FOWLER: Can I respond? The way it has traditionally been in Nebraska is that revenue bonds, those for which certain revenues from a facility are pledged as the sole support, can be issued by the local governing authority without a vote of the people. But a general obligation bond, traditionally, has taken a vote of the people.

I'd like to again stress that the cities came in and asked to change that. They said that they wanted to issue general obligation bonds without a vote of the people. Our Committee did not go along with that change. Adoption of the Committee amendments would not ... would prevent a change in our current state statutes. With adoption of the Committee amendment it will stay the way it is now. Every general obligation bond will have to have a vote of the citizens. If you don't adopt the Committee amendment then the bill goes through in its present form, you'll be opening it up so that cities could issue general obligation bonds for urban renewal authority.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd like to ask Senator Fowler a question please. Senator Fowler, what does the bill do then that the cities can't presently do? Are they not following through with some of the provisions of the federal law, or what will the bill actually do?

SENATOR FOWLER: After the adoption of the Committee amendments the bill is simply enabling authority to do the things under the Community Development Act. I think it is simply a safety measure that has been asked for by the communities to make it absolutely clear that they do have power to do those things in the Community Development Act. Without this they probably could do most of those activities, but it isn't specifically spelled out in the statutes. Therefore, the communities wanted a certain security in this area.