

January 19, 1976

SENATOR SCHMIT: Have any of the communities, at the present time, utilized any part of the federal Act?

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes, they have. Lincoln, Omaha, North Platte and Grand Island have.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And they have done so without the enabling legislation?

SENATOR FOWLER: Right. It is their feeling The legal opinions from their city staff is that it probably has been alright for them to go ahead and do that. They would like to back that up with passage of this act, however.

SENATOR SCHMIT: What is the position of the League of Municipalities on the bill?

SENATOR FOWLER: They support it.

SENATOR SCHMIT: They do. Thank you, Senator Fowler.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Senator Fowler, I hate to let you rest. Did you say that the cities came in originally and asked for the authority to issue general obligation bonds without a vote of the people?

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes.

SENATOR DICKINSON: This makes me lose great faith in whoever this might have been. I can't imagine anyone wanting to take that responsibility to be able to issue general obligation bonds without proper authority. I guess it makes me apprehensive about the bill. I'm sure you've explained it properly and correctly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler, could you close debate on this matter.

SENATOR FOWLER: I'd like to stress that adoption of this Committee amendment would restore the language in the statutes to its current form so that no community could issue general obligation bonds for urban renewal authority without a vote of the citizens. Without adoption of this Committee amendment, passage of this bill would change that long standing practice in our state.

I would urge, very strongly, I think Senator Dickinson and I find ourselves on the same side. I think that would indicate there's broad support for the Committee amendment.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted, Senator Fowler.