

April 25, 1983

LB 626

want to do, fine, leave it the way it is, but if you want to limit it to at least something that is arguably blighted, you ought to make the standard the blighted standard. Even under that definition, all downtown Omaha is going to be blighted I can assure you but at least that is a little help as far as the bill is concerned. I would ask the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I had kind of hoped we would get rolling on this bill. We have got 20 days left and I see there is something like 10 or 11 amendments, some of them pretty major, some of the controversial. My initial inclination was to say, okay, this is a reasonable compromise. It is a little tougher standard and it is not going to bother Omaha or Lincoln and that is true, it won't. If you adopt the Beutler amendment, Omaha and Lincoln will be just fine. The Chambers amendment would have been just about fatal to the bill. Projects already being proposed such as Grand Island and some others would have literally been eliminated, things already halfway approved. My inclination to support or accept the amendment on the theory we get the bill rolling and get something going on this is tempered however with the fact that even though it wouldn't affect Omaha and Lincoln and would not adversely impact them, it is going to adversely impact the Scottsbluffs, the rural areas...

SPEAKER NICHOL: The Call is raised.

SENATOR DeCAMP: ...and I would on that basis suggest to you, make your own judgment but I think it would be working a disadvantage for this particular financing for the rural areas, and for that reason, I personally am going to vote against it although, as I say, it is a true compromise that can be lived with but I think it works to the benefit of Omaha and Lincoln and to the disadvantage of the rural areas. So I am going to vote against it but if it is adopted we can certainly live with it but I would just as soon it weren't.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am going to reiterate some of what John said so I will be brief. At one time I said I could live with this and a bunch of people talked to me and said, sure, it is easy for you to live with because it doesn't affect you. We can designate areas blighted about as easily as we can standard. In many rural areas, many rural communities, frankly