

February 21, 1995 LB 830

this is not directed at Ms. Moul, I mean, she does a great job over there. And that's one of the reasons why we need to strip this kind of stuff out of the bill because it is vitally important that we look at what these findings and declarations say because they are proposals that people will point at in terms of future proposals much like this. We are, in essence, saying in this type of language that is found in Section 2, is littered through 1 through 15 and then 16 just says that we solve all our problems. We spell out in sections (1) through (15) all the problems that the state has in this area and section (16) says, but with the passage of this act that all goes away. Take a moment...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...and read the proposal.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I certainly second Senator Hall's injunction that you read this material. I think if you read it with any kind of an open mind and a sense of decency that you'll be deeply offended. You'll be deeply offended by the image that is supposed to be created in your mind of the State of Nebraska and our ability to deal with "blighted and substandard areas", when we know if we read the bill and if we listen that the blighted and substandard areas are pastures and fields, pastures and fields. And we're going to, for a very private purpose, a private purpose, allow the condemnation of property. We have traditionally only allowed the condemnation of property for public purposes but this bill will allow the condemnation of property for private purposes and I hope it's eventually struck by the Supreme Court for that reason. Now the language that Senator Hall is bringing your attention to in the various amendments that he is proposing could be used by a court to sustain the bill. I imagine that's the reason it's there, but it isn't appropriate. It is patently ridiculous in many aspects and if you read it with an open mind, you'll see that we are almost ridiculing ourselves. I see no reason to do that as a Legislature, I see no reason to do that as a representative of my district. I think Senator Hall's amendments are entirely appropriate. I do not, frankly, see how condemning pastures and fields is going to solve the "economic development problems" of the State of Nebraska, nor do I believe that we can solve those problems by extending tax exempt