

February 2, 1979

LB 150

SENATOR MERZ: I will go ahead then.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: We were talking on that.

SENATOR MERZ: I just want to put in one little statement. If we cut all the weeds we are wiping out our bird population so don't forget it.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: A question of Senator Pirsch.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Senator Pirsch, will you respond?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Pirsch, presently Omaha is a home rule charter city. Is that correct?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: Which makes them really rather sovereign next to the State of Nebraska. Now if an owner of lots persists in not taking care of that lot and maintaining it, that cost is generally charged to him and there can be a lien placed against that property. Is that not true?

SENATOR PIRSCH: As I understand it, yes. I have not done any research on how they collect the taxes. All this is is how they will bill and list the special assessments.

SENATOR KOCH: Now why can they not aggressively pursue this procedure?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Pardon?

SENATOR KOCH: Why can't the city, if they have that many people, individuals, who are ignoring the law, then why can they not aggressively pursue that and place a lien against their property and collect it?

SENATOR PIRSCH: I am sure they do. This is just to simplify the billing procedure, send it out under one mailing instead of two and to have it listed along with other payments on that property.

SENATOR KOCH: And one final question, assuming that this bill passes and you get your amendment "may", does that mean that that property owner necessarily has to pay that when he