

May 1, 1979

LB 158

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator George, could I ask you a question please.

SENATOR GEORGE: Yes, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Section 2 of the committee amendments appears to insert the language "consisting of one or more" to replace some language in subsection 10 of page 3 of the bill having to do with the definition of substandard areas. Now if I understand this correctly, we are changing the definition, or the committee amendments changes the definition of substandard areas from one which says "shall mean an area in which there is a predominance of buildings or improvements which are dilapidated, etc." to a definition which says that substandard areas shall mean an area consisting of one or more buildings which are substandard, or dilapidated, etc. What was the reason for this change?

SENATOR GEORGE: Senator Beutler, as far as I know, these amendments came as a request from the City of Omaha and, well, I can imagine if you are not talking about downtown itself that you can pick a particular older business areas that might fall under this category if you define it or redefine as it is now in the committee amendments, some of the older outlying business centers. I think that was their concern. If that was not, maybe Senator Koch could give another explanation.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Would you care to give an explanation, Senator Koch?

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, could we, Senator Beutler, before we get into the body of the bill, would it be permissible with you if we'd adopt the amendments and then I would be happy to go over them.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Koch, I have an amendment to this section unless I get a credible explanation (interruption) the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR KOCH: All right, I will give you an explanation. One was that in this large city such as Omaha, I will use that as an example, because they are probably going to be the first ones to use this, is that they thought that better than having to have a whole block there is examples of buildings in that community downtown Omaha, large buildings, substantial buildings, where this could be, in fact, a redevelopment project. So they are trying to make it so you could define it to one building or to a block or to a