

May 15, 1979

LB 158

domain is not unique. It's, in fact, international law and American law, and what it does it allows a solvent entity of government created either by the state of Nebraska or others to use it when they feel it's appropriate to the best interests of the community. What we're talking about here is not the private developer using eminent domain, but only the judgment of elected officials who design and go through the process of defining the area that is to be redeveloped. It bothers me when I hear the word urban renewal and other terms which sometimes are misunderstood. This is not a piece of legislation that deals with the subject of urban renewal. I was not here when this body passed the legislation of urban renewal. I was not here when this body passed an act referred to as the...trying to think of the name that Senator Murphy used yesterday...Redevelopment Act. All we have done here is to add another dimension to the Urban Renewal Act that this body passed a number of years ago...Redevelopment Act that they passed a number of years ago. It's a mechanism that is specifically spelled out for implementation of a community, but yesterday and today we have clouded the issues, and I think that's unfair to this piece of legislation. I think we should speak to it in terms of what we believe the merits will be. The bill...the amendment was sold to the people of this state, and by a considerable margin the people of this state said, yes, we believe this is an instrument which is valuable to the communities regardless of their size if the local government wishes to instigate the procedure. For us to take out the privilege of eminent domain or the wisdom and leadership of local officials I believe would cripple this bill very seriously. I would hope that this body once again would reject Senator Warner's amendment which we did on a previous occasion and allow us to see in the future whether or not this proposed legislation, LB 158, will indeed be misused and abused at the expense of the general public, or whether it will be a viable mechanism which will allow a community to enhance its position not only for the city but the residents who live therein, and if we are to generate jobs to regenerate communities that have shown deterioration, then I firmly believe that this is the way we do it. As I told Senator Beutler earlier this morning in visiting with him, and I commend him and I admire him, that a few years ago I'll tell you I had serious doubts about this proposal. I really did, because I'm concerned about the idea that we may be eroding the taxpayers' taxes, but when you live in a community where the taxes are constantly being eroded

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