

anyway due to lack of property evaluation, and I can show you Omaha as an example because I know that community pretty well. When I watched the Douglas County assessor roll back in the city of Omaha values that are getting less and less and less, the problems become greater and greater and greater. I submit to you that we are not taking away taxes from the community but indeed we are trying to reitalize and stimulate the retail, commercial and industrial growth of a community to once more make it a vital center. So for us to place this amendment on here at this time I believe it would not give the bill an opportunity to work. I would remind you, and I sent a letter to many of you, there are twenty-seven states in this nation today who have this kind of legislation in place, and have been using it with good experience around us...Colorado, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Minnesota. Good examples, and this bill is almost a replica of those kinds of statutes those states have in place and have had in place for a number of years. The evidence is there, and the evidence is nothing but very positive, and it only exemplifies what a community can do and what a city can do for itself without too much help from the outside. I ask you to reject Senator Warner's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson, did you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I like Senator Koch also urge the body to reject Senator Warner's amendment. As Senator Warner indicated, this is the amendment that had been brought up the other day by Senator Kelly and rightfully rejected by the body. As Senator Koch has so well pointed out, eminent domain authority is important in any kind of a redevelopment program to insure that the project which will in the end begin to alter the inexorable course of deterioration has some effect or some opportunity to succeed. It's very interesting that even with the eminent domain powers right now we have observed that individuals who are extremely recalcitrant for reasons of their own in disposing of their property for state purposes can tie up the acquisition of that property for years and years and years. As this body well knows, we have appropriated several millions of dollars to be used in Omaha for a new medium security prison on the outskirts of Omaha, and even though we have eminent domain powers and can acquire the property through eminent domain powers, nonetheless we have been dragged through protracted litigation concerning