

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Johnson, you have two minutes left.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, one of the other aspects of 672 is that it does expand the current language for community redevelopment financing to make certain that the concept of rehabilitation as well as simply acquiring and redeveloping property is included. One of the important things about this feature in our Constitutional amendment is that there are many properties that are good candidates to be rehabilitated. In fact, I think it is basically wrong in a conservationist era which we clearly ought to be moving into, to establish a community development financing program that only allows cities to acquire and redevelop property but seemingly prohibit cities from rehabilitating property. As you may recall the example given when we discussed this bill on Select File was that of the Cornhusker Hotel, which is currently being financed through, in part, tax incremental financing. Had this particular provision been in place the Cornhusker Hotel would not have needed to be blown up and rebuilt, rather because of the rehabilitation language it could have been restored from the inside out. That is true for a number of properties that we have in Omaha. I see that Senator Chambers has passed out a pamphlet here condemning some rehabilitation activity in our community without any question. As with any type of construction activity, any kind of work activity, there are always some short comings. But, a short coming does not a bad law make. I would encourage this body to honor Senator Kilgarin's request to allow this matter to be reconsidered and to then send this bill to the voters for their consideration on the general election ballot.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Goodrich, do you have anything else to offer? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Johnson is quite right when he mentions that I handed out a pamphlet as he termed it about rehabilitation projects in Omaha. This that I gave you today is not an isolated example. This lady contacted me, the one who is the subject of this paper, where work not done for was approved by the city for payment, where work improperly done was approved by the city inspector and paid for. When this item was carried as a news story on Channel 7, other people who had had this kind of butchery done on their homes began to contact me and I have not been able to put it all into a presentable form to you, but I was able to get one of the cases an additional one together along with the work write ups and statements