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a tax policy which serves to discourage improvement of older homes. It's my feeling that this bill would probably do more than all of the millions of Federal dollars that are sent into this state to encourage private individuals to make those necessary improvements to their own family dwellings that would eventually result in great savings of tax monies for massive redevelopment programs. If we can encourage the private individual to improve his own home and not penalize him for doing that, at least for a reasonable period of time, I think that we will have substantially changed the public policy of this state and probably done a great deal to alleviate deterioration of single-family dwelling homes. I move the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes then Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, I have a statement to make then I want to ask a question of Senator Cavanaugh. This is one bill that I really feel that the Legislature . . . constitutional amendment that we should pass out and let the people decide. It's going to bring about an improvement, not only in the homes within the cities, but also on the farms. There's only one thing, Senator Cavanaugh, I am concerned about. It says that the Legislature may . . . now the Legislature of the State of Nebraska is not in the property tax business. Is there someplace needed in this constitutional amendment, or in the implementation of it, whereby the Legislature will permit the county board, within those statutes of Nebraska, to open up and say which homes and which ones are not decaying and which ones can be improved. At present I don't see anything in there that is going to allow the county . . . and they are the ones that are in the property tax business. Maybe we shouldn't. If it isn't necessary . . . I'm very much in favor of the bill.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Well Senator Keyes, this constitutional amendment will not be self-executing if that is your question. The language, the Legislature may, is permissive in that the Legislature may also not wish to at some time implement this policy. The Legislature may find that it is not a desirable policy. I think it is a sufficiently desirable question that we at least let the people of the State of Nebraska decide whether or not they wish to give the Legislature this power. Once they gave the Legislature this power, once this constitutional amendment was adopted, then the burden would be upon the Legislature to develop sufficient definitions and criteria for an eligible individual for this type of tax relief. We would have to set the standards. We would have to set the definitions. They would then be administered, probably by the local county assessor, who it is his responsibility to assess the value of the home. The Legislature would have to implement the mechanism under which he would operate. Which is how we do it with all tax laws. We don't administer tax laws but we do set the standards under which they are administered.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.