

CLERK: Senator Chambers, 413? All right. In that case the next motion I have is offered by Senator Vard Johnson. Senator Vard Johnson would move to suspend Rule 7, Section 7 to permit reconsideration of LB 672.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body LB 672 is a constitutional amendment that would permit cities to engage in rehabilitation financing through the tax incremental financing method. This measure has received 29 votes, it needs 30 to be able to be submitted to the voters. It is a sound measure and frankly what it deals with, in my opinion, is the most important thing is that it authorizes our cities to engage in some rehabilitation projects, virtually all of which today are funded federally. They are not funded with city money. This will allow the use of city funds for the important purpose of preserving and conserving our cities housing stock, our cities commercial stock and what have you. Rehabilitation activities are extraordinarily important to the life and vitality of our communities. For us not to give this measure to the voters, in my opinion, is for us to continue to sap at the bloodstream and the well being of our cities. This does effect all cities in this state, whether they be Scottsbluff, whether they be Imperial, Grand Island, Norfolk, Omaha, Lincoln and what have you. I know that this body is now tired in its very last minutes, but I would ask that you provide the thirty votes so we could reconsider this matter and we could then send this matter on to the voters.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, this is an important constitutional amendment. It does not authorize a new program, it basically allows rehabilitation to be used for tax increment financing. In Omaha, Nebraska, the place where the city is planning to use this is in the older neighborhoods where there are a number of poor people, where the programs have been cut, the community block grant programs have been cut primarily for housing rehabilitation for some of the poorest of the poor for weatherization, for new roofs, etc. This is an important amendment. I would urge this body consider the importance to a lot of people who have very few other resources. I urge the reconsideration of this proposal.

SENATOR LAMB: Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Question.