

compound, almost, called Logan Fontenelle Housing Project; many of the people who live there are victimized by virtue of the fact that there is too much congestion. Studies have been made, not only on human beings, but on animals that show when there is too much concentration of whatever group it is in relationship to the amount of space available, tensions are created, societal inhibitions break down and usually there is an increase in aggression, which translates into violence, and ultimately those kinds of things that are destructive of the social fabric. There has not been ever a true state policy with reference to housing to make sure that as much as it lies within the power of the state to do so that a certain level of decent, affordable housing will be available to all of the citizens. There are serious housing problems confronting people in depressed rural areas also. I think the only means by which a coordinated, meaningful program to remedy the housing problem in this state can be put together is under the auspices of the state itself. It might be nice if a Governor, who happens to, for some reason, set up some plan designed to do this, if that Governor does not stay in office, then the whole thing collapses. If a nickel has to be drawn from this program, a dime from that one, to try to get some funding to do the things that are going to cost money, and not enough money is gathered, or even if it is, that source is not assured. So I hope that we will defeat Senator Moore's motion, because the problem is great, it has required addressing long before now. This is the first bill that offers a real opportunity to achieve that end. So, I'm opposed to Senator Moore's amendment. Now I touched on the problem in Omaha. It's discussed under the rubric of scattered site housing. What it really means, and whenever an effort to benefit or help the poor is given...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...a code word, all types of negative baggage attached to it, and usually all you need to do is attach that word to any effort, or that term to any effort and it's doomed to fail. What the Omaha Housing Authority, through Bob Armstrong, the Executive Director, is attempting to do is find decent, habitable dwellings for people who have been locked into the Logan Fontenelle area. The city council is opposed to it, at least some of the members, and their reasons, I feel, are racist. They don't feel that poor people and certainly black people have no right to live in various parts of the city. Fortunately, the Housing Authority is able to circumvent the