

March 26, 1979

LB 175

I had discussed this with Senator Simon and I wanted to make a comment regarding my feelings on this proposal and I asked earlier whether or not this would be all inclusive, take into consideration businesses, multi-million dollar business that might wish to make improvements to property. Would it also be commercial property, residential property? I have some difficulties I guess philosophically with having to grant some type of an exemption to people so that they will keep their property in repair. I guess I just have some real difficulty with that but if we have to grant such an exemption in blighted areas and perhaps this is the case, then I think that this proposal should be restrictive and include only those areas that deal with residences where individuals live, individual family dwellings. You will notice if you refer to the committee statement that Jack Mills testified on behalf of the various county officials, that they were concerned about yet another exemption that would be granted. Now, I, too, had some of those concerns and I still have those concerns. I feel that if we are going to make such a change then the only way it should be considered is if it is on individual residences and we should not grant this exemption to all others such as business, commercial property, apartments, for those improvements. These people I feel will upgrade their businesses by making those additions now and those additions in the way of increased taxation will go on the rolls of the various subdivisions of government immediately. They will not be subjected from any period of time up to five years exemption and as you know with the problems that we face in the state as far as finances go, generation of funds for various subdivisions of government, the restrictions that have been placed on them, this would be additionally a restriction in my opinion and I think we should think very very seriously before we adopt this proposal in its present form.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Stoney, let me correct a couple of comments that you made. Senator Mills opposed the bill as originally written. He does not, and if you go out and talk to him right now in the lobby, they have not taken any position on the bill as amended so let the record clearly reflect that the county officials really don't have any position. Right now they are sending out questionnaires asking them for an opinion on this. I might also add, Senator Stoney, the City of Omaha does support this legislation. Now it is very easy for us to stand up here and conjecture on whether or not this is going to cost money from the tax coffers and