

February 4, 1980

LB 61

when they have to pay the cost of transportation.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I get a little concerned when people are suggesting you don't move to the suburbs since I live there and I would like to ask two or three questions and I think this issue hasn't been clearly defined before in terms of where we are. Could I ask Senator George a couple of questions, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator George, do you yield?

SENATOR LEWIS: Now, Senator George, the argument being advanced, of course, is the fact that if you have larger acreage that, of course, takes more land out of production and does other things in urban areas. Now what is the acreage, for instance, in Kearney?

SENATOR GEORGE: Statewide, Senator Lewis, it is ten acres. The only exception to the rule is the City of Lincoln and the City of Omaha, the five acre rule. Everybody else has ten acres.

SENATOR LEWIS: Now, Senator George, what is the rationale for that, that the land is more valuable and it is more productive as far as cropland is concerned in those two areas rather than in the Platte Valley?

SENATOR GEORGE: Well, number one, historically speaking, the City of Lincoln first when we changed to ten acres did not want to be included and they do want it now, and as to direct to your question, most of us seem to believe that having it ten acres will prevent urban sprawl but I guess Senator Schmit has just the opposite theory.

SENATOR LEWIS: So you could come to Bellevue, Nebraska in Sarpy County and you could buy ten acres in that suburb, is that correct?

SENATOR GEORGE: That is for purposes of subdivision?

SENATOR LEWIS: That is right but we could have ten acre subdivisions, is that right?

SENATOR GEORGE: That is correct.

SENATOR LEWIS: And you couldn't if you crossed the line into Douglas County?

SENATOR GEORGE: Douglas County also, as far as I know, has