

February 4, 1980

LB 61

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion has carried. Debate has ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator Newell to close on his amendment.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to address myself to some of the points that were brought up. First of all, as we know, the ten acre provision is to basically exempt farmland and that ten acre provision runs throughout the state except for....I mean it is also in Sarpy County, there is only two towns that it does not apply to, two cities, and that is Omaha and Lincoln. Now the justification for that is that for some reason it takes less land to be a farmer in Omaha and Lincoln than it does in the rest of the state. It only takes five acres of land to be a farmer in Omaha and Lincoln or outside of those cities as opposed to ten acres throughout the rest of the state. Now that is a hard argument to deal with because many farmers in this body would argue that it takes much more than ten acres to be a viable agricultural interest today. The proposal is simply one which will discourage the use of prime agricultural land for residential development. That is exactly what it is and the reason it does that is it says you have to go through the city if you want to develop on a ten acre or less plot and the city then can, through its planning and zoning processes, have an opportunity to suggest that maybe that is not the best place or the best way to build and, basically, prime agricultural land is being used up in Omaha and Lincoln for residential development and that is what we want to discourage. You know, if someone is going to be a farmer, he ought to move to at least ten acres or more and that is the proposal. Now I can get to arguing this issue as we have many years on the floor but, basically, what I would like to conclude with is simply this, that we have general agreement on this bill now, that through some negotiations and so forth, the homebuilders are no longer opposed to this legislation. Senator Keyes' own county, as Senator Keyes talks about, has the ten acre provision and this will apply to only those two major urban areas where there is more likely to be those kind of abuses, Omaha and Lincoln, two of the major urban areas, excluding Bellevue and North Platte, and for that reason I urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the Newell amendment to LB 61. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record the vote.