

first by petition and a hearing on the petition and then later by levying assessments on those who are going to be especially benefitted. Without any further ado, unless you have some questions, I would recommend that this bill be advanced to E & R initial.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I have a couple of questions, Senator Wiitala, if you might yield.

SENATOR WIITALA: Yes, I will.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: The first one is this, I guess the City of Omaha is included within a Natural Resource District because we sure vote for Natural Resource District directors. Would it not be possible for example, for the Mockingbird SID, for the persons there who want to construct a community center, to approach their Natural Resource District with petitions and ask that a special improvement area be allowed within that particular SID so that, in fact, such could be done, notwithstanding the laws that we have on the books right now for the SIDs themselves going forward to the local city council and the like for approval of those kind of projects? Do you understand what I am saying, Senator Wiitala?

SENATOR WIITALA: Right, it is my understanding that it would not be. I think you would have to relate to the intentions of most NRDs and that is largely to deal with flood control and watershed problems and projects. If I am not correct in that assessment, I would be willing to yield to anyone that could address that question.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Well, I could take it a step further then. I mean, this may be a little bit bizarre but I know what you have in mind with respect to the Union Dike project but supposing that we wanted in a city in an urban center to do something with parks, claiming simply that parks have a certain recreational aspect which does come within some of the purview of the NRD law and we decide that the neighbors want to set up a special improvement area to develop the park. Is there any reason in this legislation why that could not be done, notwithstanding this NRD is operating within the urban center?

SENATOR WIITALA: I really can't answer that question, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: That is okay. I will check it out. The question came up while I was looking at the bill.