

opposition is based on equity. I can't in good conscience pass legislation that says simply that all special assessments levied in a city, that means grading assessments, sewer assessments, street assessments, alley assessments, sidewalk assessments, intersection assessments, and the like shall bear a rate of interest of 14% which is retroactive, but at the same time, allow those folk who can afford not to live in the corporate limits of a city but instead live in a sanitary improvement district, an SID, to pay a much lower rate of interest and not only that, but to have the rate of interest to be nonretroactive. Now the function of LB 167 is to establish a uniform rate of interest on tax delinquencies and on special assessment delinquencies and that is what the bill has been doing up until now, but soon we come along with an amendment that is essentially designed to further the cause of suburban development and growth and to treat the people that build outside the city differently from those that build in the city and differently from the way lots in the city are treated and the way abutting lot owners are assessed in the city and it is grossly unfair in my opinion to provide for such a differential. As I look at the amendment I think frankly the amendment may well make the SID assessment and interest, the situation even better today than it is right now. By that I mean very simply it may actually make for a more favorable rate of interest to the SIDs and to the properties therein if the amendment carries now, than the existing state of law notwithstanding LB 167 and if there is one thing that I as an Omaha senator need to address it is responsible suburban development and growth. And I will do everything within my power to make certain that we within the city don't in one way or another enhance suburban growth and development. I would much rather see the energies of all of us, financeers, carpenters, contractors, homebuilders, lot developers and the like channeled to improving the thousands of vacant lots within our city than in continuing the suburban sprawl and the taking of agricultural land and one of the things this amendment does is it sure as the devil doesn't put any disincentives in the way for the furtherance of suburban growth and sprawl. In fact, it continues a favorable policy that has existed in the law now for many years. So it strikes me that this body, if it intends to do anything about the taking of agricultural land which is one of the most important commodities in this state, and if it tends to do anything about some of the unchecked suburban growth in Omaha which is certainly a significant urban problem for our area, should repudiate the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like to speak to this issue in support of Senator Hoagland's