

don't want to get into a fight in Douglas County. It was not our reason for bringing the bill and we found substantial citizen reaction addressed to the committee saying we find one of the housing authorities more open than the other. We don't want it swallowed up by the other one. We don't want to fight a battle of merger in Douglas County." And since that citizen outrage, if you will, was consistent with the purpose of the bill as brought by the drafters of the bill to allow for rural mergers, the committee just decided to not act in the area of Douglas County.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Okay. Now under this bill if a joint housing authority is to be created, that does require the resolution of the county board as in Douglas County for the Douglas County Housing Authority and the city council in Omaha. Wouldn't that be correct?

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes. It has to be an agreed upon merger by both parties.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: So you really have to get a meeting of the minds of both parties.

SENATOR LANDIS: That is right.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: And there would be a lot of citizen input on that, wouldn't there, Senator Landis?

SENATOR LANDIS: Certainly there would.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: And you would think that those elected officials would be cognizant of citizen input, wouldn't you?

SENATOR LANDIS: Mmm, hmm.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I really am troubled. I am wondering why we really ought to make this exemption for Douglas County.

SENATOR LANDIS: One reason that I think we could state is that, representatives of Douglas County Housing Authorities did not ask for this power and did not, as I recall, express any argument with being excluded from the merger provisions since they had no desire to merge at this time. At this point they wanted to continue on with their own business and there was no attempt on their part to merge with each other.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Let me ask one more question, different subject. I was looking at the claims provision. It would appear as though we have established a separate statutory claims provision for housing authorities separate and distinct from the political subdivisions Tort Claims Act. Do