

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Newell, is there language in the law as it indicates in this, LB 634, that definitely outlines what is a blighted area?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Schmit, the constitutional amendment talks about blighted and substandard areas. The definition of a blighted and substandard area is in the community development section of our laws and they can be changed at any time. They can be changed because we have these sections in the community redevelopment laws that deal with blighted and substandard areas in order to qualify for UDAG grants and for all kinds of other sections.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Let me ask a question. Would you consider the area surrounding the Fontenelle Hotel in Omaha to be a blighted area?

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, Senator, I guess you are asking for a...

SENATOR LAMB: You have thirty seconds, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR NEWELL: ...personal opinion in terms of that.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well would it qualify by law?

SENATOR NEWELL: I can read to you the section that deals with blighted and substandard areas. I could read to you the section of law that applies to that.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Would the area around the Fontenelle, in your opinion, qualify by law?

SENATOR NEWELL: That would be a very tough question. I seriously cannot answer that.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Newell. I think we ought to pursue that just a bit. I'm sure that others will and as I said before, I've had my share of this very lucrative kind of financing and I don't like to throw any roadblocks in my good friend Senator Newell's way but I think we ought to call attention to the fact that we could declare the entire state from Scottsbluff to the Missouri River, from Falls City to Chadron a blighted area if we wanted to stretch the rules and if we would...

SENATOR LAMB: Your time is up, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...declare the area around the Fontenelle blighted, then we've got a long way to go.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Vickers, did you wish to address the kill motion? Is Senator Vickers in the legislative space?