

of city streets and use of municipal financing, Kalinger said. This needs more than just a cursory look by the council." Then the final paragraph. "Tuesday's action simply defines the proposed area for the complex as a blighted and substandard area that qualifies for use of governmental community improvement programs including tax increment financing." So very large or huge operations are able to make use of this type of legislation to have an area declared substandard or blighted. If there are people without much money in those areas they don't have the legal wherewithal or the personal knowledge to do anything about opposing those issues. If you live in Omaha and may have tried to go to Legal Aid you have a situation where a mayor who has participated in helping the area resided in by certain black people declared blighted and substandard, you have that mayor trying to stop the city from giving funds to Legal Aid to help people who can't get assistance anywhere else. It was a mean, vindictive, petty, dumb political decision for the mayor to veto that Legal Aid proposition, nevertheless he did. Now there was a concrete instance where Boys Town, a multimillion dollar fund raising operation wanted to take the property of some black people who were not anxious to sell so after harassing them with appraisers who told them that the federal government would put them out of their homes if they didn't sell to Boys Town were finally put in a position of having to move. But only after I intervened and caused Boys Town to give them additional money to that that they intended to offer. But there were people who owned lots in the area too and they didn't want to give up their lots but the city, using its powers of condemnation after declaring it a blighted, substandard area condemned the property of these people who did not want to give it up, who had paid the taxes, who had not let it be overgrown with weeds and took that property. And as a result there is a construction underwritten by Boys Town going on in that area. Now prior to the obtaining of that property there were various programs that the city had put together to allow federal funds to be used by people to rehab their houses. What the city did was got with this neighborhood group called NOCD that gets a lot of federal funding and state funding is channeled to them, got with them to help mark off this area that Boys Town wanted as an area which was ineligible for any funds for rehabbing. So in effect, they were redlined. Since they couldn't get any of the money from these programs to rehab their houses, they continue to deteriorate which helped prove that it is, in fact, a substandard area. So the only thing I will say and whether you pass the amendment or not is not going to be anything for me to have much to do with one way or the other...

SENATOR LAMB: You have thirty seconds, Senator.