

March 8, 1982

LB 817

can't get anything for the return on their housing, where there are no buyers and ultimately they will be bulldozed down, and will find some way of taking those older ethnic neighborhoods and translating them into some probable venture that will simply wipe the neighborhood off the face of the earth. Perhaps this is the kind of approach that Senator.....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR LANDIS: ....Beutler approves of, I don't. I approve of a repair mechanism that goes in with seed money and tries to revitalize on a piecemeal basis by making those neighborhoods habitable and liveable by bringing businesses and jobs and industry close to people. That is why I object to this amendment. It is the only one of the seven that I know of that I do object to, but it eats at the heart of the bill and I intend to vote against it.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to support Senator Beutler's amendment, and Senator Landis is exactly right, I think it does get to the heart of the matter, it gets down to what 817 is all about. I wonder how many of you took the trouble to look up what section 18-2103 says, but the language that Senator Beutler is attempting to take out of the bill defines blighted or substandard under 18-2103. 18-2103 is very, very broad and I can tell you that I represent an area that does have some...a number of areas that could qualify as blighted or substandard under 18-2103. You do not have to represent an urban area in this state with so-called slums in them to qualify under 18-2103. Many small towns in rural Nebraska, many, many of them, have empty buildings up and down main street where there used to be businesses. In my own home town there used to be, since I can remember, a grocery store, a drug store, another bank, a couple of cafes, a barber shop, two or three real estate agencies...Senator Koch says several taverns, well, there are still several there, as a matter of fact, but there...yes, there is two or three more, but a whole host of businesses that are not there now and empty and deteriorating business buildings sit there instead. Now I can assure you that we can throw as much money as we want to at that area and it is still going to be deteriorated and blighted if you want to call it that. I don't think the people in my home town necessarily think that is a blighted area. They understand the situation. The simple fact of the matter is the highways are better, people travel further to get these services, there is not as many people in the area as there