

March 11, 1982

LB 672

of rehabilitating substandard and blighted properties. This little change to Senator Goodrich's proposed constitutional amendment gives the City of Omaha the authority to use its money i.e. our tax dollars for what has been an ongoing purpose in our community i.e. rehabilitation of blighted or substandard property. It is a reasonable change. It is a relatively modest kind of a change but it will allow continued activities that are going on now with federal funds and in addition it will also allow the tax incremental financing tool which the voters have approved obviously in the initial constitutional amendment to be used not just for acquiring and redeveloping property but also to be used for rehabilitating property. I would ask that this change be adopted.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Johnson's amendment. The Urban Affairs Committee made a tour of parts of Omaha early winter and we saw some of the work that was being done and thought it was commendable. I am not going to try to go into the details of it. I think Senator Johnson has done a good job of explaining it, but with the change in the federal programs that are coming I think it is very important that we allow this amendment to be added so that we can correct the situation so that these monies can be used as they have been done. I urge you to support Senator Johnson's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz. Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I am sorry. As Chairman of the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee I just wanted to say that the reason that we kept LB 672...or I should say 730 on rehabilitation in the committee was the committee members felt that there were going to be so many constitutional amendments on the ballot that we thought it better that 730 come in as an amendment to LB 672 and combined it into one constitutional amendment because as it stood at that time we had three or four that we had advanced and we thought it was better to take 730 and include it as an amendment on 672. And I just wanted you to know that I support the amendment and hopefully you may hear from other members of the committee that also supported that version in the committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich.