

March 11, 1982

LB 672

SENATOR GOODRICH: I just wanted to say that I have agreed to the amendment and that I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson, do you wish to close then with that in mind? All right, closing is waived. The motion is the adoption of the Vard Johnson amendment to LB 672. All those in favor vote aye....Senator Koch, did you wish to....he was waiving closing.

SENATOR KOCH: I don't blame him. I would want to waive that in a hurry too. I have a couple of questions of my good friend, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I'm up.

PRESIDENT: All right.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I'm ready.

SENATOR KOCH: We have argued considerably in this Legislature in the last couple weeks about blighted and substandard property. I think Senator Beutler is one that has argued most vehemently. Now we are about to put it in this bill which came out originally as a...the original intent of the constitutional amendment was when I carried it once was to take primarily commercial areas and so forth and redevelop them. I have a little problem not only with this that you are putting in there but I also have a little problem with the number of years which we are going to extend this to because the original purpose of tax increment financing was to develop an area, bring it back on the tax rolls in 15 years, no later than that, so there would be some new values. Now then I have a hard time understanding when we do get that redeveloped it may have to turn around and be redeveloped again before we ever find out what happened to it in the first place. So we stick in here providing for rehabilitation of substandard and blighted property. Now what do you have in mind on this, Senator Johnson? Give me an example in the Omaha area that I know pretty well even though I don't live directly there?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Tax incremental financing, Senator Koch, could be used for the old Sheraton-Fontenelle Hotel if the city ever wanted to do something with it. And instead of blowing it up, leveling the property which would be required under the bill that you really carried, and you are the father of this, this simply is one of your offsprings, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: No, the bond companies were the fathers.