

There was a good reason for the two year redemption period at one time. Now I understand the problem that Senator Labeledz is attempting to address and I know it is a serious problem for cities such as Omaha who have areas of the city, large areas of the city which fall into decay and eventually have to be redeveloped but I would hope that we would move very cautiously and if the bill moves off of General File I would ask that the bill be, not only further defined in regard to ownership and an owner of residence, but that we would also consider very seriously that there might be a problem with an absentee owner or an owner who owns a house in town, may not be able to keep the taxes up on it for a period of time and we're in that period of time right now, ladies and gentlemen, very difficult times. One of the major towns in my district has a 24% unemployment rate. We don't anticipate that getting better in the next six months and it hasn't been very good for the last couple of years so you can see what we are talking about. I think that we'd...there is one more thing I want to point out. I think we have to recognize that it isn't easy to pay property taxes and it has been one of the myths that we have perpetrated when we talk about increasing the interest on delinquent taxes or we move more rapidly on foreclosure. It isn't easy to pay those taxes. Many of those taxes are at the level they are because of actions taken by this body so we have a little bit of a responsibility there and I know that it is a tough problem and I think that perhaps Senator Labeledz has some answers for it but I want to go on record as raising those questions because I hope that in so doing we can find the answers to it on Select File.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins. Called the question again. Are there five hands? Yes, I see five hands. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Voting on ceasing debate, Senator Newell. Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Labeledz, you may close on LB 766. We have two minutes.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, I'll be very brief. Senator Schmit, I'm sure that by the time we get to Select File debate we'll have some answers for you but I do want to stress that this does not include rural property. It is incorporated cities and villages, SIDs. The house that he was talking about in town, if it is owner occupied there is no problem. It will be the two years but if it is not owner occupied they have six months to pay up the property taxes and take care of it or else sell the