

say that it has to be done in one area of Omaha is wrong. It should be north Omaha, south Omaha and even the central part of Omaha. It's the low and middle income people that are east of 72nd Street and especially east of 42nd Street. We talk about high property tax, they can't even afford to live in their homes anymore because their property tax is so high. I have a 90-year-old home that I'm paying over a \$100 a month for and, fortunately, I'm in the Legislature so they're helping to pay my property tax but some of the senior citizens that I talked to in south Omaha are having a very difficult time paying their property tax and their younger people that are trying to raise a family, live in their homestead, in the homes that they were born and raised in, their parents are gone, finding it just as difficult because they can't find jobs in south Omaha. Most of them, their parents worked at the packing houses, they're not there any longer. A lot of them don't have anything past a high school education and in some cases they're dropouts. So why are we concentrating on just north Omaha? I am sure that there are many people that live in my area that would agree that we need the help too and especially South 24th Street which used to be a...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LABEDZ: ...booming business district is no longer there. Many of the shops are closed. We have a couple banks left there but they don't do too good of a business either because there's nobody there taking the money to the bank. They are lucky if they even have a checking account. They're lucky if they can pay their taxes or buy food or pay their utilities. That's one of the reasons that I voted against LB 1059, even sales tax on utilities is going to hurt those people. Many of them are on ADC, many of them on welfare. Many of them don't have hospitalization insurance and I'm talking about thousands, not just a few. We need the help in south Omaha and I'm sure each and every one of you senators on this floor will agree with me, out in the rural area especially, that you need help too. You need to help in promoting new business and getting business started, small businesses in your area. I know we had LB 270 and I know it helps...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR LABEDZ: ...but it isn't helping enough and we should never, never concentrate in one area of this state with a