

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Hartnett, I'm somewhat intrigued, of course, by the possibility of new business developing in north Omaha area, Senator Chambers' area, and in Thurston County the home of the native Americans of this state, both areas, of course, very much in need of new jobs and creativity. I have a question that might be of some interest to those of us who are from outside of Omaha. But would this legislation possibly be applicable to the area known as the Union Pacific Yards, 57 acres, and then the larger area, about a half section that is available for development. And could some business, or some enterprising entrepreneur utilize this act in that area for the encouragement of development, and would you want to explain that to me, or would they be more likely to use the 775 act?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Schmit, I would really think that if you're talking about maybe the article that was in the paper yesterday, I would really see them using more with 775 credits than with credits under...under this measure. They have to...they have to meet three criteria--a population decrease of ten percent over the last ten years, high unemployment, and also low income within that area. And I don't know...two of the three, thank you, Senator Hall, two of the three. So I don't...I don't know whether that area that you're talking about, but I would see them, if they were thinking about a big industry like that, you know, the article in the paper and the World Herald talked about being...being...they'll be a...I would see that more as using credits from 775. This is really to attract small businesses, Senator Schmit, rather than large business.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. You've given me more information than I needed. I'd just like to embark a little further. Is there another reason, perhaps, that...I'm somewhat interested in the ability to be excused on certain regulations. Would any of those regulations be environmental...environmentally involved? In other words, could you waive the environmental restrictions, or the environmental impact statements for the development of an area? And if so, would that perhaps be of some interest to the developers of the Union Pacific shop area?

SENATOR HARTNETT: I...environmental, if it had an impact upon health and safety, they could not use it, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well let's not confine it to that regard.