

February 24, 1995 LB 830

irregardless of the price, and so that is why eminent domain becomes necessary. It is an important part of this act, it must be in there. I would certainly encourage the body to not accept the amendment by Senator Wickersham and to move on in the approval of LB 830. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I rise with uncertainty, uncertainty about this bill, uncertainty about this amendment. I can see that there are times when eminent domain has its value for a true public purpose. I also see that we interpret that public purpose and that public good very liberally in some cases. My personal experience in my own district deals with a packing plant that has decided to locate there and has decided that it needed the assistance of the City of Omaha to condemn residences to make parking lots for a private industry that will then have a place for its employees to park so that it can provide enough parking places that it might be able to get the permits to operate. Somehow it seems very unfair to me that those people who have lived and raised their families, who have had those houses, kept them in good repair and taken care of them have to be relocated for what's considered to be public good and in the best interest of public purpose. I agree with some of the comments that Senator Jones was talking about and whether or not this public good is really at the heart of what's happening. Eminent domain, in and of itself, can be very useful at times, but it can also be very detrimental to those people whose lives are impacted by what takes place. I have, at this point, not really heard, and I certainly don't know, maybe somebody does know, whether or not eminent domain is even needed in this case. My understanding is that the parcels of land that have been put together may already have willing sellers. This may not even be an issue in the Micron case, I don't know that it is and I don't know that it isn't, and I have not been told one way or the other. So if it isn't even a question, and if it isn't even needed, then I don't know that our discussion of it is really something that in this case is going to help or hinder the project. But the case of eminent domain in and of itself can hurt other people who want to do what they want to do on their own land without having that land taken away from them. This whole issue and the issue of what we're doing to attract jobs, and I support good paying jobs, good quality jobs, and for that reason I'm supportive of the concept of what we're doing. But