

downtown property, probably isn't a block more valuable than that one necessarily, 13th Street, and we declared it blighted and substandard for heavens sake. At the time that struck me as odd. I now walk down 13th Street and we have a new Cornhusker Hotel, it's a major conference center now. We've taken land and we've improved its use, we've improved the tax base of the city, we have a facility that's improved the city's ability to draw conventions. For me, 830 says the kind of decision I made back then 12, 14 years ago, seemingly ironic and almost nonsensical to declare a downtown, high value block of Lincoln property blighted and substandard for tax-increment financing proved what tax-increment financing is about. It's for taking land to a higher, better, more developed use and that's what happens. This is a nonthreshold bill, it's a theme that we've been developing for a decade and a half now and we're extending it even further. I have no problems with that. LB 828 says we can negotiate rates for big purchasers of electricity and utilities. That is acceptable to me as well. High volume discounts are a fact of life. We probably need to be able to do that, that doesn't bother me, it's a general rule. I'm going to vote yes on 830 and 828 because I think they are nonspecific bills that extend our economic development tools. I happen to be against LB 829, I'm going to vote no on that one because that's a special set of tax credits with what I believe are too low of thresholds for jobs. Two hundred and fifty jobs is too low to do those kinds of tax credits. I would do 828 on one, on 829 on one and only one basis at this moment and that's if we said it was available for the next six months and you had to have 2,000 jobs or more so there was only Micron, I'd do the deal for Micron, what I won't do is I won't put those tax credits on our tax rolls for projects of 250 jobs or more from now until the year 2000 which is what is in the bill. That's unacceptable to me. This is acceptable. It extends the principle which we've adopted and used and have a good track record with. It has brought development, it has brought improvement and I have no difficulty extending this concept to places which have the same ironic usage as previous decisions have been with respect to what we've declared blighted and substandard nor do I have difficulty with 828. I'll vote for both on Select and Final Reading.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Madam President and colleagues, I know there has been a lot of discussion about whether or not this is the