

February 28, 1996 LB 1322

SENATOR WESELY: ...it's only in existence until they issue their report. So that goes away. They're simply doing a study. And the trust fund allows us, in the future, to have on the table, when the budget is set, an ability to put money into housing that we do not now have.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Well, let me ask the question then, why aren't we, if we're serious about this, why aren't we putting money into it this year? And this is a...and you can maybe do this on your own time, because I want to finish this point. It seems to be a trend in the Legislature here to deal with a problem out there. And we see a problem, we're legislators, we need to legislate and pass a bill, but we don't put the money behind it. Quite frequently what we'll do is we'll see a \$5 million problem out there, and we'll appropriate \$100,000 or \$25,000. And that's my problem with the bill in general. And, you know, I don't know what I'm going to do with it, but I wanted to make people clear that just because we have a bill here that says it's the affordable housing bill, doesn't mean we can go back home and say we've done anything with affordable housing, and that's my concern.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I would rise again and try and reiterate what I did when I opened on the bill, about the need, first off, for housing. I think we all agree on that. That's what our task force found when we were working on this problem. But let me indicate to you that first off Senator Lynch was talking about the Housing Task Force and referring to it. That is a task force that was working this last year to develop this legislation. We had a number of other groups that were involved as well, and it's a broad-based group that has been working on the housing issue in the state of Nebraska. That is not the task force that we're talking about that will review the issue of codes and cost of housing and how we address that. So, please, don't reference the list on the task force as the group that will exist with the passage of this bill that will look at those issues. The point I want to make in response to Senator Withem's concerns is this, first off, we looked at the issue of what is the great need in our state to address in terms of housing. And that is the fact that the state of Nebraska has done little or nothing to address housing