

February 29, 1996 LB 1322

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Discussion on the committee amendments in general? Is there any discussion? Senator Wesely, I believe it'd be your option to close then on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, very briefly. These amendments deal with the task force. They clarify some concerns that were expressed, take out one section that Senator Robinson's area wanted out of the bill. I think...I would hope you would adopt the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: You've heard the closing on the committee amendments. The question is, shall they be adopted? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The committee amendments are adopted. We are moving to discussion on the bill. Senator Hartnett. Excuse me. Excuse me, Senator Hartnett, at this point I will recognize Senator Wesely to open on the bill. We have not done so, and then we do have amendments to the bill we'll take care of, and I left your light on, so we'll get to you, Senator Hartnett, after the opening and we get to the amendments. Senator Wesely, my apologies.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you very much. Let me just take a few minutes and then defer to Senator Schimek who has picked this as her priority bill. The hous...the issue of housing in this state has grown in massive proportions. It's gone from one of those...well, it's a problem, we know that, but we've never really picked it up and said we've got to do something about it, except we did do the NIFA back some years ago. Now it is getting to the critical stage where across the state of Nebraska, whether you're in a large city, in Omaha or Lincoln, whether you're in a small town that's now growing, or one of those medium-size towns that are definitely having problems, we know housing is an issue. If you followed last year, the bankers across the state, the chambers of commerce across the state talked about various issues, and they came back and said housing is up at the top of the list now. It has gone from back of the pack to front of the line as to the concerns that are out