

February 29, 1996 LB 1322

24 fourth grade students from Sutton Elementary. I believe their instructor is Mrs. Althouse, and she also has her nephew, Brady. Would you please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you for coming today. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem had an amendment I understand he wants to withdraw. The next amendment to the bill is by Senator Maurstad. Senator, FA472 found on page 977.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. This is a fairly short amendment. It addresses the first part of...on page 3, line , it strikes from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund "any appropriations from the Legislature." I agree with some of the comments that have been made relative to the potential possibility for grants or private contributions into this fund. I do not think that we're in a period where we can begin to commit or lay the framework to commit appropriations from the Legislature unless someone is interested in providing an increase in one of our state tax revenue sources or unless someone is willing to put forth on the table an existing program that we could use the funds, replace the funds from that program into this Affordable Housing Trust Fund. I mean, this gets right to the heart of this whole issue. It appears to me that what the intent of this bill is, they don't want oversight but they want the funds, and so it appears to me that we need to address the issue of whether or not the Legislature is willing to, up front, make the commitment to appropriate funds to this new endeavor that we're...that we're looking at here. A comment was made relative to the groups and individuals being supportive of this particular proposal. I mean obviously, and it's so apparent, this is one of those issues that how can you be opposed to trying to provide additional affordable housing for the state of Nebraska. Obviously, you can't. What we are looking about here is the process, how we're going to go about that. I think that if the local chambers of commerce and the individual groups at the local level have a commitment and a priority, they are in the best position to solve these problems, because part of what we're talking about and some of the concerns that have been raised here about some of the areas in the state where we have a lack of affordable housing is because communities proceeded forward without an orderly growth plan in place. Part of the whole concept of good economic development