

brought a bill, and this amendment is a carry-over from that?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Actually, it is because I am concerned about the concentrations of the housing authority in the northwest sector that I looked at these statutes, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, and, Senator Pirsch, this bill does not go in the direction that your amendment is going, does it?

SENATOR PIRSCH: I don't know what you mean by that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Was it your feeling that if this bill is passed without your amendment, it will contribute to a problem that you see existing with reference to the creation of affordable housing? In other words, you think this is a bad bill, is that your view?

SENATOR PIRSCH: No, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you. Members of the Legislature, I am opposed to the amendment. Senator Pirsch has had some, at least in the Omaha area, some well-publicized disputes or disagreements or differing points of view from those of the housing authority management, and I would hate to see this bill become a battleground for those kind of disputes. They relate to Omaha and Senator Pirsch's feeling toward some of the things the OHA does. This bill deals with a statewide issue and I hope you will not let the Legislature be drawn into this particular dispute. So even though the statement is made that it allows this kind of merger and it is not mandatory, there is something much deeper than just trying to make Omaha and Douglas County like every other county and city in the state. In order not to take a long time, I won't use all of my allotted speaking time, but I do want to make it clear that I'm opposed to the amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Your light is next, Senator Chambers. Did you wish to continue?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Just to say that this would make a very decent bill a very bad bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Witek, on the Pirsch amendment.