

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 382

I'm not an expert on bonds, but I can read English and I've read this bill and the kind of questions that I'm asking should have been asked by all those Omaha senators who signed onto this and are staking whatever they're staking on this thing being enacted into law. The questions that should have been faced have not been faced. Maybe they couldn't put a deal together had those questions been addressed. But I want the Legislature to vote down every amendment that I offer, and I think by virtue of the kind of discussion we're having now the few people who may understand what we're talking about will see that things are not as clear, are not as precise as would be the impression when you read World-Herald editorials and you hear the promoters of this bill, when you hear those who might want to buy the bonds. They're not going to tell you about these things. But shouldn't it be something spelled out in this bill as to whether there only needs to be a promise in the application to issue general obligation bonds or if an issue has been made and voted on by the public? That's just left kind of betwixt and between because it doesn't make anybody any difference who does not live in Omaha. The Omaha people are the ones who are being deserted by their representatives. Now when I saw farm people being shot through the grease by certain education bills, I called their attention to it and I worked with them to try to get something straightened out so their people would not be, as we call it, shot through the grease. But who cares about the people of Omaha? Nobody and why should anybody care? That's where a large delegation hails from, a large delegation of legislators. They are tied into businesses, and the biggest businesses have buildings and, in some cases headquarters, in Omaha. But are the interests of those money people the same as the interest of the ordinary citizens? And I say, no. I read in the paper this morning about a program, a development program for Omaha, south Omaha and north Omaha, and the headline says, this is from page 12 of this morning's World-Herald, "Development Program for Omaha Stalled Again". Whenever there's a program that's aimed at the poorer areas of the city, the areas which provide statistics to bring large amounts of money into Omaha and even of the state as a whole and then the money is spent someplace else, are always given short shrift.

SENATOR DIERKS: One minute.