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LB 75

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is that proposal of Senator Beutler which aims at doing something for Lincoln. Lincoln has some money in an endowment fund, and under the state of the law as contained in the Nebraska Constitution, there are only certain investment activities in which the city may constitutionally become involved in. Senator Beutler has argued that whereas those investments are safe, they don't generate the kind of income which could be the case if other areas were open for investment. In his proposed amendment, he has listed a number of political subdivisions which would be allowed, if they came into possession of an endowment fund, to invest. And those entities would embrace all cities, villages, school districts, public power districts, and other political subdivisions. Since this is an issue that grew out of a circumstance facing Lincoln, and prior to that circumstance coming into being, nobody would have offered a bill such as this, if it is to be enacted at all--and by that I mean placed on the ballot for the people to vote--it should address the evil which spawned it. Lincoln is the only city with an endowment fund. I have lived in Omaha all of my life so far, and there are promises that have been made by various administrations to improve the conditions under which nonwhite people and poor people live in Omaha, and the promises have not been kept. I had talked about a so-called one-stop activity or enterprise, I forget exactly what it's called, and Senator Bourne had no knowledge of it, and he said that the city's lobbyist did not, either. So I gave Senator Bourne a copy of an article which described that situation. That's just one of the matters. When it comes to the way the police are abusive in our community, there is no response of a positive nature from either the mayor or the chief of police. The chief of police happens to be a black man, but he is afraid of the white officers. He is what the black community refers to as a sell-out, a traitor, an Uncle Tom. There are older black people who knew him when he was a mere slip of a lad growing up, and they have had problems with the police, and he will not respond to them. Police have broken in the door of elderly black people at the wrong house, and nothing was done even by way of apology. There are guns available in our community which fall into the hands of subteens, 12 years old, maybe some younger, but 12 I've