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If this Section 1 were not enacted into law, Lincoln's current status would not be altered, would it?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. So status quo would be maintained if this section were not enacted. How long has Lincoln been outside the pale in terms of not being able to enter installment contracts for the purpose of purchasing real property, if you have any idea?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I don't know for sure, but I would assume that they haven't previously had that power because I would...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That would...that would not...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I wouldn't surmise that it was taken away once it was given to them, so I assume they never had that power.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That would be my conclusion, too. Why do you think this class city was not included when the wagon came for all the others?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, as you know, Senator, the wagon comes at different times for all our cities of various sizes and, unfortunately, instead of thinking of things in terms of general principles applicable to all cities, we tend to think parochially as to what our particular constituency is asking for at a particular point in time. And so if a rural senator needs something in a village or a city of the first class, they come in and ask for it and, unfortunately, we don't have the time or inclination to ask, well, should we be doing this for all or none or whatever. We simply hand it over to the one who asks for it, if it seems to make sense.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And consequently, our statutes progress in a leapfrog, irrational sort of manner, to some extent.