

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Landis, now that the metropolitan area is excluded in the amendment, what about the interest in people other than metropolitan at the hearing? I guess maybe I will start with this. Who brought the bill?

SENATOR LANDIS: Well perhaps your committee statement will make it clear. I don't have one in front of me. The bill essentially came from the Department of Economic Development on behalf of the housing authorities that exist. They organize among themselves and have their own association and that association is working with the Department of Economic Development. My contact at the earliest stage was with Jeff Jorgensen in that department. I can tell you that the association, speaking essentially on behalf of its rural members was saying they wanted the bill to give them a tool for merger if their boards, local counties, local cities, could agree on a more efficient merger than keeping individual housing authorities in every one of those communities.

SENATOR COPE: In other words, generally speaking then, the bill was brought for other than the metropolitan area?

SENATOR LANDIS: That is correct.

SENATOR COPE: Through the Economic Development.

SENATOR LANDIS: That is correct.

SENATOR COPE: And it is of course permissive legislation.

SENATOR LANDIS: Correct on all counts.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the committee amendments on LB 435? Senator Landis, I guess you may close on the committee amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, this just simply are the committee amendments which essentially prune LB 435 down from the list. It originally was given to the committee. I think it is a realistic outlook on housing authorities. Essentially it keeps their powers from getting too diffuse and entering into financing arrangements that gets them away from the tasks that they should be doing. It keeps them into the business of providing housing, low cost housing under their own auspices and allowing them to merge in the event they can get the consent of other parties and other housing authorities to do so and I think it represents no danger to the well being of either the tenants or the