

we eat. But when you steal money from the poor and the underprivileged, that, to me, is about as low a form of theft as you can find. Therefore, I think it behooves us to at least try to commit to the Governor the recommendation that the underprivileged, the low income, perhaps the elderly, certainly, I think that the minority members of the State of Nebraska, be they black, red, Hispanic, yellow, whatever they are who might have greater needs and less income ought to be treated with a little bit more consideration than we have in the past. I want to just say this insofar as the court ordered allocation to the native Americans, if we are going to hand out money based upon a population basis and if, at the same time, we are supposed to give some credence to low income, it would seem to me, on that basis alone, the native American people would be entitled to more than just a proportionate per capital distribution amount of money. And I would suggest and hope that maybe, although we cannot do anything about it officially, that perhaps the Governor would take a second look at that and try to make that a bit more equitable kind of distribution. I know that she is concerned about the low income people. She has done some things in the past that indicate she tries to make things equitable and I would encourage her to take a look at it again. I guess, most of all,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...we recognize that this is the kind of an aberration which should not have occurred in the first place. I am concerned that it did occur. I am concerned that it is probably occurring today and I am doubly concerned that there does not seem to be any widespread public denunciation of this kind of theft. I think that...I want to state once again that theft of any kind is bad but theft from the poor and those who can't help themselves is extremely despicable and I would hope that inasmuch as the Governor can rectify the situation that she would do so. I would hope and encourage the low income people, wherever they are and whoever they are, to make available to themselves some of the resources that are available for distribution. I would hope that the energy office and the Governor's staff would apprise the low income people...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...of the availability of those funds and try to perhaps make them available to them. Thank you very much.