

February 28, 1996 LB 1322

through there and put forth the necessary changes in state law that will eliminate those problems. One of my concerns, relative to the specific Housing Code Task Force, is that I think people will find that there's a wide range of problems and situations across our state in the area of low income housing. What one community needs would not be appropriate or applicable to another community. It's one of those problems that it's been very difficult for people with very good intentions to get their hands around because it's such a varied situation across our state. I don't...I hope my colleagues will look at this bill closely and this particular section that we're talking about, and ask themselves why the Department of Health, for administrative purposes, that this task force would be formed under. And I think they would find out, because there's probably not another suitable place for this task force, other than the Department of Health. They do have some jurisdiction over one aspect of low income housing, that being the manufactured homes. But other than that, I don't know that they particularly have a charge, relative to Department of Health, that gets involved in the development of low income housing. So my guess would be that this has found its home here because there wasn't a better home for it. A number of people have touched on, last couple of speakers touched on some very excellent points relative to what the bill itself is trying to accomplish. I think that what we're really talking about is the concern as to whether local governments can solve these problems or not. And a little bit of what I heard Senator Hillman indicate, not all but a part of it, is that the ability isn't there at the local level to address and solve these problems. There's a lacking of leadership. Good intentions, if I understood her...if I understood her right, but that they didn't have the resources available to them to solve the problem, they needed assistance from the state to be able to accomplish their objectives.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I tend to disagree with that premise. I think communities have a great deal of capacity to determine their own destiny, and they prioritize, just like the Legislature prioritizes, on where they want to expend their human resources and in what areas, what's a high priority to them. And in those areas that different communities across our state determine are a high priority, they have the ability and