

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 11, 1999

LB 105

low-income housing is important? And then, how...how do we go about making sure that public housing authorities, in the future, in a diff...in a changed financial environment, are going to be able to continue to provide services? And one of the...one of the things I believe that they need to continue to have the opportunity to do is within these very limited amendments that have been agreed upon by the lending institutions that they continue to have these authorities. Actually, the bill itself is limiting because currently there are no income limitations at all. And my amendment, the committee amendment puts in limitations, in some ways. There will be an amendment coming up later which will put in even a lower limitation. The services that are provided by public housing authorities are services to individuals who are at...currently at around 50 percent of the median income. And so we're getting...we're getting confused on some of this...this mixed income, mixed ownership, all those things are confusing the issue about whether or not we want to continue to provide services for low-income individuals, especially those individuals in less populated areas that tend to be primarily elderly, some disabled, and how do we best make our legislation as up-to-date as possible so that...so that those services can continue to be provided in an era where there's going to be less...less money coming down from the federal government, especially for the direct development of housing. And so I believe that...that this division of my amendment is an important provision to allow some flexibility for housing authorities to address crisis situations with individuals, to address the public-private aspect of it, and that is exactly what this legislation is to promote, is the public-private aspect of it in terms of the development of...of housing. And I believe that it is a critical issue that I wish that I could say that we don't need to worry about, that the marketplace will provide for...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...for low-income individuals in every situation. But I know in some of the small towns that...that my family lives in and that I've seen, that huge waiting lists of elderly people to...to be able to have a place to live and I don't believe that we can just turn our back on that fact. And