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SENATOR BROWN: ...of available people is very small. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. Further discussion on the Smith amendment, Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, Senator Smith, could I ask you, your original amendment was...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Smith.

SENATOR HARTNETT: ...you had two levels. You had one for over...over and under 30,000 people in a county. Is that what?

SENATOR SMITH: That's correct.

SENATOR HARTNETT: And why did you withdraw that? Because of not treating everybody the same or...?

SENATOR SMITH: That was a concern. And the reason the numbers were originally that was is in the rural communities oftentimes it's more expensive to build something and that market value is not...or the purchasing power sometimes is different in those areas. So it was taking those into consideration, which I think is still better than the committee amendments in their current form, but I think this is optimal.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Because I, you know, I think that in, you know, the area that I represent, maybe you do too, we could probably live with it. I'm just...I have a little concern about the rural, you know, how it's going to play out there, Senator Smith. That's...you know, that's my...you know, my concern, because I think it is a different, you know, more elderly people have to use, you know, public housing, say, maybe than in, you know, my district. So I have some concern of...of, you know, of what you're doing here, but I'll just listen to further debate.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Smith.