

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

May 11, 1999

LB 105

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. It was mentioned, and it is in the bill, that these mixed income projects are maybe not targeted but will allow more "nonincome" eligible residents than those receiving subsidies, and I guess I go back to the question is...the question of are we helping those who need the help and...and those who don't need the help, or can we focus our resources on those who need the assistance in the communities around the state that are lacking affordable housing? And, you know, I'll be the first to identify that there are needs around the state. Being involved in real estate, I...it's hard sometimes to find houses in an appropriate price range, but a lot of times it not necessarily just that lower end, it's kind of a median end and even above. So I think we need to rein this in. I think the bill and the committee amendments are too broad, include too much, and we need to rein that in. I would like to ask Senator Brown a couple questions.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Brown, would you yield?

SENATOR BROWN: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. Can you tell me what you think specifically will be achieved by having as diverse of incomes in the facility as you have mentioned?

SENATOR BROWN: I think that there's a real value in not concentrating poverty and not having particular areas, particular locations as being designated as where poor people live. I think that there's a value in diversity in income levels of people living together just because there's more acceptance of people as individuals rather than based on whatever their bottom line is. And so I think that there are lots of social reasons that there's a value in that. I think that there are probably some...also some financial reasons. But I believe that this is limited...that the scope is limited in a way that it's not really going to have an impact on the greater market.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Thank you. My concern is...is the same, and I ask myself the question, since it's already been stated, you know, that there's kind of a problem with public housing projects, especially in the larger cities, not being in a condition that a lot of people would choose to live in, and I