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LB 105

stop and think about because it's a very serious problem, and I think it's a problem throughout this state. If you look across down the list, if you look at Box Butte County you see that the median family income there is 44,700. And you look at our farm economy and you think about the farm family, and I'm going to ask you if their income this year will be \$44,700, and are we giving them property tax relief when we are proposing giving property tax relief to a housing authority which will not, again, go back to the renter, but will only go to the housing authority? I want you to stop and think about this, because this is a serious policy discussion. Where are we putting our resources, and are we putting them in the correct place? Are we creating the problem? I think Senator Beutler raised an interesting issue in saying that perhaps we would be better served if we cut rent checks to the landlords and let people scatter and go to any rental facility. Senator Chambers has addressed an issue and I think that it's a very real problem, but I don't know if LB 105 is the proper solution for that. I don't know if we would be better off putting money or a voucher in the hands of the individual renter to go out into the city wherever they could find housing on the open market with that voucher, and perhaps it would actually cost us less in the long run to subsidize from that end. I think we need to stop and think about this. This is an important issue. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Redfield. (Visitors introduced.) Further discussion on the Smith amendment, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I do have a question of Senator Brown, if she would yield, and...and while she's...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Brown, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Brown, I heard you mentioning that there are approximately 44,000 housing units in Lincoln. Is that right?

SENATOR BROWN: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: And of those 44,000, 1,200 are considered within