

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

May 19, 1999

LB 105

have a lot of time left, but I think we've got time when we are talking about giving a public housing agency powers that it now has and multiplied many times. So we're going to have to spend some time on this, and that's up to the body. The amendment itself merely sets up a standard for when a market study should be used. It is an entirely reasonable request, I think, of...to the agency and there will be a further amendment as we go into this to expand that a little bit. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Beutler, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I want to go back a little bit more just in terms of my philosophy on the matter, and different ones of us will come at it from a different philosophy. But, remember, that generally speaking in almost every instance in terms of trying to assist people who need assistance of one type or another, there are...there are two fundamental ways that we do that and one is through the enactment of minimum...of minimum wage laws. And when you use that mechanism, there are business people who would tell you that there may be problems with that mechanism. Obviously, there is a disagreement in our society about the extent to which that mechanism should be used. Another criticism of that mechanism is that, obviously, that affords the individual the broadest freedom in terms of how extra income may be used in the event that you increase the minimum wage, for example, and many people sometimes think that income is not used wisely then and the problems of inadequate housing and inadequate food supplies for children and that sort of thing are not overcome. But the least intrusive, best way to approach the problem, certainly, is by being sure that the minimum wages are adequate to support an individual in the purchase of the basic needs including housing, for that matter. But because we don't have full confidence in that mechanism, we have also developed extensive government programs and, in a way, it's a shame because if the minimum wage were up where it should be, we wouldn't have a need for all these government programs. In any event, we don't have confidence yet, at least, in the minimum wage concept. We do have programs and so it's paramount, of