

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

May 19, 1999

LB 105

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR JONES: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: On the Beutler amendment, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think through Senator Jones I was able to answer the question about Meals on Wheels, and we talk so often in here and we try...we've tried so hard in so many ways to avoid duplication of services and to be sure things are coordinated and that there is some central direction and some overall look at how all these different welfare programs operate. And after having made such great strides with regard to our welfare program, it seems like things kind of burst out in other places, and this, I think, is an example of a duplication of services potentially happening that we don't need to have. That doesn't mean that we don't need to adjust the welfare system perhaps at some point in time in the future if it's not working. But if it's not working, let's adjust it for everybody. Let's not rely upon one housing authority here or, haphazardly, one housing authority there making a kind of social service adjustment that they think is necessary that hasn't been agreed upon by the Legislature or by the agency, by the lead agency in this whole matter of the general social services programs. So that would be my plea to you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. On the Beutler amendment to LB 105, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler talks about what should be the appropriate role of HHS and this whole bill is about partnerships. It is about how we provide services to people who we have labeled low income in a way that's going to be...is nonstigmatizing as possible, help them to be a part of society and make sure that they have a place to stay and ways to stay there, especially when you're talking about the elderly. Senator Beutler talked about Meals on Wheels and I know quite a lot about the Meals on Wheels program in Broken Bow. Meals on Wheels delivers meals once a day. Elderly people might need to eat more than once a day, and for some...for some of those people, there are services that are