

May we have order in the Chamber please and quiet from the Senator's right. (Gavel.) Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator Hoagland, I would appreciate it if I could speak, I mean without having to listen to three other conversations at the same time. Again my proposal was, and I don't know if it is going to take a statute or if we can do it in this, my gut feeling is that the Appropriations Committee, all of their cuts are going to fly. My feeling is take one person, perhaps the present Director of the Status of Women, one from the Mexican-American Commission, the Indian Commissions, et cetera, and put them on the Equal Opportunity Commission and pay them a salary. You are still saving hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is granted we will be cutting the services a great deal but at the same time there will be an advocate at the Equal Opportunity Commission for these various groups who could then refer people to the volunteer organizations that exist or whose only job would be to garner volunteers to help the Mexican-Americans, the Indians, the Irish, if you will, but any group that is isolated, as Senator Chambers pointed out, because of their ethnic background. So if Senator Chambers' amendment fails, I intend to introduce an amendment to do this but I have to talk first to somebody more knowledgeable to tell me if I need a separate bill or if we could transfer funds in the budget to provide these people to represent them on the Equal Opportunity Commission.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Senators.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner. Senator Warner, do you wish to speak on this issue?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the remarks that I would make on this proposed amendment will be no different than the remarks that I would make on any one of the advocacy groups that may be discussed today because the same rationale was applied to all. One of the criteria was, was this a service necessary to government, would it affect enforcement of laws, does it adversely affect services provided, and looking at all of these advocacies I think it would be our position that the