

Office, it would be my recommendation that they be moved outside of the Capitol Building. There are a couple of alternatives. They could be moved up on the eighth floor. The Ombudsman himself and I know a number of people do not like that alternative because they argue that access, public access, to the Ombudsman's Office would be defective if we did that or would be decreased if we did that. So the better alternative seems to be to move them out of the Capitol Building. Now the Ombudsman's Office in other states is for philosophic reasons outside of their main Capitol Building or their main government building and that is because, of course, the Ombudsman's Office is designed to be an agency where you can object or use their offices to object to the action of state government and the philosophy runs that it may be somewhat intimidating for people to walk into an office that is located in the very nest of thieves that they are suspicious of or they want to take action against.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, excuse me a second. (Gavel.) Could we have your attention, please. Hold your conversation down so we can hear the speaker. Thank you. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So I think there is a philosophic basis for doing this just from the point of view of the Ombudsman's Office and certainly it makes sense in terms of what we're trying to do for the freshmen, or not just the freshmen, but the senators trapped up on the eighth floor. Having said that, I would also say that I do not have any recommendation at this time as to where outside the Capitol Building they would be moved. I would make a recommendation that they be within the vicinity of the Capitol Building and very close to the Capitol Building, but that would be a matter to be decided by the Executive Board. So that's the sum and substance of the amendment and the purpose. I would ask for the adoption of the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, then Senator Higgins, then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise only to state that this is not an issue which we discussed in the Appropriations Committee so any comments I would have are not directed...would not reflect any discussed recommendation on our part. It would be correct