

SENATOR LYNCH: Right.

SENATOR WARNER: ...but would amend the bill so that for the '87-88 fiscal year if the Legislature fails to enact legislation next session to put in some structure for the bargaining units, particularly to go to the Commission of Industrial Relations. If we fail to pass a bill then they are free to go ahead and go to the commission upon adjournment of the Legislature next year. This is...the amendment makes it a much less restrictive provision in the bill than the way it is drafted.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I guess some of us could have problems with both. It is interesting that we would try to solve a problem, first of all, before it exists. That is exactly what the bill, and also unfortunately the amendment, relates to. I happen to represent a district that has an awful lot of working people in it. One of the few things left that working people have in the way of protecting themselves and their benefits is the right to bargain in their own behalf. It is interesting that we would try to predict a problem, offer an amendment that might have to be addressed but we are not quite sure yet, and it has to deal with an employees right to bargain in their own behalf. It seems, first of all, premature and maybe, secondly, unnecessary. If we can't use the facilities of an already established agency, like the CIR, why have it in the first place if people can't go to the Court of Industrial Relations to talk about and discuss what they think is a fair shake. And by the way, I'm not moralizing whether the 3 percent salary increase is enough, or not enough. I'm not arguing whether there should be an increase in salaries at all. I'm certainly not debating what we can afford or can't afford. What we are talking about here is a basic principle and right that is in the law that should continue to exist. So I would ask the Legislature to think about that. Why is this necessary? I wouldn't suspect that there is something going on that none of us know anything about. But on the other hand, why do we need it at all. So I would urge you to think about that. Think about why we need it. Why don't we just get a clean appropriations bill, without these kinds of restrictions. So I would encourage you to vote against this amendment to the Appropriations Committee bill.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Hoagland, please on the committee