

addition, the cuts that this agency has received are comparable to what was generally applied. They did not have a cut last session, during the regular session, when we made reductions that was singled out. Special session they had the same as the other adjustments. Most of their reduction was taken out of an aid program rather than operations. After our hearing we did, for the agency the, again reemphasize the need for retirement which was added, and then at the hearing indicated that if the additional 8,400 was not added that they would not fill a vacancy for some months. Inasmuch as there were two service officers, two assistants and four support personnel there was a feeling that the agency would not be severely impaired in their operations if the additional person would not be hired until some time later during the fiscal year. So I would suggest that the Appropriations Committee recommendation be sustained because the apparent hardship that the letter implied, in my opinion, is not there, and that the fact that the one person could be hired somewhat later is not going to impair their operations at all.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson, then Senator Hall.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, Senator Chizek approached me about signing on to this amendment last week, and I consented to do so, primarily because I'd generally been interested in trying to help veterans through a variety of different programs. And I feel this is an appropriate program to reinstate some funds. I recognize the dilemma that Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee is in. But, when I consider the sacrifices that certain individuals have made for this state and for this nation, I think it is appropriate for us to try and give as much as possible back to those people. And I think that \$8,000 is certainly not that much in consideration to the sacrifices that they've probably made. And I think the needs for veterans service programs are as great today as they have ever been. And so I would urge the body to restore these minor amount of cuts back into the budget, and hopefully continue to help those people who need that help.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall, then Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, members, I'm in the same category as Senator Johnson. Senator Chizek approached me and, because of the support that I've shown in the past for