

\$167,000 or whatever the two combined will equal. We're talking about equity and justice, whether or not this state is going to turn its back on two substantial groups of citizens who have no other voice in this government. There have been instances when the Mexican-American Commission and the American Indian Commission have been able to speak for the groups that they represent in a way that nobody else would and nobody else could. With all of the negative experiences that we as black people have had at the hands of white people throughout the history of this country, there is no way that I can say that I speak for the Indians, that I speak for the Chicanos. There are cultural differences even among the three of our groups although some people might tend to lump us all together simply because we're not white. It is arrogant, it is presumptuous, but it has been made necessary for me to try to represent the interests of groups with whom I don't share everything. I can't tell how an Indian will feel when his culture is degraded through the presentation of ceremonies and affairs participated in by non-Indians. I can't tell how damaging and devastating it might be to a Chicano to have people put on large sombreros, to carry knives, to sit beside a wall in the sun and say they are going to take their siesta or to say, "Pancho, the sheriff is getting closer." I can know what it means to be made fun of, but I cannot say that I'm able to put myself in the position of either of the groups that these two commissions represent. None of us can do that. They are entitled to a voice as much as the women's commission is entitled to a voice. The amounts of money that I'm seeking are pittance. They are not the amounts that ought to be sought, but because everybody is using the budgetary situation as a reason to be stingy all across the board and all the way around, I am asking for the same percentage of what they had that the women's commission was able to obtain from the Legislature a few days ago. So what I am hoping the Legislature will do is realize that once a step has been taken which can be considered a forward step toward bringing justice to two groups who have been woefully mistreated. A backwards step should not be taken by erasing the language and the money which these two commissions had. It took a lot of effort on the part of a lot of people to bring these commissions into existence in the first place. It would be even harder if once in existence they are erased than to try to restore them at some future time. The problems of these two groups have not lessened. They have intensified and become worse. So I hope that the Legislature, for the same