

as a committee to do that. They could even write in their statement that we feel more affinity to the white women who are here speaking for this commission than we do toward the Indians, the Chicanos, the Mexican-Americans, the Native Americans, however they are characterized, who are not here. I think it was wrong and I think it is wrong now. When the committee first took its action maybe you would say it was merely a neutral legislative exercise of authority by a committee. Now, the whole thing has been raised to a moral level and we're discussing the true issues that are involved. No longer can it be considered, if it ever was, a neutral action where a committee is responding to those who are able to mobilize forces and rejecting the interests of those who are not so able. If we are indeed to represent the public, our representation of the public, and that includes everybody, should not be based on how large a turnout they can provide. It should be based on a consideration of the needs of those people...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and our position as members of this Legislature to address those needs. The government does have an obligation to do for people what they cannot do for themselves, but this Legislature seems willing to do for those who have demonstrated that they can do a great deal for themselves. The women have gotten money from the corporations and other private foundations. The other two groups have been unable to get anything. So we say, those who have little, from them shall be taken even that little which they seem to have. I think that is patently unjust. So I am asking that you reject the committee amendment and treat in this bill all three of the commissions in the same fashion, but ultimately, I'm opposed to the bill which aims at striking all three commissions from the statute.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, I'm also opposed to the committee amendments for pretty much the same reasons as Senator Chambers has stated and I have a kill motion on this bill that will come up as soon as we deal with the committee amendments. I would urge the body to reject the committee amendments so that we are dealing with all three commissions in the same manner. I supported the funding for the Status of Women Commission the other day. Naive as I