

are going to have to simply let go. It may be such that we are going to have to let the marketplace determine who is going to survive and who is going to fail. But in my mind we are making at least a worthwhile gesture to those people that we may have already said that they are going out of business and there is nothing that we can do. But at least we can try and help retrain them in other areas of this state to make them productive citizens again. I think that if there is one thing that we may be able to accomplish this session it might be the passage of this particular program. I don't see anything else, folks, that is going to come through this Legislature that is going to turn the ag economy around, that is going to start getting people back to work. So, I think it is important that at least we offer this as a good faith effort or gesture by the Legislature to try and do something for those people that need the help very badly. I think this program can touch some people that do need that help.

SENATOR HANNIBAL PRESIDING

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Next to speak is Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is a very easy proposition for me to support. It is the kind of thing that I believe the Legislature can do with total justification and without a backward glance. And I'm glad to hear Senator Miller, especially, tell about the calls that he gets from people who don't know what to do and need a referral, and this program helps. Those are the arguments I made for the Mexican-American Commission and the Commission on Indian Affairs. And there was not the sympathy expressed that seems to be developing in a ground swell here for the farmers. The groups that I spoke about ran into problems and difficulties, not because of the chosen profession, but because of what they are. And yet we couldn't move on that. The total amount I was asking for, for both of the commissions, was less than \$175,000. This is over \$300,000 and I think it is a pittance when we think of the great amount of good that can be done for people who sorely need it and cannot very well help themselves. But I'm hoping that what some of the members of this Legislature can do is look at others who are characterized by different designations such as Mexican-American or American Indian and look beneath that and see that all are human beings, all are faced by difficult problems. If we, as representatives of the government, are going to say that we have an obligation to help