

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...making these recommendations. So my own personal recommendation is, do your job, do what you were elected to do and cut this budget. I intended to vote for a straight across-the-board cut on everything because I thought it was the fair way to go. Well if we're going to go picky, picky, picky on each separate agency, I can see where we're going to be here right up until next January. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Goll.

SENATOR GOLL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. To conclude my remarks from...I want to make it perfectly clear to all that I am not personally, personally dedicated to eliminating the Ombudsman's Office. It represents a quarter of a million dollars a year. That's what we spent and that's all right, but I think it's well at this time that we discuss where we're going to go with our budget and I think the Ombudsman's Office represents a very good ideal representation of what we have to do. And again, I want to reiterate, when the Ombudsman's Office was established in 1969, Senator Schmit, I didn't know that you were responsible and I think it was an admirable move that you made at that time. At that time the Legislature didn't have staffing, didn't have those people on our payroll that could handle complaints. Now we do. But the main thrust of this particular situation is whether or not a quarter of a million dollars a year should be spent and do the people that we represent get their money's worth? We have to some way, in our deliberations today and tomorrow and the rest of this week, we have to some way decide if we're going to limit state government, if we're going to limit the scope of state government, if we're going to accomplish what we have to do because I want to say one more time, we have only one choice. We either have got to spend less or we've got to raise revenues, the only two choices we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers to address the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, because amendments themselves can sometimes be amended, I want to speak against the proposition of eliminating the Ombudsman's Office and I'll do anything that