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LB 500

SENATOR MARSH: I'd be glad to try, Senator Simon. No, the Equal Opportunity Commission is the agency which receives complaints. It is not an advocate.

SENATOR SIMON: Well, I understand...

SENATOR MARSH: It is not good to put the County Judge as the one who goes out and arrests the suspect. You do not have both sides of the question. The Affirmative Action is a positive forward step and certainly should avoid many of the cases which now go to the Equal Opportunity Commission from government. Because when we're talking about affirmative action in this bill, we are speaking only of government. We are not speaking to the private sector in our state. This is not starting a new commission. It is under one of the agencies directly under the control of the Governor. That is one of the reasons it was chosen under the Department of Personnel. It is not starting a separate new agency.

SENATOR SIMON: Thank you, Senator Marsh. One other question. Can you tell...Senator Marsh, one other question. Do any of the commissions that Senator Haberman was talking about...the Status of Women, or the Mexican-American Commission, the Indian Commission, do any of those commissions, do you know, do any of them have their budget monies, or personnel which deal in the particular area that this bill calls for in terms of dealing with affirmative action plans?

SENATOR MARSH: No, Senator Simon, they do not.

SENATOR SIMON: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler, do you wish to talk on the bill?

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the bill, and I rise to support the concept of affirmative action. Senator Schmit said that it's tough for this Legislature to say no to the women of the League of Women Voters. Well, I don't think that's my memory and I don't think that's their memory. This Legislature said no to the League of Women Voters with regards to the equal rights amendment without a great deal of trouble, and I think, in fact, that the problem is that this Legislature, other bodies, other entities of government, have said no to women who want jobs, have said no to minorities who are interested in employment, said no consistently time and time again to these groups without giving it a second thought, without much trouble.