

March 28, 1979

LB 500

Women were told to stay home, take care of their family... don't go out in the work force. And this sort of thing is what brought us to the situation today...this constant rejection of women and minorities from jobs. What this bill is designed to do is what Senator Schmit says is very easy to do and that is to say yes...simply to say yes, government's open, yes there are these opportunities, yes we want you to work for us, yes we want you in managerial positions, and if it's so simple I don't see why Senator Schmit would be opposed to it. I think it's something that this state should do. It's something that should have been done a long time ago. I think it's a much more acceptable way to deal with the problem of discrimination than to force people to have to go to the Equal Opportunity Commission, file a complaint and have to have a hearing on it. I think it would be much easier for this government...this state government, through its Department of Personnel, to try to open some doors that have been closed before and open some channels that have been shut off before complaints are filed. I would hope that you would join the Governor in this effort. I don't think that the Governor is simply declaring affirmative action is going to make it happen. This country's had brotherhood week for a long, long time, and yet brotherhood is not necessarily a reality, and I think simply saying that there shall be affirmative action does not make it happen. There need to be people aiding the Governor and assisting the Governor in making sure that the agencies and the agency directors actually make his dream a reality. For that reason I would support LB 500.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Fowler, I heard you mention women and the problems that they have possibly getting a job, and I would like to say that, Senator Fowler, I had the opportunity to go to a meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, and I found out that the Commission on the Status of Women had a list of all of the appointments to be made. They had a list that they had helped women find jobs, that this group of women were fighting for women. They were keeping abreast of the problem. They were doing everything they could to help women, and I don't think that we need another commission to help another commission to help the Equal Opportunity Commission. I don't think we need this commission, so let's don't try to mix everything up and let's don't try to say that the administration wants this, therefore we should do it. That's copping out. Let's look at it, and you tell me a