

SENATOR LAMB: Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, again briefly I appreciate Senator Beutler bringing the issue up and I want to make a couple of comments and I would concur, I think with a couple of things Senator Johnson said. First I would remind you that this is one of those commissions that we set up as an executive commission over the years so no elected official is directly responsible, except through the budget process as to its operation once those commissioners are appointed. Secondly though to the credit of that commission that is one of two commissions that comes before the budget committee hearing in which a commission usually makes the principal presentation of the budget and I have always been impressed that those individuals were at least unusually knowledgeable as to the details of its operations. So that part is to their credit. Obviously additional review is appropriate. We have had, this is an agency we have looked at a lot over the six years that I have been here, admittedly most of it at the time it dealt with the kind of backlog of cases that they had and six years ago as I recall it it was something like an 18 month or so backlog and it still is somewhat of a backlog in part by the very nature. But the staffing and the operation has always been a concern. I have heard, and again I don't know, a contributing factor perhaps, and not certainly the factor for turnover, but it is my impression that employees, that is case workers are pushed to perform almost a allotment type basis of so many cases and in some cases do not like to see that done, in an effort to keep the workload, that is the backlog of cases down. But in any event, Senator Beutler's study is going to be a contribution to help us to look in more depth during the 83-84 session. Then I think it would also be appropriate for the substantive committee to look at the whole organizational structure and whether or not the type of accountability that you may want for the operation of this agency should be directly in the hands of an elected official or is this one of those where an executive commission is appropriate for other reasons. But, I agree with Vard to that extent that that whole posture ought to be looked at and obviously we will be reviewing their budget in light of Senator Beutler's work in more depth than we do routinely which is considerable.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, it shouldn't come as a surprise to anybody that I am opposed to Senator Beutler's offered amendment. This is an agency that deals, attempts to deal with discrimination, race, sex, age and other types if a person can arrange to get it before that commission. This is not a popular area. The commission has never had the employees, never had the power, never had the means to do the job that the Legislature pretended it had in mind for that commission to do. The backlog indicates the amount of discriminatory actions that people feel that they have been subjected too. Now, if Senator Beutler had done additional research he might be asking to cut some funds out of the Attorney General's budget. Because for those of you who are concerned about old people, if somebody brings an age discrimination case, before it can go to court the Attorney General's