

native Americans' organization. The committee felt, again, remembering that we have very little control on this, but the committee did feel that the energy office and the administration did take into consideration the concerns of the native Americans and feel that the distribution that they have set out would qualify as being an equitable distribution under the terms of the overcharge agreements for redistribution. I might point out that while we do have an undercount, maybe, of native Americans in the state as represented in their presentation, the undercount on the reservation and the redistribution formula that was used might be argued by some as being maybe more generous than necessary. The point only is not to get into an argument about it but the point is I felt like the...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: ...I think the committee felt like the energy office and the administration, in proposing this redistribution formula, did take into consideration the concerns of the native Americans and felt like they were dealing with them very equitably. I understand the frustration of some of the members on the floor. It was felt in the committee as to what actual input we have with regards to these funds, we feel that the report that we submitted has gone a long ways towards expressing our concerns and encouragements and recommendations to the administration. We hope that they will be looked at, recognized, and, hopefully, have some impact. And I would hope that we could have a unanimous acceptance of at least the report.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members, I tried to pay attention to what Senator Hannibal was saying in relationship to the native American fund, the \$50,000 fee or fund that was going to be given back and I concur with Senator Schmit's arguments that we're concerned about that level of funding. I think it's, as I said, I guess I'm curious as to how the fee or the amount was reached and Senator Hannibal covered much of that. But I guess I still am concerned that the level might be lower than the need that is out there for the native Americans living in our state. I just raise that point. I think that Senator Schmit and Senator Wesely have raised similar points so I won't repeat, only to say that I have some concerns with that level and how that was reached.