

INTRODUCTION OF SENATOR GLORIA ROMERO
AND SECRETARY RODERICK Q. HICKMAN

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Okay. Again, we will reconvene the hearing at this time. We are honored to have the presence of two state officials in the State of California who play an essential role in the effort that this Commission has embarked upon. I think if anybody is appreciative of how we must address this problem, they fully would understand that it has to be done at the state and local level. Obviously, the federal government has a vital role to play, but just because of sheer numbers, obviously officials at the state and local level, it will be those who will implement what we recommend and will bring about the difference.

We have today to present testimony Senator Gloria Romero from here in California and also Secretary Roderick Hickman, who is the chairman director --

SECRETARY HICKMAN: Secretary of the Department, Assistant Deputy Director. That's it.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Very well. You're the man in charge.

SECRETARY HICKMAN: That's it.

CHAIRMAN WALTON: So we're happy to have both of you here, if you would take the oath.

(Senator Romero and Secretary Hickman were
duly sworn.)

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

Senator Romero, would you please give us your thoughts on what you heard here today, your views in reference to this phenomenon and what you believe that as a society and as a state official needs to be done to address it.