

serve our nation and our state if given the chance, and I think that chance has to be given to them or you can only expect failure and that is exactly what we are seeing if we eliminate these commissions. This is a small price to pay for our past sins, as Senator Chambers has talked about. We have sinned. We sinned against the Indians in the way we treated them over the years and we all know that. The history is clear in that regard. It seems to me a small price to pay, \$150,000 a year to help them help themselves move forward and perhaps join our society in a way that they aren't able to on their own. We all know the situation. There is no real reason to go into the details about the commission. They have served well. I think they are an efficient operation. The real question is, should they exist in state government and I say they should. We have established these agencies back many years ago. This is 15 years now that we have had an Indian Commission. It seems to me that in those 15 years they have been the one that has taken the pot shots at, they are the ones that everybody says we have got to reduce the scope of government, and what do they always come back with, the Mexican-Americans, the Indians, the Women. These are the type of agencies that have to be eliminated. Well, the people that are saying that are those that are not Indians or Mexican-Americans or women most of the time. These are people that have joined our society in the most affluent manner and they are able to do well for themselves without any assistance, and they have blinders on them. They don't see the fact that others are not like them, that they are different and they are not able to have the same opportunities, and as a result, we must make those extra efforts to help them or they won't have the chance that we do to thrive and survive in our society. We have got to recognize the fact that there is a difference in our society. Yet that difference in our society and in our opportunities does not reflect on the differences among us as people because in the end we are all of the same race. In a sense, because of the fact that as Standing Bear said when he was brought to trial because the Constitution was interpreted to say that Indians were not human beings and, thus, were not given full rights, they were not citizens in our land, he said, look beyond the skin color, look beyond our societal differences. If you prick my finger, you will get the same red blood that you will have from pricking your finger. We are of the same body. We are brothers and sisters together, whatever our skin color, whatever our society and our differences in our society. It seems as