

April 9, 1979

LB 589

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the Status of Women have a total request of \$185,000. The committee's recommendation is roughly \$30,000 less than that. I perhaps should point out that the agency did request two additional people compared to the seven they have now on board. The committee did recommend this one additional staff to primarily serve as a public information officer but I should perhaps explain more in detail on that. The agency does and has done a number of studies, a number of informational related brochures and are in the process of doing that to provide information to those citizens interested around the state, not only in their activities, but various opportunities in this case for women in the State of Nebraska. Actually we're talking about a reduction in staff over the last three years. Two years ago, 77-78, they actually had ten and a half people, equivalent to ten and a half people. Last year they had the equivalent of 8.7 people and this year they come in with seven plus the one additional one which we approved. It's correct, however, that those staff were partially paid out of federal funds, those additional staff, in previous years and we have rather consistently not picked up any of those positions with general fund money that was previously funded out of federal funds, but to some extent, obviously, some of these activities that was result of programs originally established with federal funds have spin-off benefits that we, at least the majority of the committee felt could more appropriately be distributed to those around the state that are interested by having this position filled. There was an indication, they also asked for additional clerical staff which we did not approve primarily because their staffing of clerical to professionals were such that we didn't feel additional clerical staff could be justified. And as I pointed out, there were a number of their request that the committee has not approved amounting to some \$30,000. It is true that the committee is roughly \$9,000 over what the Governor recommended but we still have turned down most of their expansion requests and I think the consensus or majority feeling on the committee would be that this staff was justified as requested by the agency.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I guess really all I can do is echo the points that Senator Warner laid out. This one position increase is considerably less than what the agency had requested. We debated at great length the positions and felt that this one was the one that might be justified in terms of helping the commission share the results of their