

programs and been very helpful, I think, to this Legislature in understanding the concerns of women. I think we all recognize the advances we have made. In the last 22 years when the commission was first established in 1963 the situation was far worse than it is today for our women. We did not allow them access to jobs that men had. We didn't see them in corporate board rooms. We didn't see them in the legal field. We didn't see them in the medical field. We saw them having to serve secondary roles in teaching as teachers or as nurses in health care but not as doctors and not as administrators and not as lawyers and not as corporate board leaders. But that has changed. We still do not have a situation of equality. We still don't have an equal number of women doctors and men doctors. We don't have the same equality in the legal profession in business and what have you, but at least they have the door open, at least they are now making the entry into fields they no longer have to feel barred from. And they are making progress and this is the sort of progress that has in part been engendered by the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women. They have been successful. They have helped. You can't give them total success, only partial success. They have been only part of the solution but nevertheless they have helped in that situation. I think this is the sort of success we hope to see in time with the Mexican-American and Indian Commissions and I hope we will eventually refund those. But this is the advancement of these people so that they are full fledged members of our society and the cost to us is no cost at all because the investment, and that is what it is, the investment we make in these people and as they develop their skills and talent, they then contribute to our society and to our businesses and to our education and to our society in general because of the abilities and talent that they have that were untapped before because they didn't have the opportunity that everyone else did. And so instead of thinking of this as an expenditure or a cost, we need to look at it in terms of an investment in our women in this state to give them the chances that they never had before, to give them the opportunity to develop and use the talent and abilities that they have always had but have been left without the ability to bring forth. So the Commission on the Status of Women is very important. It is a successful operation. It is one that ought to be continued and I think there is a great deal of support for this commission across the State of Nebraska, not only from women but from men as well, as you can see by