

my standing forward and offering this amendment. I think many of you are aware of the commission's work. You don't need to go through all the different efforts that they have undertaken, but clearly we can't lose sight of the goals of the commission, the ability that they have had to bring out the best in our women in this state. And there is so much more that can be done that I doubt that any of you could really justify continuing this effort to eliminate from state government the Commission on the Status of Women. So I ask you to vote for this and add back the money for the Commission on the Status of Women.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as I have indicated twice before, this particular agency is put into the general advocacy group as opposed to direct services and as I said before, if any of those agencies are to be discontinued, then all of them should because there was no rationale to do it on a selective basis. It would still be the position, and the basic position is that, in fact, in this particular one it started out, as I recall, in the sixties as the Governor's Commission. It was not state funded. It was a voluntary group that did a lot of good things. The concept under the criteria is that this is a type of activity that could continue to function effectively with volunteers and the many people who are interested over the years in this kind of activity and that this along with other advocacy groups was not a necessary role for state government funding. So I would urge that you reject the Wesely amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Do you all know what we are talking about? Do you all know that we are discussing the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women? Do you know that this commission was recreated in legislation, in statute, introduced, held a public hearing before the Appropriations Committee, incidentally. It is the only bill I have ever had which was heard before my own committee in the 13 years I have been in this body. We created it to be a state agency. We created it after due public hearing and understanding of why it was needed. We created it so that it has 30 members appointed by the Governor, no more than half from any one political party,