

work and the moxie that it has taken to put this budget together. I lastly want to urge on you the fact that I think it would be most unfortunate to permit the population of the State of Nebraska to decide that when times get tough this body will no longer stand by its commitment to end racism and sexism. I would hope that we would not permit that to be an impression that we would allow to escape from here and spread across the state like wildfire. I suggest that this is...this amendment, modest as it is, is the only thing that separates all of us from supporting with pride and taking out to the people a budget that we can own up to and say it is a very responsible document to respond to hard difficult times. I urge you to vote for the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am going to take a little different approach than the one that I have taken in the past few days when this matter has come up. Remember that the action of the Legislature in cutting the budget of these agencies does not take away the legal existence of these agencies. Every power, every duty bestowed on them by statute remains unchanged. You can find some of those matters related to the Mexican-American Commission, if you are interested, in Section 81-8262. I don't know if any of the people who are on these commissions or the employees would do what I am suggesting but I know that I would. First of all, they should continue functioning because the law places that requirement and obligation on them by them being members of the commission. They are...this commission consists of nine members. They are mandated by statute to meet twelve times a year and they should meet. The statute entitles them to a \$35 per day per diem plus actual and necessary expenses, and in this regard, the statutes says specifically they are to be treated in the same way as full-time state employees. So there is a definite obligation on the part of the state to meet the expenses of these people when they are created pursuant to the dictates of the statute. So I think that despite what the Legislature has done, these commissions can continue to function and an obligation will be created on the state. There have been deficit appropriations before when agencies that have not been cut simply went over their budgets and not enough money had been appropriated in the first instance. They are authorized to hire employees and other personnel necessary to carry out their duties and this