

But it is the only way we have to address social wrongs in the area of how we treat the sexes differently, and we certainly do. The body of evidence is overwhelming that women are treated differently in society than men. This commission, on a shoestring budget over the years, has had a number of accomplishments. Twenty-three domestic violence programs, in this state, were largely due to the research and development that sprung from the commission. We have improved child support laws in this state in large part due to the efforts of women organized through the Commission on the Status of Women. It reduces the public burden by returning that burden to its rightful source, and that is the private parent who should be paying for the well-being of children. We have a state Title IX, a state law that requires that educational opportunities be equal for the sexes. That state law is there because in large measure the Commission on the Status of Women sought our attention, lobbied for it, and saw that it was passed. There have been a variety of publications, of workshops, of seminars, and not just for those who can afford it, but for people who don't make a habit of going to workshops and seminars, women of color, women of an economic status that doesn't often find themselves in a workshop or seminar situation to learn about new skills, whether it is parenting or job skills. In the last full year of functioning there were over 5 1/2 thousand Nebraskans who requested help from this commission, 5 1/2 thousand, some by phone, some by walk in. There is a long list of accomplishments that has been delivered to each of your offices and I would suggest that it is excellent reading. You will find that this commission has been a national leader, that it's had a long record of very real success, and it hasn't been costly. This has been a very efficient operation. It promises to be so again. In addition to this \$98,000 appropriation, the commissioners have in essence set out for themselves a goal of raising \$30,000 in private funds to continue their work, to help shoulder the load. Additionally this commission has been able to use thousands of volunteer hours to help accomplish its goals. And we've gotten a tremendous amount of work for the investment that we've made in the Commission on the Status of Women. I will allow others who intend to speak about the relative status of women versus men in our society to tell you that we have a continuing social problem that deserves concern. But I'd suggest this, that the Commission on the Status of Women is part and parcel of government raising its eyes to the horizon, to taking itself off simply