

SENATOR WARNER: ...cuts that were meant to be permanent.

SENATOR REMMERS: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciated Senator Warner's remarks saying there was merit in providing funding. He's bending over backwards to be very fair. I'd like to tell you that the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women has brought benefits to our state since 1965, but they cannot continue to provide all the volunteers without some minimum state funding. The commission helps women across our state, it helps strengthen families. And we all have given lip service to this goal for our state. It reaches rural areas. One population segment that is often underserved by state government is rural Nebraskans. Rural women especially have felt isolated, finding little assistance for their unique problems and concerns. The commission has always felt a strong commitment to reach the women in all our rural areas. As the agricultural crisis of the past few years has deepened, that outreach has become even more important. Since 1963 much of the commission's staff time has been devoted to the developing statewide programs serving rural as well as urban needs. In keeping with this effort, the commission sought and obtained a \$10,000 research and development grant from the United States Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, to focus on career and employment development for rural women. For this project the commission has obtained the assistance of the Nebraska Job Service, and cooperation of certain community colleges, and ag action centers. This work is scheduled to be completed in March of 1987. The commission, through the Nebraska Women's Foundation, has established a unique public-private partnership. The private funds...the private fund gives like the idea of the public-private partnership. Both business and individuals sought assurance that efforts were being made to resecure state funding. The businesses also sought assurance that donations from individuals were being made. The commission will continue to raise private funds. Thirty thousand dollars has been put into a cash fund line-item which does not include potential federal grants. It cannot do this, I emphasize, the commission cannot raise the private funds unless there is also a state commitment. We need to continue to utilize all of the volunteer workers. We coordinate services from many different areas of our state with many different departments. This is not a