

one amendment. The other day \$98,000 was restored to the Commission on the Status of Women. That amount was 40 percent of what had been in LB 722 so I am taking the same 40 percent to be restored to these two commissions. Such being the case, the Commission on Indian Affairs would be given \$70,646. The Mexican-American Commission would receive \$96,669. The fact that the women's commission was able to have lobbyists in Lincoln to lobby the senators and also prior to that, to raise a certain amount of money indicates that they are in a position already to obtain means and resources to deal with the issues that women are confronted with in this state. Despite that, the \$98,000 was restored and I voted for it. The proposition as offered by Senator Landis wound up with 25 votes. I'm hoping that you will look at what was done for the women's commission. You will look at what was just done for this veteran's agency and realize that there are certain worthy causes that ought to be funded by this state. The Mexican-Americans and the American Indians have no voice in this Legislature. There is no representative who consistently speaks for them and addresses their issues. There are times when a matter will come up that has a high enough profile such as retrocession to call in lobbyists for the American-Indians from Lincoln and other parts of this state and even help from around the country and one of those issues may carry. But it is clear to all of us that this Legislature is not geared primarily to deal with the interests of any nonwhite group, so as the only nonwhite person in this Legislature there is a tremendous burden on me to try to deal, not only with the issues that pertain directly to the people of my complexion, my ethnic background, my cultural heritage, but all of the other nonwhite groups also. It's really an unfair, an unjust situation. What I think has happened thus far in adopting that amendment that restored money to the commission for women was to show that if they are able to have people here at the Legislature, are able to talk to senators, are able to get ministers and other organizations to speak in their behalf, they are able to carry the day. What the Legislature should be equally concerned about, and maybe more concerned about, are those groups that do not have those means, that cannot rally that help and that support. There are no people of means to speak of among the Mexican-Americans, the American Indians or black people. Fortunately, there are enough black people in this state to put one person in this Legislature. We're talking this morning on these amendments about more than the total of