

SENATOR ABOUD: (No response.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the Government Committee took this action on a day when I was not there, but I'm strenuously opposed to the committee amendment. I'm opposed to the bill. What the committee should have done was kill the bill outright, but the same arguments that I gave yesterday in trying to have some funds restored to the Mexican-American Commission and the Commission on Indian Affairs would obtain today. To say that a committee which knows about lobbying and mobilization of forces is going to respond only to that group, headquartered probably in Lincoln, who can get a lot of people to fill the committee room and say, spare us, for such a committee to say that because the others could not mobilize such testimony they deserve to be abolished, I think is inappropriate. I'm asking that you reject the committee amendment. By rejecting it you have LB 1089 dealing with all three commissions in the same fashion. I have an amendment to the mainline budget bill to come up on Select File which would try to restore funds to the Mexican-American Commission and the Commission on Indian Affairs and to strike language from the statutes relating to those commissions would be inappropriate. But before we even get to that point I think now a policy decision should be made. Some reporters have written that they were told by senators that racism was not involved in voting for the white women's commission and voting against the Mexican-American Commission and the Commission on Indian Affairs, but that's the way these racist activities always work. You can always show a rationale where the white group is always favored and where the nonwhites are always rejected but there is no racism involved. It's just that the coincidences in America always go in that direction. This is more than a debate over who has control of the turf with reference to the budget bill. This has to do with the meanspiritedness that is existent in a lot of areas of this state and in some of the members of this Legislature. I have only one vote, I have only one voice, but I'll use my vote and my voice against every activity which smacks of racism to me and there is nothing this Legislature has done this session which so clearly does so as its handling of these various commissions. Now, the Government Committee, when it did what it did in my absence, was totally empowered