

served by an advocacy group, but the bottom line is that we already have a variety of agencies established in government that have the responsibility if they are properly carrying out their functions. They already have the responsibilities to make sure the kinds of things do not happen that these advocacy groups are interested in, also preventing from happening, and I don't know where you are going to stop. But I would urge you to reject the committee amendment because there is no logic as a policy matter to single out the Status of Women for continuation and not retain the other two commissions.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud and then Senator Labedz.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I stand more to explain why I voted the way I did on LB 1089 and I think maybe to try to explain why the committee voted the way they did. It was an interesting hearing that we had on these bills. We had a packed room full of members or supporters of the Commission on the Status of Women and there were no supporters there, or detractors for that matter, for the Mexican-American Commission or the Indian's Commission. But as you know, when you have no particular supporters of a particular bill the body still, or the committee can still think it's a worthy piece of legislation and either vote to advance it or kill it just on their own knowledge. So, that didn't really...it was a consideration, of course, but it wasn't a primary consideration. My belief has always been that I don't...just because you go out and you hire some lobbyist and you pay that lobbyist 10, 20, 30 thousand dollars doesn't necessarily going to influence me or any other member in this body. What probably has the most impact on me is if I get a letter from a constituent or a telephone call from a constituent or a citizen of the State of Nebraska, either a telephone call or a letter. I think a letter, it only costs 22 cents to drop a letter in the mail. It takes a few minutes for them to write that letter, and if it's a good letter and I think it's a good cause and all, I'll follow that advice given to me by a citizen in this state. The problem with LB 1089 was that someone didn't take the time to mail that 22 cent letter to me and, to my knowledge, any member of the committee in support of these two commissions. We received no input in support of these commissions and as a result I really saw no justification to keep the commissions. I think the committee is being maligned rather unfairly for the decision that we made at