

that particular time. I don't think the money...we made a decision in the special session not to fund the money. The Appropriations Committee came before us and they said since we're not going to fund these, then we should take them out of the statute. That made sense to me. I didn't think there was anything all that unusual about that particular request. The reason that the Commission on the Status of Women was left in and we didn't strike it from the statutes is because we received a promise at that time in committee from members that were involved in the commission that they were receiving private contributions and that if we struck the commission from the statutes that it would hinder their efforts to receive private funding. Now I don't think anyone in the committee really had any feelings against the Mexican-American Commission, the Indian Commission, the Women's Commission. I think most of the members felt that they are worthy organizations and worthy commissions as at least I did. But...and we were looking for reasons to justify their existence, we really were. We searched in committee. We had a very long executive session and discussed it thoroughly and at the time we felt, well, I mean, all it takes is a 22 cent stamp to give us input as to the justification for these commissions and we didn't receive it. So we put those two out on the floor and we left the commission out because they said that they were going to get private funding.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR ABBOD: I thought we were being reasonable at the time. Now there is...now it's becoming an issue, it's becoming what I feel a political issue. There was ample opportunities in the committee to discuss this particular issue as in the executive session and at that time the supporters of the commission chose not to do so. With that, I urge you to follow the advice of the committee and support to keep these amendments on. I would also add that I think probably Senator Warner may have a point on wanting to keep one or the other. I voted against the funding for the Commission on the Status of Women because of the financial situation the state is facing, but I feel that they should be on the statute books, the Commission on the Status of Women, simply because I do feel that they're a just organization. I think they're a great organization, and when we have the money, we should fully fund them and at this time they are going out and seeking private