

enabling legislation of the other two commissions. So I'd ask the adoption of the committee amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner and then Senator Peterson.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the committee amendment. I think that we should treat all of these commissions alike. I do not feel that we need the Status of Women Commission anymore. Senator Labeledz told us how much good they did when she was working in Senator Zorinsky's office and this is probably true. We did need them years ago. We needed the Commission of Indian Affairs. We needed the Mexican-American Commission, but now time has past and I think that they should be able to get along without state support. I realize that they do a lot of good things. In regards to the Commission on Indians, I, too, have a reservation, the Santee Indian Reservation in the 19th District that I represent, but I feel that there's other way to help these people besides having a separate commission. If we'd go back and study all the people that need commissions, we would have a long list, probably up to a hundred and how would we fund all of those? So I think it's only right and proper that we do away with these commissions at this particular time, especially a time when we're having trouble in the rural areas with our economy. Now is certainly not the time to keep funding these commissions and so I would urge you to vote against the committee's amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Peterson, then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President and members, I, too, agree with Senator Hefner. I think all three ought to be eliminated. Why do I say this? Because for a number of years since I've served in the Legislature I have had a number of handouts when I've went to talk to different groups in my area and I have had these handouts of what it is costing the Status of Women, the Mexican-American, the Equal Opportunities Commission, all of them, what it has been costing, and not once in the years that I have presented these, and I have presented them, even talked about it over the radio in my area, that I have anybody say that we ought to keep them. The thing that comes back to me in my area is eliminate them. If you're going to have a Status of Women and a Status of Indians and Mexicans, I've