

read into the record. Senator Pappas has amendments to 983 to be printed. (See page 1863 of the Journal.)

And, Mr. President, I do have a communication from the Governor. (Read communication regarding LB 778. See pages 1864-65 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, the next item on LB 1251 is by Senators DeCamp, Hefner, and Peterson. (Amendment is printed on page 1866 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Before I start that, Senator Hefner, may I do some introducing here. Senator Morehead has 47 fourth graders from Lincoln School in Beatrice in the north balcony, accompanied by their teachers. And just coming in, in the south balcony, are Senator Goll's guests who are 30 members of the Thurston County Extension Club. We'd like to have you all stand and be recognized. We want to welcome you to the Legislature. Nice to have you down here today. Also I understand that two veterans of our security staff, former Sergeants-at-Arms, have snuck in somewhere in the...maybe the south balcony. Norm Hubertus and George Moats. Welcome back, gentlemen. Now then, Senator Hefner, you going to take that amendment?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body,...

PRESIDENT: May we have order, please. Lower your conversational level (gavel) so we may hear the speaker. Go ahead, Senator.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, this amendment would strike the Landis amendment which would reduce or strike the funding of the Status of Women Commission. And it would also strike the Mexican-American and Indian Commissions. This amount is over a quarter of a million dollars. If you'll remember correctly, last year we removed this, and now this year we've been adding it back in. Like I've said before, and I'll be brief in my thoughts this morning, I felt that we needed these commissions years ago. But as time has gone on I feel that we can do without them now. And if these commissions feel that they need to go on, they can raise money by contributions and also do their work with volunteers. I feel that right now that we need to reduce the scope of state government. This is true especially during these tough economic times. I feel that if we keep these commissions we are going to keep adding to them, and in future years we will have many more of these