

April 2, 1986

LB 1251

preach. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner, you may close.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, I'd like to yield my time to Senator DeCamp for closing.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members, I'd like to deal with the issues raised by Senator Chambers and Senator Marsh, and I'm going to do something I rarely do. I'm going to say I'm going to deal with form over substance. I don't want to make judgements, judgements as to whether the commissions are good. I don't want to make judgements as to whether there is discrimination. I'm sure there is in the state. I'm sure there will be in the future. Senator Chambers said something that is entirely accurate, and that is the point I want to deal with. Senator Chambers said what you do on this will send a signal. He said because the cost is minimal, relatively speaking, and he's correct, the cost is minimal relatively speaking, so what you do on this sends a signal, and the signal is this. The signal is do you believe, irrespective of the good, irrespective of the issue of discrimination, irrespective of all of these, do you, as a body, believe in these times and at this time it is the function of government to be involved in the lives of citizens in this particular manner, by the use of these commissions? Is that a good or a bad public policy? Because if it is a good public policy I think it legitimately also says we are on continued government expansion, and continued government programs for this or that perceived ill or ailment of society that any particular one of us feels. So, yes, it is symbolic. He is correct in that completely. The symbolism is which direction, for all practical purposes, which direction we are going this year, and I think it is fair to say which direction we are going next year. Why? You may remember last year, for the first time, literally for the first time, we made reductions. And, yes, even though these were few in dollars, they were the most symbolic to the balance of the state. In terms of something that people could grasp, like a seat belt issue, or a 662, in terms of that fact these were symbolic to the rest of the state. And they said government is retrenching, they are retrenching. If you now put them in you are saying, I think, I think it is fair to say you are saying we are going back the opposite direction. Is that good or bad? Make the judgement, make the call yourself. The second point Senator

11139