

commission, meeting with people, bringing in interested parties into the affairs of Native Americans, making sure, for example, that our Department of Labor is paying attention to Indian Reservation unemployment which is, I might remind you, as high as 85 percent in this state. I also thought it was nice to see in the Omaha World-Herald a recent article, on just December 7, indicating that the Nebraska Indian Commission had been very instrumental in bringing a 2,500 delegate conference to Omaha in 1991, roughly a million dollar piece of conventioning that was largely the work of the Indian Commission. The benefits, the state benefits, I would think from that kind of expenditure and private sector multiplier effect would dwarf the amount of expenditures we're going to cut with this \$17,000 from the Indian Commission. It is important, thirdly, to recognize the principle that these commissions are doing the thinking, the developing, the strategic planning for very important structural social issues, the well-being of migrant workers, the well-being of Indians on the reservation, and as I said, the high unemployment rate there. With respect to women it is significant to realize that by 1990 55 percent of women with preschool children will be working, 80 percent of all mothers will be working. That's a tremendous new social phenomenon that has great implications on the family. Who is thinking about the well-being of Nebraska families and the need for child care and the need for the management of the home and the work place in a sensible fashion? I would suggest to you that the people on these commissions who are giving their volunteer time and effort are doing that kind of thinking and helping us to develop options. Personally, I understand that there is a strong argument against advocacy agents that goes like this. Gosh, there is an endless list of these things; once you get into the business you go on forever; and, secondly, advocacy really isn't an appropriate governmental function; let them organize privately. I guess the idea is that only these three commissions are doing advocacy in this state. I would suggest to you that in eight years of experience here in the Legislature, there is very real advocacy that goes on in state government, but that is the advocacy for the establishment. It is the advocacy for the way things have always been, for more of the same, for more status quo, for more traditional middle class values and majoritarian values. I think you would have to say that state government exists as an advocacy agent for the majority of Nebraskans, and unfortunately the majority of those voting Nebraskans are not Indians or Mexican-Americans and that majority impulse to respond to human need winds up responding to the human needs of people like us. What do we do? We build