

was a good decision when we made it two years ago. I would hope that we would continue to follow that same line of thought. The committee, I remember, was unanimous, those members who were voting who were there voted to advance this out and I think that there was very few red votes when this issue was brought before the entire body in the claims bill that year. I would urge the body to continue to support that line of thinking and to oppose Senator Coordsen's amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, please, followed by Senator Schmit and Senator Haberman.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, my great grandmother was also a woman and my grandmothers and my mother and two daughters, Senator Chambers. And, as a matter of fact, I think that my wife is a woman, in fact, I'm sure of it. And I would share with you that I was raised and personally accept and promote absolute equality between sexes, between races in all ways. I don't disagree with the statements that Senator Chambers and Senator McFarland made with regard to the recorded facts of this case. I was raised, as I said, in an atmosphere of, in our community and our family, of as close to total openness, appreciation, understanding as I suppose you can do. And I passed that, I hope, along to my two daughters and my one son. I don't deny, based upon personal experience, that sexism exists in government and industry in a real and well-documented way. I would share with you that when I came in contact with state government in July of 1981 and the months that followed were a devastating learning experience to me of the sexism that existed and exists, I'm sure, today in denying equal opportunity to equally or better qualified people based upon some external factor. But that's not the issue here. The issue here is one of whether we follow our statutes, whether we apply the indemnification statute for state employees, as they're written, equally for every person that's affected by them. If there had been punitive damages assessed against these people, this amendment most certainly would not be here. If we do this and leave 811 as it currently exists, there will be an indeterminable amount of inconsistency in our statutes. All state employees, regardless of gender, will not know...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...what their job protection is. I think that the record of this debate, the record of the debate the