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part of our communities and part of our system. And this can only be expedited and done efficiently with advocacy agencies like the Mexican-American Commission and the Indian Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker...Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm glad this matter has been resolved. It was difficult for me and the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee struggled with this. There are a lot of interesting and valid arguments on both sides, but for me the bottom line was that these two commissions, in particular, have been over time a very stabilizing influence with respect to the relationship between the government of this state and the majority peoples of this state with those two particular groups. Since I've been in the Legislature, since the 1970s, there has not been any sort of major unrest or murderous incidents or riots, in part because hopefully we treat people fairly and in part because there are lines of communication set up. Both in terms of casework and in terms of policy, these institutions I think have been helpful and have been a stabilizing force. And what comes back to me is that old song about sometimes you don't know what you have till you lose it. And things have been so mild and so congenial in recent years that sometimes we forget the underlying institutional reasons why we've been able to bring about the kind of stability that we have. And I think that these commissions are part of that structure of institutions. The Native American Commission, some people don't think that's a proper function of state government to have some sort of liaison with the sovereign nations of the Indian tribes. Well, you know the federal government has a diplomatic corps and, in part, we can't forget that we're dealing with what were at one time independent nations that are governed under treaties with the United States of America and we are acting on behalf of the United States of America in many cases in dealing with the Indian tribes, and that this is a kind of responsibility that we need to...that we have historically paid attention to and we need to continue to pay attention to. And with respect to the Hispanic Mexican-American Commission, no one has ever said they