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I'm one of them that came up with this idea of not getting rid of the commissions. I do believe that they serve a very, very, very useful purpose in the state of Nebraska. In my community, I think over a third of the people that live there are of Mexican descent, United States citizens of Mexican descent, so...and it's made our community a more viable community. So it was never anything against those particular commissions themselves or the Native American Commission. It was just the funding, is the only thing that I had my problem with, because we do have other advocacy groups, the ARC and different ones, that are very effective lobbyists and very effective advocacy groups, but they have their own source of funding. So that was the only thing I was against, not the commissions themselves, because I think they do serve a very, very useful purpose in assimilating their people into our population, which is our population is all of us. That's them and us. It's one country and it's one...and we are of descents. We're United States citizens first, and of a Mexican descent, German, Irish descent, or whatever descent we are. So I am not against the commissions and I will not talk against this amendment. I think it's the will of the body right now that's what we're going to do, and it would help speed up the process maybe perhaps in our budget. So anyhow, I just had to make those comments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, colleagues. Very little has happened in this state or in this nation relative to meaningful legislation that impacts any type of minority group without public purpose advocacy, and I feel strongly that these commissions, as they were established, were established for that very reason, to give a voice to populations that had very little voice in making public policy in this state. I think it's a wise decision on the part of this body, a wise decision on the part of the state of Nebraska to continuing empowering minorities and to do everything we can to make sure that we are truly one Nebraska and that each of us has a voice in the ideas, the creativity, the decision making, the public policy of this state. So I stand strongly in support of Senator Chambers'