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FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2003 LB 407

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Kruse, on FA1342.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I also stand to support the Chambers amendment, however, I would have additional thoughts too, and support the things that have been said here, but go on. I feel that it is time for us to take a good look at the whole commission situation, and especially advocacy. I am grateful for Senator Thompson's proposal to be looking at the mission and a redefinition, and I urge that the body become involved in that. I was exceedingly uncomfortable within Appropriations when we would fully cut somebody, because to me that's a policy decision and Appropriations is not a policy board. Then I was informed there isn't any policy board around here. So where is our policy to be formed? There's nothing of criticism of the appropriation. We were desperate and we made many cuts that would not be advised. We made cuts that didn't save us money, as you have already recognized, and here was another one. So we take the cut, no matter what the size of it. At the same time, the question is, should the state be in advocacy and paying the bill for advocacy? I think that's something we need to focus on. It's like paying your kids to lobby you, making them dependent upon you for the money by which they will approach you to change your mind on their care, or something like that. It's a bizarre illustration, but we're in a bizarre situation. I am not convinced that we should be in advocacy position with what we sometimes call the sovereign nation, (laugh) the Indian nations. Why are we in that type of a role? That we should be in service to minority populations and to anyone who is not well-represented is a given. We do that a lot. And these commissions, redirected, could do that more effectively than is now happening. So I do hope that if we pass this we will still be studying the thing and become a policy board here on the floor. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I think some of you are, but I don't know if all of you are, familiar or at least know that in Omaha we do have a Mexican consulate whose office, as it says in the article I have