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this state said there wasn't. They had a far different role at that time. It gave her a little bit of status, quite a bit of status, and I'd just, a final comment, that there and in the streets in north Omaha I am known as Mr. Ruth. And if I was driving North 24th Street on my church business, I generally took her car because her car was a protected car. It didn't need a lock under anything. It was understood that Ms. Kruse's car is not to be messed with. So I was pleased to be known as Mr. Ruth. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as you can tell from Senator Kruse speaking that not everyone on the Appropriations Committee feels the same way, and he has a particular specific interest in that. I respect Senator Kruse greatly. That is not the issue. The issue is that we have tried our level best on the Appropriations Committee to make a workable budget. We have tried to reduce things, and you see how difficult it is to reduce. Perhaps we should have started out with cutting both years of the Mexican-American Commission and the Indian Commission, then we'd be negotiating and we'd end up with the same kind of approach that Senator Schimek is purporting here. I just think that we have to say, at some point, certainly there are members of our society that are discriminated against one way or the other. We are not going to wipe that out. The commission, itself, hasn't been able to accomplish that and it has been around for a long time. The issue is to have the best budget that we can propose, and that's what we're still talking about. We're talking about the budget for the state of Nebraska. And I said, when I spoke earlier, how difficult it is to cut anything because everything seems to have a worthwhile purpose. But I would urge you to use some restraint in this matter. I reluctantly am going to have to oppose Senator Schimek's proposal. And if that doesn't go, then I'm going to oppose Senator Chambers' proposal. Not because they don't have merit, but because we have to reach that point where we say, that's it. And that's what the Appropriations Committee has had to do, and that's why I'm urging you to defeat these proposals. Thank you.