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you.

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

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm speaking to you as the Chair of the "Iron Claw" Committee, and I want to tell you that it's been my experience that eliminating commissions is not easy, any commission, and reminded me of the story of Rasputin where they shot him, stabbed him, poisoned him, tried to drown him, and he came back every time. Well, commissions tend to do that. But I would say that in a sense of collegiality and due to the persuasive discussions presented by Senator Chambers, I would urge you to support this particular amendment of Senator Chambers'. The commission of women is a body that probably, if we weren't going to treat all commissions the same way, it probably shouldn't have been singled out as the only one we didn't preserve. Several years ago, in an effort to try to pare down the number of commissions, we had several proposals, but when it came to the floor, this was the only one that was actually cut. And probably, as Senator Brashear says, that sends a bad message because we do concern ourselves with the status of women, and they're all important in our lives, so I think that we need to continue to support that organization. And for that reason, I would urge you to support this amendment to provide for funding for the Women's Commission. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Kruse, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR KRUSE: Mr. President and members, thank you. I want to add a bit from history because I think the body needs to understand why this decision was made by Appropriations to begin with. It had nothing to do with money. It is not a question of money. Also, Senator Chambers has listed a number of reasons why the Women's Commission has done a good job. It had nothing to do with the Women's Commission doing a good job. I never heard a criticism of the Women's Commission and the work that they were doing. I'd be in a hard spot to suggest that because my wife, Ruth, was chair of the commission 25 years ago.