

January 19, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I wonder if Senator Carsten would yield to a question or two? Senator Carsten, I think Senator Chambers made a very valid point here. Can the Governor, in case of emergency, call up the Army Reserve or Navy Reserve?

SENATOR CARSTEN: No sir.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: He cannot?

SENATOR CARSTEN: No sir.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Did you see the front page of the World Herald this morning?

SENATOR CARSTEN: No sir.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: It looks very much like this would be a very direct deterrent to the National Guard. We, in this state, can use the Guard for any emergency that arises. I can see why it would be up to us as individual Senators to help them along. It would appear to this, if we pass this bill, that we would actually be deterring enlistments. We've got to face it. We've only got so many young able-bodied men in the State of Nebraska. If there is some other force that is draining them off, perhaps we're killing them both.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I'd rise to agree with Senator Rasmussen and Senator Chambers. I cannot think ... perhaps Senator Carsten can correct me if I'm wrong, I can't think of a time within at least the last 10 years that the Nebraska Reserve has been called up, and certainly not called up for a function within the state.

I think we have to realize, particularly this year, that the state may have some limited resources. I certainly know the U.S. Pentagon has a lot more money at its disposal than we do. I think that we should give the support to the group that provides services to the state, the National Guard. Perhaps we should let the federal government, who has sole control over the Reserves, put their resources into this program.

At this time I would oppose the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. I think the idea in this bill would be very nice, except for some things that came up in the Committee hearing.

The original idea of funding the National Guard was really sold on the basis that it wasn't going to cost the state any money. There were classes sitting partially full that could be filled, and that the universities and colleges could pick up these additional people with very little, if any, cost to the State of Nebraska, or additional costs.