

PRESIDENT: The call is raised. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. I need some help on this bill. I'm going to start with Senator Mills. Senator Mills will you give me some assistance if you can?

SENATOR MILLS: I'll sure try.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When LB 294 was introduced, it placed the Attorney General in charge of providing attorneys who would, and maybe I'm not stating it precisely, technically, but to get across the idea the Attorney General would have been in charge of these attorneys who were going to advise the state patrol.

SENATOR MILLS: That's correct. The attorneys would be placed under the Attorney General's office, Senator Chambers, for the ... they would be placed under the Attorney General's office as attorneys are also placed under the Department of Roads, the Department of Welfare, and would be taking their orders from the Attorney General's office.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: They would then do all the things that the attorneys in the original section before it was amended by your bill would do. They would assist county attorneys in the preparation and prosecution of cases involving drug abuse and to advise the patrol.

SENATOR MILLS: If approved by the Attorney General's office. There was a distinction there and it was not brought out that they had to individually ask, those county attorneys would have to individually ask to have aid in the prosecution.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now the way 294 stands, the attorneys who are advising the patrol would remain as they are now under the state patrol's jurisdiction, station with the Nebraska State Patrol, and they would assist the county attorneys in preparation of cases but not prosecute. So the main change is that they stay with the state patrol.

SENATOR MILLS: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Warner's amendment provides for more Attorney General deputies being appointed.

SENATOR MILLS: May I answer that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. I'm asking you.

SENATOR MILLS: Senator Chambers very briefly, it helps the way I understand, the Attorney General's office because if he can name these people as assistants or deputies, he can hire them for less than the \$20,000 that you see is stricken in the final reading bill, LB 294. It gives him some diversity on the hiring of assistants.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Mills. I believe now I comprehend what has been done and from my point of view and we're just giving opinions, I do not see the constitutional problem and perhaps there is a genuine constitutional problem. But with a bill that deals with the Attorney General's office and the duties and the location of attorneys in that office