

or one city employee that has been afraid to come see me in the Capitol because of his job. I think that this is a tremendously bad reflection on our political system. Where a person can be afraid to come and see their state senator because they might lose that city job, here in the Capitol. I don't think that our system can operate as a free system with circumstances like this clouding the freedom to communicate between the state senator and constituents. I certainly oppose any move to bring this bill back and strike the Newell amendment. I think his amendment is a sound one that just provides for fair play for all of the people working in the political subdivisions. I think that it is our obligation as state senators to provide this to the people. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. We heard the arguments on both sides about Senator Newell's amendment. I think that there are valid points on both sides. But, it is a...it should have had a separate public hearing, local subdivisions should have had some input in this amendment and they have not. I think that if Senator Newell would like this to become part of the law he should introduce the bill next year, we should have a public hearing on it and that is the way it should go. I would have to vote against this bill, which I support, unless we can remove Senator Newell's amendment from it. For those reasons I think we should return this bill and take off the Newell amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I support this move to bring the bill back. I feel as though by doing this we will give that employee more rights than what we are giving him because he would be close to the situation at hand and his own government and will be able to control it. I do earnestly feel, and Senator Newell, I beg of you to listen just a moment. When you talk of creatures of the state, they are not. They are fine subdivisions of government and they should control themselves in everyway possible and not be restricted by the State of Nebraska in their actions no more than the federal government should control us, such as they have attempted to do during the helmet law, the speed limit and so on and so forth. We in this legislature constantly complain about the control of federal government over our State of Nebraska which is a subdivision of the federal government. Therefore we should do as little as we can in control of our local subdivisions of government which in turn should be those who rule themselves as near as the Constitution will let them.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. As all of you will recall, I had a bill LB 50 earlier in the season which passed with flying colors which allowed public employees to run for boards other than the public entity which employed them. I thought that was a good idea and you did too. Now, I can't understand why we want to have a bill that will turn lose the Game and Parks Department, but still we don't want to do this for anybody else that is in public life. If it is good for one section of government, why isn't it good for another? I want to