

have contacted in the last year 28,829 hunters that were carrying guns out of a total of 66,163 contacts. Because the Conservation Officer's position and the State Patrol Trooper position are in the same pay grade and work the same number of hours per week, I believe that longevity pay should be granted to the Conservation Officers if it is granted to the State Patrol Troopers. The longevity pay would be as follows. One to five years a 2% increase. Six to ten a 3% increase. Eleven to fifteen years 4% increase and 16 or more years a 5% increase based on the 1977-78 salary scale. These are some of the duties of the Conservation Officer. He enforces all laws pertaining to management and protection of wildlife. Enforces all boating laws. Enforce all laws and regulations in our state park system. Assist other law enforcement agencies in the investigation and apprehension of persons involved in unlawful acts. Makes a prompt investigation of all hunting and boating accidents. Assist in riot control and training. Attend law enforcement schools. On call 24 hours a day to receive calls pertaining to illegal hunting and for assistance from other law enforcement officers and agencies. He works a 50 hour week which includes week-ends and holidays, same as the State Patrol. By state statutes a credentialed Conservation Officer of the Game and Parks Commission is classified as a peace officer. He patrols in the state parks and makes arrests for the possession of drugs. I think in the Lincoln Journal there is an article where the Conservation Officer's were instrumental in rescuing two young people ages 28 and 29 in the Louisville State Parks just yesterday. Their duties are varied, they constantly work with the sheriff's office and the State Patrol and the...oh I should go into the cost. The cost would be \$29,144. That is last year's figures. Only \$2,994 would come out of the General Fund and \$26,150 would come out of the Game and Parks Fund. I urge the members of this body to vote in approval of the amendment to grant longevity pay to the Conservation Officers.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, Senator Labeledz indicated that this concept on a one time basis only was done with the State Patrol last year. I would, however, oppose the amendment, not so much on the dollar impact, although there is not a big impact as far as General Fund, but it is a bigger impact on the cash fund of the agency. I am more concerned about the precedent if we begin to grant longevity pay to an agency at a time, I'm not sure that you could pick out conservation officers and categorically say that they are different than other state employees. I think if the concept of longevity is to be adopted, then we had better take some time and look at the full impact that that might have on state employees across the board. I would be opposed to picking this...picking up employees on a longevity basis as proposed here an agency at a time. I urge you not to adopt the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Warner a question. Senator Warner we did pick up some last year but do we pick up the University professors, or the salaried people of the Natural Resource Districts, which I don't know what they get. What do we do about the Omaha Public