

May 3, 1993

LB 717

PRFSIDENT MOUL: Senator Chambers, would you like to bring us up to date on the bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature, this is the bill which would retain or restore to the chief of police the power to assign officers to geographic areas of a given city without regard to any agreement made in a collective bargaining contract. The reason that I'm offering this bill is that we're talking about a very crucial issue of public safety. The matter is not one of management and labor but public safety. I had made it clear before, and I'm going to make it clear again that the only issue this bill deals with is the assignment to different geographical locations within the city, that's all that the bill does. In the meantime, I had gotten a letter signed by the Secretary/Treasurer of the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska, who is Gene Watson, and it's the Chief of Police of Grand Island, and the letter says the following, it's addressed to me. The Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska, at its April 8th meeting, discussed LB 717. We are aware that the bill was initially introduced just for the City of Omaha. The ability of police chiefs to exercise their management rights to assign officers in the best interest of the community is of paramount importance. The Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska voted unanimously to request that you expand the scope of LB 717 to make it apply statewide to all police departments. The association would appreciate your support of this request. That is the totality of the letter, and I will hand it around. At the bottom it's mentioned that a copy will be sent to all the legislators. But to make certain, I will make sure that you get a copy. On Friday, when we were debating this bill, some information was given to Senator Hall, and I will let him discuss the ramifications of that. But he made a bracket motion with which I agreed, and I agreed to the bracket motion relying on my relationship with Senator Hall and not on the validity of any information that he had been given. I'm going to ask that you vote to advance LB 717 to Select File. I've had amendments drafted by the bill drafter which would extend the scope of the bill statewide, and those will be ready for introduction on Select File. Before I go into much more debate about the bill itself, I will see what Senator Hall may want to share with the members, because I see he has his light on.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Before we