

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 16, 1999

if the chief executive officer of a police agency is going to properly do his or her job, a point of diminishing returns is reached about the third year, and after the fourth year, there probably is going to be a loggerhead situation between that chief and the rank and file, in which case, he or she has to move on. This is understood in law enforcement circles. Mr. President, how much time do I have left?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: A minute and thirteen seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I am going to stop then and turn on my light so I can complete it at one fell swoop.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I'll let Senator Chambers go ahead and take my time, and then I'll turn my light back on so he can continue.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you have four minutes and fifty-two seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, what I'm speaking about is a philosophical position, but it is grounded in research and experience, the experience not on my part. My experiences with law enforcement have not been in my capacity of chief executive officer of an agency, but rather in the situation where one of the local constabulary is carrying out his or her duties and responsibilities, such as, Senator Matt Connealy, bringing miscreants before the bar of justice to be properly judged and punished, although I usually appeal mine to the State Supreme Court and win. It is often said that law enforcement agencies are paramilitary organizations based on the uniforms, the carrying of weapons, the discretionary power to take life, and so forth. It is not the best thing for morale to take a person who is a sergeant and jump that individual above all of the other officers who outranked him or her. Now I don't know if the ranks are the same in the State Patrol, but in the military you have sergeants, you have first and second lieutenants, you have captains, majors, I guess bird colonels, who some people