

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 23, 2000 LB 994

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham. You have approximately a minute and a half.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, when I heard my name mentioned, in a description of bills that I'd introduced, by Senator Pedersen, I thought I ought to make a couple of comments. The bills that I introduced to create constables wasn't going to create a class of untrained police officers or peace officers. They would have had to go through the academy. They would have had a shorter course of instruction. They would have not had arrest powers. They would have not been able to carry weapons, for example. But it was something that I think would have "fitted" in our small communities where we don't need full-blown police or peace officer services. It is an area in which I am still interested, because I think, too often, within the profession of peace-keeping in the state of Nebraska, we have pursued an approach where peace officers...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...believe that they have to be all things to all persons at all times. That is not the procedure that we have followed in other professions. For example, in the medical profession, you may be treated by a nurse, you may be treated by a physicians' assistant, you may be treated by a brain surgeon. But the kind of treatment or the kind of attention and service that you get is dependent on the level of service and attention that you need. Quite frankly, I've been thinking for some time about how we can mold the peace officers, or the law enforcement services in that same model. It is more efficient, it is more effective and I think that the more ways that we can find to model services to match needs, the better off we will be...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...in terms of being able to provide services efficiently and effectively.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 994 to E & R Initial.