

March 21, 1979

LB 301, 334

arson. We had about a thousand lives lost and ten thousand people injured in arson related crime. It has increased in the last ten years by 400% and has become a national epidemic. I am sure you are all aware of the frequency and the seriousness of arson. The unfortunate part is that less than 1% of the acknowledged arson crimes are successfully prosecuted. It is extremely difficult in the first place to make much of a case out of cinders. Secondly, the confusion of responsibility as to investigation, who shall investigate, the company, the department, the local agency? The prosecutors and the courts under this situation are reluctant to prosecute which also contributes to the low rate of prosecution due to the loss of responsibility. There are many other efforts being made nationally, the Presidential Task Force, the various arson awards offered and now a committee on arson control. This bill simply says that there shall be an interchange of arson related suspicion, information, fact, whatever and the bill grants immunity to anyone who participates in that exchange of information and it specifies that that information shall definitely be exchanged between the Department of Insurance, the Fire Marshall's office, the local law enforcement officials where the arson occurred and grants, as I say, in all instances, immunity in order to facilitate better reporting and hopefully much better control of this particular crime. I would move the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the advancement of LB 301 to E & R for review. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion carried. The bill is advanced. Next is 334.

CLERK: (Read title to LB 334.) The bill was first read on January 16. It was referred to the Banking Committee. It was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, the committee amendments again amount to a consolidation of a number of bills brought to us by the Banking Department for tighter regulation of industrial loan and investment companies so let me tell you what the various elements of control are which consolidate all these bills. Number one, which used to be