

anybody with a shotgun or where a warrant could not be obtained by going through a judge and the proper procedures. Fire fighters, fire investigators can get warrants right now. So, why should you give them a lot of pieces of paper that say warrant and all that he or she has to do is write out the information on the spot and serve it? That is not going to assist in the investigation of a fire. In Omaha now they have what they call the team concept where a fire investigator and a police officer will work as a team and since this team concept came into being, the number of arrests and convictions in arson cases, both of those have risen. The bill is totally unnecessary. Nothing was said at the committee hearing to justify giving these people this awesome power. A prosecutor, the county attorney cannot walk around doing all of these things. The Attorney General cannot carry subpoenas and warrants in his pocket. The Attorney General cannot go about armed with a concealed weapon. So, you are taking a person who is not even a law enforcement individual and cloaking him with more power than the Attorney General, not just with reference to carrying the pistol, shotguns, rifles, brass knuckles, knives and whatnot, hand grenades, flame throwers and any other imaginable item. But the power to have these warrants in the pocket and fill them out and issue them, subpoenas, why should a fire investigator be given that awesome amount of power when nothing was shown to demonstrate the need for it? Unfortunately, I was offering a bill in another committee when this atrocity was voted out of committee without a dissenting vote. It never should have occurred and I hope that the members of the Legislature will not pass this bill merely to placate three or four older individuals in Omaha who want to carry pistols. Remember like we found out on the bill we just got through passing where people thought they had a certain amount of coverage under an insurance policy and they didn't because of the general concept they had of insurance? Well look at this bill. In the minds of the public an arson investigator is a fire fighter. So, if the word goes out that a bill was passed authorizing these people to carry pistols, it means that any fireman on a truck has a weapon.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It will create problems while solving none and I think it is a gross error in judgement to give this kind of blanket power and authority to people who are not even law enforcement officers. I hope that you will not support this bill and I am going to put a kill motion on it but I didn't think that we would take it up today.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.