

have problems with the criminal element, with individuals who are vengeful and so forth, we are trying to give them police powers, and that I admit, and that is correct, and that is what other cities of large metropolitan areas do, and that is what the powers that the Fire Marshal has, Senator Vickers. Senator Vickers, believe me. Senator Vickers, we are trying to give them those powers. Now let me say this, is that you argue that these people are untrained, but the bill specifically states that they will have to go through the training of the police officer. Senator Vickers, I hope you are listening, much of this is for you. The bill specifically states that they will have to go through that training, Senator Vickers, plus the other training that they receive as a fire investigator, and these men are generally captains in the....they are all captains. They all have twenty plus years of service, and we are talking about four investigators. Now, Senator Chambers, you too must look at the bill. There has been some amendments adopted which further clarify what we are talking about. The amendments that were adopted by the committee clarify that we are not talking about any officer. You don't just designate an officer. These are officers who are arson investigators. We have changed the language from the original bill to further define and clarify who would have this authority. Now there are a number of case histories that I can read at this time. It talks about the kinds of danger and the difficulties that these officers come before.

SENATOR CLARK: You have got about 30 seconds.

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, I think I will try to get another five minutes a little later on. Thank you, sir.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and...or Senator, and the other members of the Legislature, I am on the Judiciary Committee and did hear the testimony and voted against sending this bill to the floor. I remain unconvinced, but I do want to stand up and say that I think we have an excellent process in Omaha. We have the team concept which is the law enforcement officer working with a fire person. I am wondering why when they tell us that they are going to train a fire officer at the law enforcement training to carry a gun, to consider all of the things that a police officer needs to know, why don't we just train police officers in the art of arson investigating who already have been through the