February 25, 1981

LB 205

of the City of Omaha, but it's the truth. The usual procedure in a burglary where there is a serious confrontation between the burglar and the property owner or the inhabitants of the property where there has been some personal injury, that sort of thing, is that the police come in, they do their bit of calming things down, restoring order. They then bring in the fingerprint people and the photographers, the technical people to take evidence, to make the drawings, take the pictures, take the fingerprints, that sort of thing. On one occasion in Omaha, and this is why I happen to be in favor of the bill, on one occasion in Omaha the police department came in, they did their thing, they left, and incidentally they are not supposed to leave until the fingerprint people, the technicians are gone, have done their thing and they are gone, but they did, they got another call so they answered the call leaving the technician there. The technician in the process of going through the house opened the door and there stands the burglar in a closet.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Consequently, the technician had no gun, no protection, no anything. Here he is standing there facing the burglar himself. The police should have done a thorough enough search, should have caught the guy, but they didn't. The technician was standing there with no defense of any kind. Fortunately, the burglar decided to run. The technician was happy to see him go and let him go. But that's why, for example, I be in favor of letting the arson investigator or the technician even carry the weapon for his own defense. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, I will yield my time to Senator Newell if he wants to complete his remarks.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Thank you, Senator Koch, I appreciate that. We have talked a great deal about various problems and I think that Senator Vickers' point that Senator Goodrich very ably explained the difficulty in terms of giving those kinds of authorities. You know, frankly, there is a desire to shift some of the cost and if the City of Omaha could shift the cost to the State of Nebraska, that would be a most convenient thing, Senator

