

February 25, 1981

LB 205

is no requirement of that. I say that the team concept that they have in Omaha right now of an arson investigator and a police officer has resulted in an increase in arrests and convictions and no fire investigator being injured. So I think there is no need for this bill and I hope you will support this motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is to indefinitely postpone LB 205. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted on indefinitely postponing LB 205? Record the vote.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 22 nays on the motion to indefinitely postpone, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The motion lost.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell, what do you want to do with the bill?

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, it is indeed difficult for me to deal with some of the issues that have been brought forth in this argument, in this discussion. We have provided some examples, some case histories of what the problems have been. We are asking for similar authority as the State Fire Marshal's office because Omaha has, in fact, better than 50 percent of the arson fires in the state. Now these individuals who are going to be authorized, this will, in fact, have to take the same training. This is limited to the City of Omaha. Senator Vickers' arguments I think have been dealt with. We have here a well thought out bill, a bill in which there is a great deal of support from the insurance industry, from the fire union, from the city. In fact, one of Senator Chambers' arguments was that no one from the City Attorney's office was down to testify that. Well, he said he corrected it and that is, thereby stands the correction. This is authority that I think the City of Omaha desperately needs. These individuals are frequently put in danger and the question of whether or not they should be authorized those kinds of safeties that other police officers are granted I think is imperative. This bill has been well thought out. It is no different from some of the other granting of police powers. The difference here is that, in fact, these individuals will be required to take the training. They will, in fact, have to be trained. They are trained in