

March 11, 1981

LB 205

whatever. I mentioned this earlier and it made nobody any difference. Yet when they get their training, they don't have to take the training that another peace officer has to take to have that designation. You are creating freaks, mutations and hybrids in law enforcement with this bill, and with all the talk of being concerned about the criminal justice system, you continue blithely, and I would say in ignorance of the true facts of the case, to encumber that system with all kind of monstrosities. With the criminal justice system of Nebraska to be portrayed as a being, a human being, it would be covered with knots, bumps, warts and every other kind of malignant growth that we define as a cancer. Then you wonder why the system doesn't work. You cripple it. You bring it into contempt. You give powers of law enforcement to anybody and you define a peace officer in one section of the statute as one thing. Then you define a firefighter as a peace officer but doesn't have to take the training that the other peace officers have to take. What kind of nonsense is that. Then when your constituents get on you about the way the judges try to administer these insane laws, you join them in condemning the judiciary. The judges are put in a position of trying to bring some sanity out of the insanity that this Legislature continually foments. It is a serious matter that we are dealing with here today. Senator Newell knows these three or four people on the Fire Department in Omaha, these middleaged people who want to carry pistols and make people answer subpoenas. But what happens when Senator Newell is no longer in the Legislature and what happens when these four middleaged gentlemen retire? Then we have a situation of other individuals, not known to Senator Newell and maybe not approved of by Senator Newell, who still have all of this power that he is giving only because he trust the integrity of the individuals who hold that position now. We should never enact a law that creates new powers over citizens based on the personalities of the individuals who hold that office at the moment. We have got to realize that we are creating a system. What we are doing is we are creating an aberration on a system and it is not wise. This bill proves that you cannot trust the committee system of the Nebraska Legislature because people on those committees don't have the knowledge to competently deal with the issues that come before them. I don't know what can be said to make you understand the seriousness of this bill, but since you have decided to run headlong and do this thing, I want to separate myself from it by as much distance as I possibly can. If words could persuade, I would use those words but I am not speaking at this point to persuade anybody, I am speaking only to separate myself from the insanity of this bill, the foolishness of the

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