

I looked through the State Fire Marshal statutes and I was not able to find similar authorization for our State Fire Marshal. Now maybe it exists elsewhere. I couldn't just find it, I don't know, but at least in my fairly cursory examination, I could not find that authorization. It could well be that a certain amount of arson investigative work is dangerous. Again I don't know what the facts are in support of that point but we probably are a nation that is too footloose and fancy-free with firearms and it is very rare that we ever draw the line, you know, to begin to limit, to curtail the use of firearms.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: It is always to expand in a sense our prerogatives in carrying weapons. It seems to me that you and I need to spend a lot of time concerned over who can and who cannot carry firearms and I would suggest this is an opportune time for us to hold a bill, not defeat it, not kill it, not strike the enacting clause, but to hold the bill to ask its sponsor to come up with the factual justification, and if it is truly needed, then you and I can advance it to Final Reading as amended and we can approve of it but at this juncture I don't think...I think we would be unwise in returning this bill to the Final Reading.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you want to close on the motion to readvance the bill? The motion is to readvance the bill. Senator Newell, do you wish to close?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes. Senator Johnson, the Fire Marshal does have the authorization to carry weapons. Now that is granted by the State Patrol which has granting powers. Now some people will argue that you can grant Omaha firemen the authority right now to carry weapons and I think you can probably for a limited period of time or for a specific duty and cause and sometimes I expect it could be granted for longer. That is the old deputization sort of activity. In this case it is granted by the State Patrol to the Fire Marshal and it is an on-going authorization. So that is why you couldn't find it in the statutes, Senator Johnson. Senator Johnson, I did have for those who were interested a number of case histories, frankly, where the lives of the officers involved were very much in danger. There is about fifty such case histories and I provided this body with about fifteen of those which is a representative sample and we scratched out the names of the specific situations and so forth. I want to further say that we have created a great deal of