

April 8, 1981

LB 205

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, before I begin, I must commend Senator Newell for his persistence and his tenacity. He has brought this bill before us time and time again, despite the fact that substantial flaws were detected in the bill. It has had to be rewritten. There has been serious debate and discussion among the Senators now as to whether the bill is even necessary, which I think it definitely is not. But Senator Newell being persistent as he is and believing in this bill, has brought it before us once again for consideration. So I am asking that in view of the amount of time that we have spent on this bill and the problems that still exist with it, we ought to indefinitely postpone it. And I would like to ask Senator Newell a couple of questions to make clear that what I am saying is correct. Senator Newell, without going into every detail of this bill, is it your intention to give certain fire investigators certain law enforcement powers only while they are on duty during the course of an arson investigation?

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell, will you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is that the substance of the bill?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Chambers, you have read and reread and reread this bill, and you have tried to amend it and kill it at every stage of the....(interruption).

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Could you answer the question, Senator Newell, this is my time.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Chambers, you fully understand the bill. You fully understand the intent. I don't think that the need for me to clarify that any more....so I would say that, Senator Chambers....(interruption).

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I need the clarification. Are they to have this power only during an arson investigation?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Chambers, the bill is ever so specific. We discussed this last time it was on Final Reading.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then you refuse to answer that question?

SENATOR NEWELL: I will answer....I will explain the bill when I am up to bat, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, Senator Newell