

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 7, 1999

LB 849

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I just rise in support of this bill. I do sit on the Urban Affairs Committee and we have heard this bill several times and I'd like to thank Senator Hartnett and Senator Janssen for their hard work on this bill to come up with something that would be helpful to the firemen but also something that would be salable, I believe, on the floor of this Legislature. And I do...I am a strong supporter of the volunteer firemen because my own father was a volunteer fireman for 35 years. My mother called me this noon and said, you know, you really should tell them about how these volunteers risk their lives out there. She said, do you remember when there was the cave in down by Republican City on railroad property and those firemen from Alma went down there and pulled some people out of there and risked their lives to do so and never even got a thank-you from the railroads for it? But she said this was not uncommon. We lived on the lake. And I told her I didn't remember it. I said, well, when was it? She said, oh, in the forties. And I said, Mother. (Laugh) But, anyway, we also lived on the Harlan County Reservoir and those firemen knew that they needed to have some kind of a boat for rescue operations so they went out and they built their own boat so that they could do rescue missions. And my mom said that the families were supposed to be able to use it, but all of the families were afraid to go out in that boat. (Laugh) But, anyway, that's just a little folklore from out in the hinterlands, and I thought it was interesting and I thought you would too and I thought I should tell it for my mom. You know, Sandy Scofield used to say that her mom got one vote every year, and if her mom was really for a bill that one vote every year you could make sure that Sandy was going to cast it for her. (Laugh)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Janssen, please.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'm sorry I wasn't back here right away but I hope this hasn't been brought to anyone's attention, but it is, in my opinion and in my understanding of the bill, if a fireman wants