

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

March 8, 2000

LB 1004

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes, I will.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Engel, do you agree that Senator Hilgert raised an issue that is worthy of some consideration, that there might be a selective looking into the background of people based on their perceived arrival in this country or those other factors?

SENATOR ENGEL: I don't...I really don't think so. As far as I'm concerned, as far as looking into the background, and originally I think in the General File Senator Hilgert mentioned something about making it mandatory, that the county attorneys check the records in the surrounding states and so forth, and I don't think...of course, the way I understand, you can't force a county attorney to do anything, you know.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm not talking about what county attorneys may or may not do. I'm asking do you perceive the existence of a problem of the kind that Senator Hilgert raised?

SENATOR ENGEL: No, I don't. I don't. I think if you're...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do they have any Latinos in South Sioux City?

SENATOR ENGEL: We have probably about 35 percent of our population or more is Latinos.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And they don't have any problem of discrimination based on their background or language, that's what you're telling me, is it?

SENATOR ENGEL: What I...what I'm saying is in South Sioux City where we have a huge population of Latinos that those who break the law, if they are Latino or if they are white or whoever they are, they are picked up accordingly. I do not think there's discrimination as far as...as far as their race or color.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then I asked the question to the wrong person, I'm not going to ask you any more questions on that, Senator Engel, because I don't want to get into an argument with you. I might be forced to saying, how many times can a man turn his head pretending that he just does not see? The answer, my