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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...in the best sense of that word, and we all know and use it, an understanding that the bill would not advance. However, what happened with regard to this particular bill, LB 304, you'll note that there were six people voting for it and two people voting against it. Any member of the Judiciary Committee can, under our process and procedures, can put any bill up for a vote and then the Chair generally will speak to whether the bill has been worked or not worked, is ready or not ready or whatever, and the committee can do what it wants to by majority vote. You may note that I voted against advancing the bill to the floor, which would be a clear indication that I didn't believe that the bill was ready to be advanced. I probably, I believe, said to the committee this bill has not been worked and put in shape, do you want to spend staff time on it or don't you, and the committee simply, by its majority, as is its right, advanced the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Chambers, there are no further lights on. You are recognized to close on your motion to recommit LB 304 to committee.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Brashear's recollection is correct. This bill got some friendly votes from members of that committee, because it was not supposed to go anywhere once it got out here. And since it was not supposed to go anywhere and they didn't want to leave it in committee to do any work, because they had, I guess, pledged their fealty to the lobbyist, they voted to send it out here. But you don't see a lot of them who voted for it defending it on the floor, do you? They're probably not even on the floor. This bill, in the original form, is an atrocity. The amendment does not do much different. When Senator Landis was talking, he tried to compare these people to public employees and what I've referred to, not Senator Landis, as the downtrodden who need to be protected. Police intimidate everybody. They're not like ordinary employees. They do get due process and they do get, through their bargaining agree...collective bargaining agreements, privileges that others don't. This bill includes Omaha. It includes Lincoln. Unlike what Senator Connealy suggested, it does not involve just these small police departments. In addition to that, it trumps