LB 757A.

SPEAKER BAACK: LB 757A advances.   Items for the record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, proposed rules change by Senator Wesely will be referred to Rules Committee. R^ference report referring certain   gubernatorial   appointees,   and   LB 837 to Health Committee. New A bill, LB 302A, by Senator Wickersham.   (Read by title for the first time.)   That's all that I have, Mr. President. (See page 1778 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk, we'll now proceed back on General File to LB 717.

CLERK: Mr. President, 717 was a bill introduced by Senator Chambers. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21, referred to the Business and Labor Committee.   The bill was advanced to General File.   I have no committee amendments at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chambers, would you like to open on the bill, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is not a lengthy bill.   It has been made controversial by some activity by the police union, but it should not even be a controversial bill.   It relates to the power of a chief of police. Currently it applies only to Omaha where there is a provision in the contract that cuts into the power of the chief to make assignments to various geographic areas of the city. I want this cast in the context of a public safety issue. It is not a union management or worker-management issue, it is a public safety issue.   The chief of police is similar to the commander of a military operation.   The police division is often referred to as a paramilitary operation. It's sole reason for existing is to ensure the public's safety. Anything that takes away from the power of the chief executive officer to distribute person power in order to achieve that end is not good and it goes against what the purpose of a police division exists for.   In Omaha a number of mayors have totally given up the power of the chief to make assignments to geographic areas.   I want to distinguish for the record also that we are not talking about shifts, meaning the hours during which somebody will work, but where they will be assigned