

geographically once they are working. I'm going to read the entire text of the bill. It was drafted by the city attorney, Kent Whinnery. Notwithstanding any prior history of bargaining concerning permissive or mandatory subjects of bargaining, the power and authority of the chief of police to supervise, control and assign sworn law enforcement personnel to geographical areas of the city shall not be abrogated, diminished or restricted by any labor agreement negotiated pursuant to the Industrial Relations Act. In Omaha the police union does exert a lot of power. They were participants in the effort which turned out to be successful to recall former Mayor Mike Boyle and have him thrown out of office. One of the main issues that was used to rally support for removing Mayor Boyle was his relationship to the police department. Officers were very offended at the mayor. Others have not been slow to learn the message. So prerogatives of the chief which should not be a subject of negotiation were allowed to be given up to take care of the whims and the convenience of senior law enforcement officers on the Omaha Police Division. I have sent you around a copy of a letter from the chief of police endorsing this bill. I want some of these things in the record because others have said what I have been indicating that this summer there are going to be serious problems in north Omaha, other parts of the city too. But what is happening right now is the assignment of the greenest, least experienced officers to the area of the city where most experience is needed. If it had been conceded, even by the World-Herald, by police executives, by the mayor, by community leaders that there will be serious problems in north Omaha this summer, why are we going to be unwilling to give the chief the power necessary to assign officers where they are most needed. We're not talking about eating donuts at a donut shop or sitting beside a lagoon out in west Omaha, we're talking about law enforcement. A crucial comment from the chief's letter can be found where he is talking about the need to provide equal law enforcement to all citizens in the community. So if you happen to have before you the handout that I gave you on legal-sized paper on what would be page 2 of that letter, you'll see some underlined material. I'm going to read into the record that paragraph. This letter was written by Police Chief Skinner. LB 717 will allow police management the ability to balance all sergeants area crews on all shifts with officers having various years of service. It will eliminate the southwest Omaha sergeants area crews of having exclusively senior officers on all shifts as well as ensure that the northeast precinct sergeants areas will be staffed by senior