

or not there is going to be equal law enforcement coverage throughout the city. So the answer to that question you asked me is, yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. And does the contract, is the contract as a matter of procedure ratified? Does it have to be ratified by the city council as well as approved by the chief and the mayor?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. And apparently, do you know whether or not the last contract was ratified unanimously or whether it was a split vote or...?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I don't know what the vote was, but it was ratified.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. And do you believe, Senator Chambers, that the employees, police officers, police departments should be able to have a collective bargaining unit at all or do you think that they should not be able to collective, enter into collective bargaining?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well what some officers who are on the force right now don't realize is that early on before they had a union, I was one of those trying to talk them into getting one and showing the city why they should be allowed to have it, so, yes, I believe they should have a bargaining unit.

SENATOR BROMM: You believe that they should have a bargaining unit. Okay, thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I appreciate Senator Chambers' concern and the entire state's concern if we have problems in Omaha and we're concerned if they can't control the crime problems and if they get out of hand and if there's disproportionate law enforcement in different parts of the city. We're all concerned about that and I understand why he has brought the bill and I respect that he's trying to do something to help solve the problem. But philosophically is where I run into problems with this area in this bill. This Legislature has enough problems trying to solve and manage statewide problems. We have enough problems just trying to figure out little things that affect our own body. Now, if we philosophically make the decision that we're going to do this, we'd better be prepared to micromanage many things. If we think our judgment is better than the city council and the