

April 28, 1993

LB 717

mayor, and I don't know how it's gotten to the point it has in Omaha, but I submit that the chief, the mayor, the council, whoever has negotiated this thing and gotten it to the point where it has, are the people that are responsible. And I think the City of Omaha and the voters ought to, by referendum, which I'm sure is available to them or some process, rectify the situation. And if the people that are 'here aren't capable of rectifying it and getting it back into balance, then they ought to replace those people. Now what we're doing here is asking the Legislature to do an end run...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...look at one aspect of a negotiated contract. I don't feel comfortable doing that philosophically. If I look at this part of the contract and why shouldn't I look at what the police officers gave up? What did they give up in order to get this point put into the bargaining agreement? We don't know. From a safety standpoint you can argue a police chief should have this power, but where you have bargaining units and contracts have been negotiated, philosophically does a Legislature enter into the agreement, one aspect of the agreement, and substitute our judgment for those people that have negotiated the agreement a year ago, ten years ago, twenty years ago? That's my concern. It's from the philosophical standpoint. We've got many, many other things that I think we need to deal with...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ...the City of Omaha should take care of this problem. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. My name is on the bill, but I rise to oppose it. I wasn't under duress asked to sign the bill. I just basically exercised that option called changing my mind and I...others may call me a tool of the police union and pick your definition any way you like. I speak opposed to the Hartnett amendment as it makes the bill broader for purposes of being able to speak at this time, but the issue of the bill in itself, and I put a kill motion up on it. It's got another amendment to follow. We won't get to those today, but just to speak to some of the issues. I do appreciate the