

here is what has to be in the record for future reference that the Legislature is willing to do or not do. If the state were willing to allow the black community to establish its own police force and we exercise all police powers, that would be one thing, but it's similar to the situation in South Africa where you have a problem of a racist white police force that can do various things to hurt people and will not enforce the laws it should. The black people in South Africa don't have police powers. We in Omaha don't have the power to enforce the law. We are required to depend on the police division. For Senator Hall or anybody else to make what I consider the silly statement that experience doesn't make any difference is ridiculous. It is ridiculous. On other matters people often want to make experience a basis for considering whether a person should be promoted to the next high level of responsibility. It's only in an area like this that all judgment and common sense goes out the window. I'm not saying that I want my area flooded with cops. That's the worst thing in my mind that can happen. Cops, whether they've been on one year or 30 years, I'm saying that the city has to be viewed in terms of the needs that can be addressed by law enforcement personnel. Since it is deemed by everybody that experience counts for something in coming to a better understanding of the job, why in the most sensitive area does it count for nothing here? What Senator Witek talked about is totally irrelevant because we're talking about an agency, the only one that is given the discretionary power to take away people's freedom, to kill, to do other things that no other agency of government is empowered to do. Law enforcement is in a category by itself. The powers of law enforcement are determined by state statute. Public safety is the primary responsibility of the entire state. When a city administration has bargained away the power to ensure public safety, it becomes the responsibility of the Legislature to take care of that deficiency and rectify it. That's why senators with other issues that apply to their area will bring it to the Legislature and they're not told let the people in your city deal with it.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This is a matter that must be addressed by the Legislature. Senator Hall may succeed in getting the bill killed. He may succeed in doing that, but I will tell you this. That I don't want to hear him or anybody else come back later and say well we didn't know all these rookie cops were out there. Senator Witek said she didn't want you to become