

no way impacted my feelings on the bill, and that we would take up that discussion at that time. If I'm not speaking out in turn, Senator Chambers said he understood that, and that he had no problem, but that he would want to get my opinion on public safety at the time we took up the debate on Select File, and I said I'd be ready, willing and able to discuss it at that point in time. So, with that, not to belabor the issue, but clearly to say that what was told to me was accurate. How I interpreted it, I think, was my fault. And the implication that I offered the body, that the discussions and the changes that were made were tied together, in no way was that the case, and that's my fault. But I'm on the inside of the glass dealing with this issue, and I'll wear that one. Today I'm not going to discuss the bill any farther, unless I'm asked questions by someone. I'm just going to move it over. Doesn't mean that my position on this has changed, it just means that I'm going to keep the promise that I made last week.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Mr. Clerk, amendments on the desk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Witek would move to amend the bill. Senator, your amendment is on page 1604 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam President, members of the body, my amendment uses the exact same language as the original bill that Senator Chambers introduced. It just changes whose authority we are talking about, and it's an addition to the bill. I...when I first read the bill I thought there's no way that you can get a majority of this body to agree to bypass collectively bargained contractual arrangement and use the, quote, unquote, power of the Legislature to change that. But I thought maybe when you looked at the bill you would see it as only a police bill, and as only an Omaha police bill. And I saw it as far more than that. And by putting this amendment in I was hoping to allow you to see it as more than that. If each and every one of you will look at the amendment, it reads, notwithstanding any prior history of bargaining concerning permissive or mandatory subjects of bargaining the power and authority of a state agency director to supervise, control, allocate compensation to, and assign his or her agency employees shall not be abrogated, diminished or restricted by any labor agreement negotiated pursuant to the Industrial Relations Act. You can see this has