

likelihood of serious problems in the city, the mayor, the chief of police, community activists, public officials other than the mayor and business leaders. But they listed as the number one item public safety. So we all know that public safety is a matter of statewide concern. This bill deals with that aspect of police work in Omaha, it relates to nothing other than the power of the chief to make geographic assignments. There have been police representatives, Mr. Moen is one of them, I see him out there, outside the glass, and I'll get the articles and some of the comments that he made before the committee, if denies having said what I'm going to indicate. He had indicated that no one area ought to have all the new...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...officers, no area should. And I think when one quarter of the cities division has 15 of the 26 new officers, and 11 are spread around the other 3, it's clear that we have a disproportionate assignment of these new officers. I hope, though, at this point you will advance the bill to Select File. I will offer that amendment, and with or without the amendment LB 717 is needed.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Witek, followed by Senators Robinson, Auhford and Pirnch.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, first of all, you may think, from listening to Senator Chambers, that the northeast area has less senior officers than the rest of the city. They do not. They do, however, have more officers with less experience, but they do not have less officers with the same amount of experience. I...I've looked through every shift of every patrol, and if you...if you would like to see this information, I have it right here for you. The D shift, in the northeast area, do...they...that does not have any officers with less than four years experience assigned to it. That's the 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. shift. All officers have more than four years experience. If you break it down to...into quadrants in the city, the northeast area has 77 percent senior officers, and the southwest area has 93 percent. It sounds like there's a big difference, but the reason that those percentages are watered down in the northeast area is because they have been given more officers from...from the newly trained officers. And I would also like to point out that seniority does not necessarily mean safety, that there has been no evidence to support the claim