

case was brought forward in dealing with who should be and who should not be in a bargaining unit for firefighters and police officers. We either buy that case or we don't. And each individual senator has to sit back and say, is there a...has Senator Chambers at least met his burden on General File that there is a public safety issue in our city, in Omaha, that needs to be addressed through the collective bargaining process. Okay? Now, how do we address this through the collective bargaining process? The way we do this is, if we were to accept the Chambers bill, is to take off the table geographic distribution as a term and condition of employment. Now, only geographic distribution, no other term and condition of employment, but only geographic distribution. Now, when that happens, what happens under the Commission of Industrial Relations Act? What happens is the parties, and we can make this clear in the bill on Select File, what happens is the parties then go back to bargain.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: The parties then go back to bargain, and the union has the right and the obligation, quite frankly, and the duty to its members to go back to the bargaining table and say, geographic distribution is no longer on the table because the Legislature has determined, as it has in other areas, that this is not something that we should bargain, that this is too important to our population, and therefore we as the union are going to go back to the bargaining table and we're going to ask for other things, we're going to look into other terms and conditions of employment, like insurance, or uniforms, or whatever it might be that would be an important indicia for public...for public safety officers in the City of Omaha, and we're going to bargain those. But if we...The point is that the right to bargain in Nebraska stems from our Constitution, it stems out of this law.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: We, as the Legislature, have the authority to take a look at that from time to time, and have done so from time to time, and that's the way I'm looking at the bill on General File. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Mr. Clerk, motion on the desk.