

thing. Cancel out everything that they've collectively bargained, destroy all of the hard work of the many people. It's pretty arrogant of the Legislature to assume that we have more concern for the safety of the people in Omaha than the Omaha police. I would ask that you vote to kill this bill. I don't think it's an area we should be...we should be getting into in the Legislature in breaking collective bargaining agreements. And I have complete faith in the Omaha Police Department and many of the people that I know in the Omaha Police Department, that they are just as concerned and more concerned on a daily basis for the citizens of the City of Omaha than many of the senators in this Chamber. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Witek. We'll now recognize senators wishing to speak to this motion. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the body, I rise to support Senator Witek's indefinitely postpone motion. I...I don't quite understand why we should pass this bill with the objections that I've heard from those who have said they were going to pass it onto Select. I don't know what can be accomplished by adding other cities. Lynn Rex said, in the Committee on Business and Labor, that Omaha is the only...only city that has in fact bargained this way. And I...I don't know the purpose of passing this onto Select File. Unfortunately, Senator Chambers questions the safety issue, but he bases it on one instance, one instance that was unfortunate, but which, when talking with other officers, they say that there was probably the same thing that senior officers would do, men officers would do, that that is not truly going to be helped by the passage of LB 717, that kind of circumstance. Right now, according to the present contract which was bargained, the chief can assign up to four officers, each of whom have at least four years on the job, evidently that is their definition of senior, to each sergeant's area. And some areas have as few as six officers, and if the chief desires he can assign four of them. And in addition, that contract allows that the chief, under special circumstances, to vary the seniority bidding on a case-by-case basis. In other words, when there is the need for more seniority, the police chief has that power to do that. So, why do we need LB 717? And why do we particularly not need LB 717? And the Shield, which is the official publication of the Omaha Police Union, pointed out that a past police chief in Atlanta admitted that he transferred the union president 51 times in 45 days because of the union president's union