

activities. Now, I'm not known for the big protector of the unions, but I do think that they have a very distinct purpose in our organization and authority and division of power. To me they have raised the question of a police chief, if they want to exercise that power, and I certainly don't believe that Chief Skinner would, but this is forever, this law. And there are possibilities, I think fears, maybe, that that kind of wrongful use of authority and power could be done. But, first of all, as Kate pointed out, we...we don't know what the definition of a veteran officer is. How can we define, in these four quadrants, how many years of service each quadrant should get? Secondly, again, who knows what veteran officers would have handled the one situation that Senator Chambers has referred to...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...any differently, how can we know that. From people that have come forward and talked there was no problem with those two officers who handled that. And, thirdly, and I think more importantly, this will abrogate the bargaining contract, which I think also is a serious thing to do without...without serious thought. And I don't think passing this bill on to Select is...is certainly the way to go about it. I think we should indefinitely postpone it now on General File.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President, members. First of all, I think we should try to isolate our discussion to what the issue is. The issue is geographic distribution of officers and where officers shall be placed in a community. The way I look at this issue is slightly differently than Senator Pirsch and Senator Witek in the following way, I have had...I live in the center of Omaha. I've had a drive-by shooting at Memorial Park, which is right across the street from UNO, happen...I haven't had, my constituents have, we all have had that happen to us in our district, within the last two weeks. And I'm concerned as well about the police chief's ability to be able to place the officers that he feels should be in a particular area at a particular time. And I think my constituents, quite frankly, are concerned about that as well. In a way it's somewhat like a general in a war. I mean we're fighting a war against violence in our community, and we can't hide it anymore. In April we had 25 shootings, and I believe there were 5 or 6 deaths. This is not fun and games, this is a war. And in any war we have