

was a frantic article that they did put in their paper telling Omaha police officers to write to the senators and oppose LB 717, because the senators were not getting opposition from the Omaha police officers. They had heard from the union, but they had not heard from the officers. They may have even mentioned a couple of senators by name who mentioned they were not getting anything from the police themselves in opposition to the bill. So if the union paper has to run a front page article soliciting opposition from the officers, it's clear that they don't have that much opposition to the bill, and they're well aware of it, and some of them know about the need for a change in the way officers are assigned geographically. Senator Witek keeps missing the point. And Senator Pirsch didn't listen well. They keep saying, what do you mean by seniority; how do we know how many years of this and years of that. I handed out an article from the World Herald, because it gave a breakdown of the years of experience of the officers in these quadrants. I say it again, it broke down the years of experience. In southwest Omaha it was above ten years, that was the average. In southeast Omaha it was above seven years. In northwest Omaha it was above seven years. In the area where I am talking about it was a little better than three years, so it was below four years. It was almost double in every other area, the average amount of experience of the officers in my area. In west Omaha it was well over double that. But the issue is one of public safety. When Senator Witek wants to talk about the chief being allowed to assign four officers, which she calls senior officers, why should we even put that term "allow" in it? A general is not allowed to assign manpower as it's needed. The general is authorized to do what, in his or her judgment, is necessary in terms of the deployment of troops. The chief is the one who will make those determinations. It's interesting how all of a sudden Police Chief Skinner is somehow venal and his motives suspect, the motives of all the chiefs in the state are now suspect because Senator Pirsch and Senator Witek have not said that these chiefs don't...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...have the know-how for assigning these officers. They emphasize that these chiefs may abuse this power. So they are questioning the motives of the chief, which I'm not doing with reference to this bill. The Baldwin incident