

is not the only thing that led to this bill. For Senator Witek and Senator Pirsch's information, they don't follow these matters. I've been talking about this issue for years. I've talked about it to the chief, I talked about it to Wadman, when he was here, I've talked about it to the mayor before this bill was offered. So you all are not up to speed on what has happened. So maybe that's why you made that mistake. But you should also keep in mind that the union is not the police department. Not all the police officers belong to the union. We are talking about a law enforcement agency and the power of the chief to make management decisions that allow him to carry out the responsibilities he has as the chief executive officer of the police department. I hope you vote against the kill motion.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Witek, you're next.

SENATOR WITEK: Is there anybody else after me, because I could...Oh, okay. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I just wanted to bring up a few points as long as we're still talking about the safety issue. There was an article in the paper that said that the average recruit for the City of Omaha was 28.5 years of age. If you're talking of a person with experience getting on the force at say 28 years old and putting 20, 22 years in, you're talking about a 48 year old man. So I would specifically like to know why Senator Chambers keeps insisting that if seniority is there safety will be there. The differences between a 30 year old and a 48 year old, are they necessarily...does that make them older, or does that make them safer, or where that line of reasoning runs, because I can't follow it. If you're talking about safety meaning more police officers in the northeast quadrant, they have more police officers, that's why these figures, unless you can see here who's assigned to each shift, that's why these figures show the way they do. If you just used a certain amount of police officers with over so many years experience, or you can break it down any way you want to, you can get these figures to say anything you want to. But the bottom line is right now we have an equitable distribution of officers. The northeast quadrant has more police officers and, as Senator Chambers pointed out, is receiving even more officers from the new...newly recruit...newly graduated group for this summer. The problems in parts of Omaha aren't just in the northeast part of Omaha, they expand through all of Omaha. The problems aren't the