

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...officers in these areas, as I believe he should have some ability to do that, but I don't believe it's the prerogative of the Legislature to take the issue that's been addressed as a collective bargaining issue over the years and move it off the table so that one side basically has the upper hand on the other. What this amounts to is nothing more than the...Where this problem stems from is the fact that the city, over a number of years, has just balanced the budget on the backs of the police and the fire divisions with regard to how they deal with the hiring and how they have limited hiring over the number of years basically to save money and only for that purpose and that is where the safety issue comes in, not as it's addressed in LB 717. Again, the...I think the Ashford amendment is irrelevant to the issue and I would urge you to oppose it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Hall, would you yield to a question, please?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall, would you respond, please?

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: You indicated, Senator Hall, that the current contract runs through...is it December of this year, the labor contract?

SENATOR HALL: December 19 of 1993, yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. So at that time is everything on the table as far as the terms and conditions of the contract? It's a wide-open, new negotiated agreement at that point on?

SENATOR HALL: I...I'm guessing, Senator Bromm, that it, like other contracts, it will probably start to be negotiated sometime in September, a good 90-plus days out from when it would expire and the new one take place and my understanding is, yes, that everything would be on the table.

SENATOR BROMM: And I assume all conditions, fringe benefits, salary levels and all those things are contained in that agreement. I haven't seen the agreement, but that would be