

this issue from the state level and say, this is it, folks; we're going to take this off the table. Well, what's it going to be next? What about the firemen? You know, the firemen have a negotiated contract. Are they placed throughout the city absolutely in an acceptable manner or are we going to...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...are we going to be back here next year trying to change something with the...with regard to the firemen contract? I have heard that the way the firemen are promoted I have a problem with that and I really do, because I think good people are passed over in promotions in the unionized fire department seniority, but I don't want to get into that issue and I don't think we have the time, I don't think we have the information and I just think it sets a bad, bad precedent, bad public policy. And I know Senator Chambers is interested in good public policy and I think if he steps back and looks at this issue from a greater distance I think he would find that this is not setting good precedence, not good public policy and, for that reason, I have to oppose not only the amendment but the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Before we proceed to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests to the Legislature. They're guests of Senator Witek. We have 40 fourth grade students from the J. Sterling Morton School in Omaha and their teachers and they're in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being here. Senator Chambers, you're next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as I stated in the very beginning, this is an item which I think a city should not even have the power to bargain on and the fact that Omaha did negotiate it away shows that the problem does exist that a city will do this. So whether you say that former mayors did it because they feared the police union or they were trying to obtain the support of the police union makes no difference. The fact is that they have done it. The chief and the mayor have verified that because of this provision in the contract there is unequal law enforcement throughout the city. There have been times when public agencies have implemented certain policies that were discriminatory in their impact against Latinos and against black people and courts have stepped in and struck down those provisions because of their impact. I