

Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. President, members of the body, sorry I kind of don't know when different people are up there, I just wanted to remind everybody of some of the arguments that we brought up on General File on this bill. And I also want to make some comments about some of the things Senator Chambers has said. And I want you to think of if there has been any correlation made between safety and seniority, any facts, any figures, anything to base that assumption on. There hasn't been anything other than people saying it's so. Well, I don't know about you but when somebody says something is so, I would rather see something to back that up with and we've seen nothing. Nothing to say that safety and seniority are equal because if you have seniority then you're safer. There's been nothing to show us that. There is nothing that you can bring to this body that would show you that. What makes young officers unsafe? I don't think I've heard anybody say what makes young officers unsafe. And if there has been anything mentioned, I guess I'd like it mentioned again because I still don't understand that correlation that Senator Chambers keeps making. And I would also like to say that the officers that we're talking about live in Omaha. They live in Omaha, they're families are in Omaha. They care as much about the safety of the entire City of Omaha and more than some of the members in this body would. These people are not going to jeopardize where their families live and I want you to remember that when you make this vote. I also want you to remember what makes collective bargaining work is the honor that's involved in those two sides to those agreements. This is a collectively bargained agreement, and I think it's dishonorable to come to the Legislature and want out of a bargained agreement. It's a bad precedent to set. It's something that we could go on and on and on with. Senator Hall said he has 16 amendments that deal with different areas of collective bargaining. We could come on the Omaha police. I don't know how much in your city that you could come on on collective bargaining agreements, the state could come in here. It's really bad precedent to set. And I also keep thinking that if we go ahead and pass this bill that it's going to end up in some court somewhere because it is a collective bargain agreement. And what would stop one side from going to court to say wait a minute, we collectively bargain this agreement? So we're just throwing the whole thing possibly into a court situation. We're not solving anything by passing this in the Legislature. I would ask you not to vote for the advancement of