

June 2, 1993

LB 717

717. And when Senator Chambers talks about 26 new police officers, if you noted he said 15 of those officers will go to north Omaha. That leaves 11 of the new police officers to go to the other 3 quadrants of the city which is what I keep saying. The quality of the senior officers is very equitable. Now all parts of the city have senior officers, 50 percent senior officers in these areas. What they have more of in north Omaha is because...of the younger officers is because they have more officers. They receive 15 out of 26 officers and the other 3 quadrants of the city divide up the remaining 11 officers. This isn't...there aren't walls dividing these quadrants. This is the entire City of Omaha we're talking about. It's not great distances. There's no reason to get involved in their collectively bargained agreements. Let's leave this to the City of Omaha. This is theirs to work out whatever way they choose. What we're here for is state business. We don't have enough time to do what we're here for let alone start micromanaging the Omaha police force.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: So I would ask you when you're thinking about advancing this bill to think very careful about getting into collectively bargained agreements and just to have you think that this is a question of safety is not enough. You have to decide if this is getting into an area that we shouldn't be getting into. It's a bad precedent to set, and I want you to remember that when you decide not to advance 717.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Witek. Any other discussion? Seeing none, Senator Hohenstein. There's been a request for a machine vote. Senator Chambers, would you like to close? There's been a request for a call of the house. All those in favor say aye, those opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: The house is under call. All those members who are not excused please report to the Chamber. Senator Pirsch, please check in. The house is under call. Would all those unexcused members please report to the Chamber and record their presence. The house is under call. We have a request for a roll call vote and Senator Hall has requested it in reverse order. Mr. Clerk. Would you please hold your conversations down so the Clerk can hear the votes.

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