

January 26, 1976

We'd like to have this bracketed until after we hear 782. Thank you.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to support LB 432. I think it's rather interesting when you watch the progress of this bill and some of the propaganda which has been placed before many elected officials. There's propaganda of the mayors that this would effect their special police. The community in which I live our special police are under civil service and go through the same requirements as our patrol. Therefore I think this is just one area that you should be aware of. Also in the World Herald the sheriff was stated that this would cost Douglas County thousands of dollars. We're not attempting to eliminate the special deputies at all. We're merely attempting to make them more responsive to the needs of good law enforcement.

I would hope that you would consider this bill on the merits and not on the basis of some of these scarecrows which are being placed before you. Thank you.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think, Senator Koch, you probably best put it. You didn't fulfill the full amount of what was said in that newspaper clipping. Without the help of the special deputies I think, in Douglas County alone, it would require at least another 10 or 15 deputies. Of course, this becomes an expensive item when you start equipping the deputies, giving them the fringe benefits, all of the other things that take place under fringe benefits, health insurance and the salary of close to \$12,000 apiece.

I think Senator Chambers has made his point in the last two years in having special hearings in Douglas County in which he was able to pinpoint certain objections. He had those objections brought to the forefront through the news media. I think his point has been there. It has passed on. I think, at this point, if the rest of the Legislators will just, in consideration, ... Senator Simpson and Senator Barnett ... will look at Douglas County in this case Senator Syas is dead right. We're no different then what you have in Lancaster County. You just dress up the name. You call them "posse", you call it the "sheriff's posse". What a great Western name. It's a good Western name, but all they do, in this area, is come out ... sure they do some parading around, but they also have certain obligations and duties that they perform. They perform them when the sheriff needs some help. In the case of disasters or clamities, or fires, Senator Luedtke, and some of these things where regular deputies are not able to fulfill all of the work that's necessary they could be called upon to do this.

I think Senator Chambers point, as far as education, is well taken. I think that the educational process is taking its course. The training is there. The other bills will see that that training is included. I think if there ever was a time that you're trying to restrict a sheriff, you're trying to say to him to go back to the county commissioners.