

February 8, 1973

a mistake to grant the two thousand dollars to begin with, and now remember this is not a policy that goes just when they are on duty, this is a free insurance policy, and we ought to take this thing a little bit seriously and I'm going to have to oppose it.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion of the Skarda amendment? Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Well I'd certainly back what Senator Skarda is trying to do, and I'm sure that Senator Carstens is honest in saying that he did take a little heat from this, but I'd also like to point out, and I don't have volunteers serving me, I worked with them for about three and a half to four years, and I think they are the greatest bunch of people, and this is the only thing that they get for being a volunteer fireman, this is the only thing they get.

SPEAKER: Senator Rasmussen, do you care to be heard again?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: I'm going to have to take a little exception on this social thing, I've seen, at least our department after supper rolling up hoses and going through fire drills, looked far from a social club to me.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of the Skarda amendment? Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well I think you have to have a little background how the thing happened in the first place. The firemen was improvising what we are now doing, by making voluntary contributions on their own, and attempting to pay out a few hundred dollars where the need and the compliance was there, and then somebody made a complaint to the extent that they couldn't do it because it was against the constitution. So that was the reason for the introduction of the bill in the first place, now I think in part they are a social organization to some limited extent, but less now than they used to be, because the responsibilities of the, these people are far greater because of the increased training they have received in the area in an attempt to prevent fires, at least in my town, the volunteer fire department at all times of need cooperate with the city of Scotts Bluff and the city of Gering. Now it seems to me that the term policies are very nominal amount, as all term insurance is and because of the volume of those who participate. It would seem to me that by a joint issue of a policy

(End of Belt #11)