

March 29, 1973

(Start Belt #9)

CLERK: Alright, now Mr. President we have an amendment offered by Senator Fowler.

SPEAKER: While we are waiting here, I'd like you to cast your eyes on the south balcony where we have a multitude of pulchritude, there is some fifty law wives from Lincoln including I hate to leave out anybody Mrs. Bruckner, Mrs. Clarence Meyers, and of all people Mrs. Rolland Luedtke. We are glad to have you here whether you learn anything or not. Oh the Clerk said to introduce the rest of them as wives of Lincoln attorneys, I thought I had done that, how lucky can you get? Senator Fowler. Senator is this your amendment?

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes it is. Does the Clerk want to read the amendment?

PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr. Clerk will you read.

CLERK: Read.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. Chairman, members of the legislature, I was asked to add this amendment to the bill LB 265. Now this amendment deals only with the sections and statutes dealing with age discrimination, it has nothing to do with the previous sections we discussed about race, sex, color. What this amendment does, is it allows an exception for fire and police officers from being charged with age discrimination. Therefore, fire and police people would be able to take into account the age of an individual in hiring this person. It would not exempt fire and police people from provisions against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color or religion, I think there is some other Senators who wish to speak for this amendment. Glad to answer any questions.

SPEAKER: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President and members of the legislature, I hope that Senator Fowler has got this amendment in front of you so that you understand it at this time. All it does, it allows the fire boards, the fire commissions and the police commissions throughout the state to hire and fire by using the age for a discriminatory practice. It's rather hard to hire a man 45 or 50 years of age and put him on the back end of a paid department. It's hard for him to start learning in this area at this time, and that is what this amendment is offered for. Therefore, I'd hope that you would support him in his try to get this amendment on to this bill.

SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: Let's have a little debate on this, you talk about discrimination, this certainly is, and I would certainly oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, and members of the legislature, I think the amendment could have slid on through had Senator Barnett not spoken, he meant well but the words he selected did not carry it across the thought he had in mind. All he, in trying to explain Senator Fowler's amendment which was well explained anyway, he was trying to say that in activities requiring a certain amount of physical prowess it might not be considered an unfair criteria to consider a person's age when