

February 15, 1974

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of the committee amendments. All right, what this bill does and I would like to have the attention of the body because this was brought to me by the Volunteer Firemen's Association throughout the State of Nebraska. And what it now does, at the present time the Fire Marshal's Office is under the Department of Insurance. The Fire Marshal himself is not subject to confirmation by the Legislature. And he is selected strictly from the Governor's office. What this bill intends to do, is to make the selection of the State Fire Marshal a little more encompassed by all the people that are available for the services of the fire service of the State of Nebraska. On line 5, of the first page, lines 4 and 5, it says the Governor shall appoint a State Fire Marshal, we insert with an amendment, subject to confirmation by the Legislature. And then we go down into the next two or three parts and we pick out a committee, or a commission as such, known as a Nominating Commission, which will include a representative of the Nebraska State Association of Firefighters, which is the paid fire departments. Has a representative of the Fire Chiefs Association, which is all Chiefs, paid and volunteers. Has a representative of the Nebraska Underwriters Association who regulate insurance rates on fire problems. Two representatives from the State Volunteer Association. And a member from a paid Fire Department Inspection Bureau. This is one of the things that was asked for at the committee hearing. Now that's two of the amendments. We then on line 16 and 17, strike any reference to the Department of Insurance. So that what in effect happened, is that the Fire Marshal has his own agency, which is a code agency at this time. He has his own agency of State Government. He is under no one, except the Governor, not the Department of Insurance or anybody. And he is subject to confirmation after nomination by the Governor. On page 3, of the bill we struck section 3, as the committee felt that it had no bearing because if the State Fire Marshal wasn't doing his job, or wasn't able to, the Governor would possibly get rid of him anyway. And this clarify

(End of Belt #6)