

March 28, 1979

LB 484

SENATOR NEWELL: I do see a distinction, Senator Chambers, but the distinction here is clearly that they cannot identify themselves as police officers. They cannot be wearing uniforms. They can only do it on off duty time, and I think on that basis, those are the restrictions that are necessary to keep them from abusing their personal power, and what they do privately as individuals, I think (interruption).

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Newell.

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: With your bill a sheriff would be in a position to tell deputies that you are now allowed by law to campaign for me and I think that is what you had better do if you want to keep your job. That would then be possible, wouldn't it, easier, more easily than now?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Chambers, in the experience that we have had, no, it wouldn't be any easier because right now that is being done. What we are doing now is making it a crime which is punishable which the officers can then tell their boss that they can't in fact do that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Because I only have a few seconds, I think it is not a good bill. I don't think it is well considered, and when you deal in the area of law enforcement and there is a particular problem, that is, a feud is existing in Sarpy County, I don't think a blanket bill should be passed to wipe out all of the law related to the rest of law enforcement across the state. So as the bill stands now, I am opposed to it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, a question of Senator Newell please.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Newell, I noticed that Mr. Lee Polikov of Sarpy County testified in favor of the bill. Did he provide any specific details on the effect that it is having in Sarpy County that prompted him to testify in favor of the proposal?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, as you may know, Mr. Polikov works for the Sheriff's Department Office and he ran for County Attorney, and under the bill, he wasn't sure whether it was illegal for him to run for County Attorney.