

March 4, 1980

LB 82

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right, thank you. Members of the Legislature, an Omaha police officer was fired for theft and this is prior to going to trial. He was fired because he violated certain rules and regulations of the police division. He has not been convicted but I presume that because of the type of position he holds and the fact that as an upholder of the law he can not be in the role of a violator of the law, the Chief took action and fired him. Now, a police officer I guess is going to be held to a higher standard than a judge and I guess that is about all I really need to say but again, if you will read this bill, see whether or not there is any guarantee in it as it is drafted, that judges will be held accountable. Nothing has to change from the way it is with this bill, however, there will be the nice appearance that you can give to the public that machinery is available to do something even though there is no requirement that it be used.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel for the purpose of closing.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I think we all have grown weary of the bill by now so I will be brief. Senator Chambers made some remark about we should all stick to this bill. We need thirty votes. Stick to it through thick and thin even under threat of veto and I have no idea what the Governor would do with the bill but threats of vetoes or vetoes aren't anything new to my bills. So I would just reiterate that this goes further than the Bar Association originally wanted because of the committee work. I think we have taken some extra steps. The Bar Association has relented. This provides some flexibility in the system which we do not have now. The present system is very restrictive. LB 82 adds some flexibility which we desperately need. I would urge the body to carefully consider this, advance this bill over to Select File. If you have some problems with it there, we can work on it again on Select File but I think essentially we have a very sound bill and I would hope that the body would advance LB 82 to E & R.

PRESIDENT: All right, the question is, the motion to advance LB 82 to E & R initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? We are voting on the motion to advance LB 82. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 1 nay on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. LB 82 is advanced to E & R initial.

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