

March 4, 1980

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time, because it does serve the communities of not only the small towns and medium size towns but also the rural community. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I did propose this amendment and I think it is a good one, but it doesn't have anything to do with being for or against volunteer firemen. It has to do with who is going to pay for the training of the volunteer firemen. I guess I really don't understand why something that is such a local function, and I can't imagine anything more a local function than police and fire...why something that is a local function is going to be paid out of state funds. It seems to me that some of these small communities are benefiting twice. They are benefiting once by getting volunteer firemen and that is terrific, and then they are benefiting a second time by not even having to use their own funds to train those firemen, using state funds instead, using funds from Lincoln and using funds from Omaha. I checked with the Omaha Assistant Fire Chief and asked him if they got any services from the Nebraska Fire Service. He said, who? Omaha does not use it. Lincoln uses it just barely. They pay \$75,000 a year to train their own firemen. So our local communities train their own firemen but somehow volunteer firemen get trained, not out of their own local funds, and they have the power to levy their own local funds, but they get paid out of general appropriations. I think there should be a program for the volunteer firemen, and I think there will be because they need training. But why not let them reimburse the program for the training that they get. Doesn't that make sense? So, that is what it is all about. I don't know that there are any other arguments. It seems to me it is a local function. Pay for it locally.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support Senator Lewis' amendment. Senator Beutler and I had a discussion in committee on this issue and I appreciate his concerns. However, I would remind him that not all cities of this great state are capable of supporting a full time paid fire program simply because we lack in some cases people, yet by the same token we have to make certain that the residents of every community have some degree of assurance that those men who give of their time in great amounts do indeed receive the best training possible. Now, I think it