

March 4, 1980

LB 724

was the Assistant from Lincoln that he talked to relative to what programs they avail themselves of as it relates to this issue, and the gentleman replied very little actually, because we have our own training programs. Omaha being a very large system naturally would do that as well. But I would remind you that there are certain fees collected, and it states that in Section 8 or Section 3...money that is collected under the terms of Section 2 shall be deposited in the Nebraska Department of Education's cash fund and expended in administering the training program established under Section 2. So for us to say that these departments shall pay every dollar, I think is not quite correct. I would also remind Senator Beutler, this body a number of years ago either in their wisdom or lack of wisdom allowed Lincoln and Omaha to levy sales taxes so there is a considerable amount that helps them to take care of their operating budget, far greater than most other cities are able to do it today. So I don't think we are giving anything to the volunteer firemen or to certain communities. What we may be doing is we are trying to be equitable in how we treat cities of all sizes. So I support Senator Lewis' amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of Frank Lewis' amendment. Did you hear this, Frank? Senator Lewis, did you hear this? I rise in support of your amendment. I think it is a good amendment and I think we need it, and the reason I rise in support of it, because I feel that the volunteer firemen do need some training. They need training from time to time, and this is one good way to receive it. Also the fire chiefs that we have out in the rural areas certainly need it, and I think that if we pass this amendment it will work to the good of everybody.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I want to close again. I am surprised that Senator Beutler is that parochial. I remember forgiving a tax here in Lincoln so they could build a better race track, and I am proud of that. That is very nice out there in Lincoln, just right outside of town here. Several other things that we could make philosophical arguments about. But, number one...but, number one, certainly the volunteer firemen extends outside the jurisdiction of a city. They are subject to help the State Fire Marshal. They are subject to help their neighbors. The training

7744