

March 4, 1980

LB 724

state when we talk about insurance rates, and another thing that...people traveling down the interstate or any state highway, even if they be from Lincoln or Omaha, the firefighters are out there to put out fires in their car or trucks or whatever, their camper, whatever catches on fire, the local fire departments are on duty there to put the fire out. So I hope we can vote the Beutler amendment down.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, support Senator Lewis' amendment and I have got to do this just in good clear conscience. We have got volunteer fire departments throughout our area that do a tremendous job, they make a tremendous sacrifice in their own personal time, their clothing and just right on down the line. This amendment certainly does help them and I certainly support it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly and then Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, it should be understood that LB 724 is the result of the sunset provisions and scrutiny and investigation of the fire instruction procedures in Nebraska where they had an Education Advisory Commission and the Sunset Committee recommended and the Government Committee introduced this bill that would cause the overall supervision for the fire training to be in the Department of Education rather than in the Fire Marshal's office and rather than have a commission independently standing, to have an advisory committee in the Department of Education so that this truly becomes a state educational operation for the training of all of the fire services in Nebraska, volunteer as well as professional. We should do everything we can to support this very vital service. Without this training fire protection in Nebraska would go up in smoke.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, at the risk of being redundant, I would say that I would support the Lewis amendment. We have got a very good volunteer fire department throughout our county, especially in North Bend, and they serve without compensation. They are highly specialized. It is a vigorous training program, and I am concerned that if we don't adopt the Lewis amendment that the manpower in the rural areas might dry up,