

April 8, 1980

LB 283

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, and the other amendment that I have up there that I just gave you, I want to hold that one for Select File.

CLERK: All right. Mr. President, Senator Lewis moves to amend the bill and Senator Lewis' amendments are on page 592 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, under the fifteen minute rule I am going to be brief and explain the amendments very carefully. First of all, according to the information provided for me and I just double checked with the police union and the lobbyists working on the bill and I should not say lobbyist after today's discussion but I will, that it costs no more money. It lowers the age from fifty-five to fifty and the entire cost is picked up by the employee. I ask for the adoption of my amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Lewis, I do have a question. Somebody seems to be not telling the truth or verging on it. In my file I have a letter from the police union that says the same thing you just said and from a public employee's union that says the same thing you just said and I have a letter from the City of Omaha that says the city would pay in 1980 and 1981, \$168,000 and more in years thereafter. I guess I am just asking for an explanation of what is the difference in interpretation here?

SENATOR LEWIS: I think the difference in interpretation is longevity in terms of...I think the city's figures are based on this, Senator Beutler. They are projecting the years out for the employee to, I think, the national average in terms of longevity, the average age of death for firemen and policemen. The City of Omaha, as I understand it is sixty-four which would make a difference in terms of what dollars went in on that fund and what came out. Again, I just walked outside so that I would not mislead anybody in this Legislature in terms of what the issues were. I asked the question very directly to the unions and very directly to the lobbyist and they interpreted it that way and I can see the rationale in terms of trying to figure it in terms of what the actual longevity rate of the employees been versus the longevity rate of those in non-police or fire service.

SENATOR BEUTLER: As I understand it, the city is using a