

for Research which reported on the arson information management systems conference in May of 1979. It has been defined at the national level that this crime, many people do not consider arson a crime, is virtually out of control here in the United States. It is not just a problem that affects the State of Nebraska but it universally affects all states in the United States. We are reminded of the fire that recently occurred in Las Vegas, Nevada where a number of people lost their lives as a result of arson. It doesn't appear that this is of much interest so I will at this time, Mr. Speaker, just move that the bill be advanced.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson, do you wish the floor?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think I have a question of Senator Stoney. I am looking over, Senator Stoney, if you will give me a little bit of your time, I am looking over your handout on criminal mischief.

SENATOR STONEY: Yes, sir.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Let me see if I have this right now, are we talking about criminal mischief or felony criminal mischief? Felony criminal mischief, aren't we?

SENATOR STONEY: Yes.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: So a felony criminal mischief occurs when there is, what, a loss of more than \$300 in goods, substantial interruptions or impairment of public communication, transportation, supply of water, gas or power or other public service?

SENATOR STONEY: That is correct.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: That is when we have a felony criminal mischief?

SENATOR STONEY: Correct, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I guess what I was really getting to, Senator Stoney, is this amendment with this bill would then elevate the felony criminal mischief penalty from a Class IV felony to a Class II felony, if in fact there has been a loss of more than \$300 caused by a fire in a building and there happens to be a person present in the building, is that what would happen?

SENATOR STONEY: That is correct.