

February 11, 1982

LR 220
LB 782

was the fact that if let's say a sheriff is running for reelection and he has an opponent and the deputies take perhaps a stand or maybe they don't take a stand themselves, in one case it was mentioned that the deputy sheriff's wife put the opponent's sign out in the yard and, of course, he naturally got fired when the election was over. I don't know how you are going to really overcome all of this, but the merit system would hopefully protect the officer so that he would not be fired strictly on political grounds. I still would guess that if he was smart, he would probably stay out of it. But we have had some great turnovers and I think they have had some in Adams County, and I think that is the reason they have been interested in this. I am sure they are not the only county either, but it certainly disrupts the sheriff's department when a whole bunch of the deputies either quit or are fired because of a political reason. That is the purpose of the bill. I am a little bit skeptical, of course, of the merit system because it sets up sort of an organization within the officers of the state and I won't say it will lead to unionism but it might be a step in that direction. But I think under these conditions that it is a helpful tool for the system and that the deputy sheriffs will be able to function and continue in office where perhaps without this legislation they may be terminated or get into all kinds of problems with the election process. So I support LB 782.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the advancement of 782. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on the advancement of 782? Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is advanced. The Clerk has a resolution on the desk. Is Senator DeCamp in here? Can we get Senator DeCamp out of the phone booth or the bedroom or wherever he is.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp has a motion to suspend Rule 4, Section 6, so as to permit consideration of LR 220 today.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

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