

March 5, 1982

LB 825

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some of the same concerns Senator Chambers mentioned, and, Senator Beutler, would you yield to a question? How often do the library boards go to court actually over these books? Do you have any idea?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't have an idea for Omaha, Senator Pirsch, and I am sorry I don't since you are from Omaha. The situation in Lincoln is absolutely disastrous. In the last year I think there have only been three or four cases that they have taken to the county attorney for prosecution, and that is in the face of a loss of 10,000 books in that same year period.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Now of the loss of 10,000 books, not by one individual but by various individuals, do they have a minimum or a low before they go to court, or take someone to court, or do they just pick out willy-nilly those that they decide to take to court?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, they try to pick on those who have the most books out. They try to pick on the biggest cases because those are the only ones that the county attorney is interested in dealing with. And their hope is by making an example of two or three people a year that they will get people to return the book, but that is not working obviously since we are up to 10,000 books a year now.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And there, at least to my knowledge, is not much publicity about anybody going to court over books that were not returned. And what kind of notice do they give them now on books before they take them to court?

SENATOR BEUTLER: In Lincoln and I think...and I can't speak for elsewhere but in Lincoln they get at least two notices of overdue books, and I believe they get a third. I can't swear to that, but they get at least two notices, and the books are overdue by months and months and months before they ever take action.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And they are informed that they are going to take it to court before they actually file?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I can't say that I know that they put that in the notice.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you, Senator Beutler. I have some concerns about the notification and I think I would have to have something into this law before I could vote for it. Thank you.

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