## Police say international union is a real bargain

By Nancy Clark
Joining the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO) will give the five-month-old Lincoln police union more bargaining power at less cost, said James Hill Lincoln union president.
IBPO is the largest and most professional police union in the United State3, he said. Lincoln police union members voted unanimously to join IBPO in December and became affiliated with the national union in January IBPO members have the full-time services of an IBPO lawyer and each member receives a $\$ 10,000$ life insurance policy, Hill said.
In addition to legal services, IBPO members receive information and advice from "professional" negotiators, he said. The attorney service is the "big plus," he added. A
local union organization would pay $\$ 35$ to $\$ 40$ an hour to

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retain a lawyer's service, he said.
The local union pays $\$ 88.40$ annually to IBPO for each of its members, which comes to a $\$ 10$ monthly fee charged each member, Hill said.
Since its inception in September 1975, the Lincoln union has grown from 28 to 176 members out of 226 eligible officers. Officers through the rank of lieutenant are eligible.
Hill attributed the growth to "officers appreciating the benefits provided by the union."
"They like the idea that if there is a job-related problem, there is legal help available at no charge," he said. "And it is in the nature of the job that problems will arise."
Hill said he did not see the membership growth as a sign that officers were considering a strike. State laws and

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the IBPO charter prohibit police strikes, he added. Murry Schaeffer will serve as corporative attorney and lobbyist, representing the Lincoln and Scottsbluff 1BPO chapters. The Scottsbluff Police Dept. is the oniy other Nebraska police dept. Which has jomed seven and one-half years before quitting to attend law school. He is working as a Lancaster County deputy attorney but resigned Friday to assume his IBPO duties, Hill said.

Other Nebraska police depts. are looking at IBPO, Hill said.

Campus Police Chief Gail Gade said Campus Police officials previously have discussed forming a union, but added that there has been no recent discussion on the subject.


