

February 19, 1993 LB 83

certainly don't want my two grandchildren around a loaded gun. I think it's something we should start thinking about. We kill people every day but why do we have to put in danger little children? I just can't believe the thinking that goes on in this area. Senator Chambers, I'd give you the rest of my time if you'd like it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, I don't see Senator Schellpeper out of the booth, but here is the question I was going to ask him, the same question I put to people who opposed the bill in committee and the guy from the NRA would not answer it directly. I asked him, did he think that a part of the right of a gun owner, is it his right to leave an unattended, loaded gun where a child can get it? And he wouldn't directly answer it. If he can't answer a question like that, then it's clear that he knows what the answer is because he didn't want to seem like a total fool, like a total fool. And it would be hard for anybody on this floor to stand in an assemblage of rational adults and tell them, I don't think a person who owns a loaded gun should be required to keep that gun secure and out of the reach of young children. They wouldn't say it. Nobody on this floor would say that in that kind of an assemblage. But representatives from the NRA will come here and say that to a committee of the Legislature, make phone calls and perhaps personal contacts because it shows the lack of respect they have for members of the Legislature, those of us who spend so much time on other bills talking about the welfare of children. Senator Abboud successfully got the Judiciary Committee to advance a bill that makes it the same level of offense to assault a child as to assault an adult because it hadn't been. It was a lesser offense to assault a child. So that defect in the law was corrected by a bill that Senator Abboud is offering. There are other measures we will bring where they're talking about foster care, talking about investigating the homes of those who want to adopt children because we profess to be concerned about the welfare of the children. But when it comes to dealing with an instrumentality whose purpose is to take life, whose history in this country and around the world is one of taking life, perhaps as many times accidentally...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.