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LB 454

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, and this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President. I just...I shouldn't do it but, Senator Smith, I just have to say, I have to respond, and I don't know where you are now, but you have tried to impugn the character of the police chief of Lincoln, Nebraska; you've questioned the motives of the mayor of Nebraska (sic). I checked with Chief Casady's office. He has had a 15- to 20-year record of being opposed to concealed carry. He was opposed to it before he even knew Coleen Seng. And to suggest that he signed this letter because the mayor of Lincoln told him to, I take great offense. Chief Casady is reflecting what his police force feels. I'm going to pass out this editorial in the Lincoln Journal, because I don't know if you've all had a chance to see it, but within that editorial it says: Proponents of concealed weapon bills often protest that rank-and-file police officers actually favor concealed weapon laws and that is only the brass...that it is only the brass who oppose them. That wasn't what Lincoln police officer Jim Davidsaver found when he surveyed all Lincoln police officers in 2001. In a community column in the Journal Star last year, Davidsaver reported that 85 percent of the officers were opposed to the laws. Only 9 percent thought the law would create a deterrent to crime. In group discussions hosted by Davidsaver, he determined that most people, including experienced officers, evaluated the issue by comparing risks with benefits. Most felt the risks outweighed the benefits. The editorial goes on to say the bill proposed by Combs already recognizes that allowing people to carry concealed weapons in some venues creates unacceptable risks. For example, the bill would prohibit people from carrying concealed weapons in courtrooms and bars. The city of Lincoln ought to be allowed to decide for itself whether those exemptions are adequate. What might be right for other parts of the state might not be right for a state capital with many federal and state government buildings. If Lincoln