

weeks ago on the amendment, constitutional amendment, dealing with the right to bear arms, that my aide was able to purchase in a Lincoln gun store in nine minutes a 22 caliber handgun. He could have purchased an AK-47 in the same nine minutes if he had had \$350 to make the purchase. He was able to make that purchase without any identification other than a driver's license and a statement that he was a resident of the State of Nebraska. There is no question that the underlying problem, it is being addressed by...which is being addressed by Senator Abboad, is the problem of drugs in our society. If we were to effectively deal with the drug problem, the problem of the AK-47 and the problem of UZI would be less important, but we have not been able to deal with the underlying problem. The AK-47 and the UZI and guns such as that are manufactured in foreign countries. In fact, the UZI, manufactured in Israel, is banned in Israel. The AK-47, manufactured in China, is banned as a weapon in that country. However, the number of AK-47s and UZIs and semiautomatic weapons imported into this country have increased by geometric proportions in the last three years. It has become an epidemic in our urban areas especially. There is absolutely no reason or sense to have these kinds of weapons in our society. I support the ban that President Bush has put forward which would ban the importation of these semiautomatic weapons in the United States. I support President Reagan's efforts...I supported President Reagan's efforts for a 7-day waiting period on the purchase of these dangerous weapons that can be used only for one purpose, and that is to injure people. We don't need combat weapons that can in a matter of seconds fire off 20 rounds of ammunition for legitimate hunting purposes. The only reason that these weapons are in use today is to injure people, to injure police officers, to injure law enforcement officials, and to injure the general public. A hundred rounds of ammunition was fired...rounds were fired in the Stockton, California tragedy in a matter of two minutes. A semiautomatic rifle that can fire 20 rounds or more of ammunition is much more dangerous, in fact, than a machine gun because a semiautomatic rifle can be aimed much more accurately than can a machine gun. I think that we have to be hit over the head, as a society, time and time again,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...before we act to take effective action to move against these kinds of weapons. A recent poll in the Omaha World-Herald indicated that 79 percent of Nebraskans favored a