

semi-automatic rifles. In a letter that Sara Brady, the wife of James Brady, the Presidential Press Secretary, sent to the Judiciary Committee just yesterday, it indicated that 91 percent of Americans favored some regulation or waiting period regulation on the sale of hand guns. Law enforcement in the State of Nebraska is unanimous in its support for reasonable gun regulation. And a letter from the Kearney Police Department, dated March 7th, to Chairman Chizek indicated his concern over Initiative 403 and his concern that law enforcement will not be able to effectively do its job because of Initiative 403. Another letter, dated March 9th, from the Nebraska Association of Chiefs of Police to myself in which Franklin Valente, the Chief of Police from the York Police Department said, I am a strong supporter of law abiding and competent citizens, their right to own and bear arms legally but if the wording of the amendment, this being 403, remains a problem in judiciary decisions, then I feel that it should be repealed and placed before the voters. The Martin...the Chief of Police of North Platte, Nebraska, the same letter from him. Many states throughout the country have implemented waiting periods and police checks and permit regulations. Just recently, Virginia, in the last couple of weeks, a very strong NRA state, implemented an instant check for the purchase of firearms. Oregon is looking at or is in the process of passing a 15-day waiting period for the purchase of firearms. South Dakota has a 15-day waiting period. Missouri requires a permit from a sheriff in order to purchase a firearm. Iowa has a 10 to 15-day waiting period for the purchase of hand guns. In a recent article concerning the NRA's action throughout the country, it was indicated that, quoting an official of the NRA, that the Nebraska experience was an attempt or an effort by the NRA to, I quote, "The NRA official noted that the vote in Nebraska for a constitutional amendment affirming the right to keep and bear arms is evidence of a larger movement for unrestricted gun ownership." The point is that the goals of the NRA in Initiative 403 and what the people want are diametrically opposed. I think all people in Nebraska, the vast majority of Nebraskans want to ensure, as do I, the legitimate ownership and the assurance of the legitimate ownership of firearms, the collectors and the hunters and the sportsmen, that they have the opportunity to possess firearms and to use those firearms as they have traditionally done. And I also believe and will affirm the rights of individuals to possess hand guns in their homes for their own safety. But, quite frankly, technology has advanced way beyond that traditional classic view that