

the...that has been espoused. The semi-automatic weapons, the pictures of which you have in front of you in your handout are weapons that were not...did not exist in the United States of America five years ago. There are now import licenses to import approximately 113,000 of these weapons or various types of these weapons into the United States this year. The number of weapons imported has increased geometrically since in the last three years. Our society cannot any longer stand that kind of assault. Law enforcement is fighting a war in the streets against these weapons and, quite frankly, for us as policymakers to ask those individuals to fight that war against these semi-automatic rifles is unfair and unreasonable.

SENATOR LAMB PRESIDING

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR ASHFORD: In summary, let me say this. I think that the voters of the State of Nebraska are astute. They look at issues and they listen to the arguments and then they make their decision...their decisions. Unfortunately, in 1988 the voters of Nebraska got misinformation and the misinformation was sent in to the State of Nebraska primarily from Washington and other parts of the country...

SENATOR LAMB: Thirty seconds, Senator.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...thank you...in an effort to encourage the voters to take a stand which was, unfortunately, I believe, an incorrect one. And I think if we give the voters of Nebraska an opportunity to look at this issue again, to discuss it, to listen to the dialogue, that I believe that they will make the right decision in the future. I appreciate the Judiciary Committee's action and in that...

SENATOR LAMB: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay.

SENATOR LAMB: Did you...you did withdraw this motion? The bill has been...the bill has been advanced from committee, has it not?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Senator McFarland would like to say something, 30...