

Senator Haberman and Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I know that Senator Ashford is sincere in getting this bill passed, this bill that says that it would be a seven-day waiting period before you would be able to buy a gun. He talked about this bill being emotional. Well, I guess I'd say that I feel it is emotional, perhaps from a different angle. I think it's based on a tragedy rather than common sense and the wishes of our voters in Nebraska. When they passed this constitutional amendment I don't think they realized that we would come back and say, well, yes, you have the right to bear arms, but you have to wait seven days. This proposed bill, I feel, would place a tremendous burden on the cost and the inconvenience on all of our honest citizens in Nebraska who do virtually nothing to solve the problem it claims to address. And I know Senator Ashford feels that if we adopt this seven-day waiting period our problems will all be over. I don't think they will be. I feel that it's the first step down the road to general controls on private ownerships of all types of firearms. This seven day bill I feel will just let them get their foot in the door. They talked about Sara Brady being here from Washington, D.C. here last week. And I sympathize with her. I sympathize with what happened to her husband, Mr. Brady. This happened, this tragedy happened in Washington, D.C. which controls every firearm imaginable, it controls those. But this didn't stop this from happening. This happened in Washington, D.C. And Washington, D.C. has the highest firearm death rate in the United States, so how is this bill going to help Nebraska? I don't believe it will. Senator Ashford, I understand that Omaha has a seven-day waiting period. Is that right, seven-day? Well, anyway it has a waiting period. Registration? Okay. But I wish you'd address this in your closing then, or the next time you speak, how come we have so many homicides in Omaha, if they have a gun control bill now in Omaha? What's happened there? I don't think this bill will stop the useless killings and the maiming or the crippling that its sponsors say it will stop. This bill will not guarantee the citizens of Nebraska that no criminal will have a way of purchasing a handgun again in our state, because they can go in the alleys and other places to buy these guns. But this bill will add paperwork and burden to an already overworked police department and further tie their hands and it will keep them in their office doing this paperwork instead of letting them out on the streets and on our highways preventing a crime like they are hired to do. LB 642 will further burden the