

and those are the three guidelines or the three criteria that we have put in the bill. First of all, what are the problems? I refer to the Thursday, March 8th addition of the Daily Nebraskan, and this a quote from Captain Curtis, Chief Curtis of the Lincoln Police Department. "I supported this bill mainly as a cooling off period, he says. Curtis said that in the past four years 11 people in Lincoln bought guns the day before or the day they killed themselves or someone else." Now if that isn't a problem that is a Nebraska problem, I really don't know what is. Chief Skinner mentioned in the World-Herald and to me when the bill came up before about the case where an individual went in to purchase a .357 magnum having had just assaulted a police officer two days before, and when he went in to get a permit for his gun at the Omaha Police Department, it was determined that he was, in fact, the person that assaulted the police officer and he was stopped from buying the gun. These examples proliferate across the state. There may be...I notice Senator Hefner has sent across the room a letter that shows that some police officers now think this is not a very good idea, but I would suggest to you that the vast majority of enforcement officials, law enforcement officials across the state, both county sheriffs, police departments, and the State Patrol, support LB 642 as a seven-day waiting period or as a permit to purchase which is now the amendments to LB 642. So what are we trying to...you also have in front of you a handout which is the testimony from a Mr. Kuntzelman, who is now in the Nebraska State Penal Complex, who was involved in shooting his wife, and has suggested to the people of this state that some sort of waiting period is important, and he is an inmate who has direct knowledge of his own acts and of others. Now what are we trying to accomplish by LB 642 as it now stands with these amendments if they are adopted and, basically, it is the following three things: First of all, law-abiding citizens have a right to know that only law-abiding citizens can possess firearms. They have that right. We have laws in effect which we have had in effect for years which say that felons cannot possess or own firearms. There is absolutely no way to check that now other than the filling out of a form which most felons are not going to, if they are intent upon buying a gun, are not going to fill out truthfully. In January, 18 people were stopped in the Omaha system from buying guns. In February, several persons were also stopped from buying guns in the Omaha system. We want to check...the people of the State of Nebraska want to make sure that felons are not buying guns. The only way now that we can ensure that felons are not possessing guns is if we catch them