

have skyrocketed in the past 13 years by 160 percent. So it hasn't helped out there. It hasn't helped in California. In California, crime has leaped by 121 percent. So, see, it hasn't helped in these states. In Connecticut, since 1965, homicides have increased 237 percent. Omaha, I can't see where it has helped Omaha at all, and now we are asking for the whole state to be covered by gun control laws. Well, my people don't want it. They say, no, we don't want to trade our crime rate with theirs. So I would urge you to oppose this. It is going to be, if we adopt this amendment and pass the bill, it is going to be a foot in the door. It is going to be a foot in the door and, then, next year, they are going to come back with more controls, and the following year. As I understand it, now in California, they even want to control the shotguns and rifles and I just don't think that is fair. Existing law in Nebraska prohibits felons, drug users and mental people from purchasing firearms and it has worked well. Our laws have worked well in Nebraska and so why do we want to change them? But I just think that we want to use our tax dollars to bust the drug rings, and to enforce our laws in our state. I just read an article in the paper that says that we are going to lose some of our Federal Highway Trust money if we don't slow down the speeders.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: Well, how can our law enforcement people slow down the speeders when they are doing all these other checks, but I just feel that this amendment and this bill is a first step down the road to general controls of the private ownership of all types of firearms. And so I just hope that you would oppose it. Also, our U.S. Attorney General Thornberg says that a background check on potential gun buyers is wasteful and ineffective, and he doesn't see why any state would want to pass a bill such as this. I also passed out a letter a little while ago, it says, it is an open letter to Senators of Nebraska, and it was signed by quite a few law enforcement people. A Sheriff in Cherry County, Chief of Police in Creighton, Chief of Police in Crofton, the Columbus sergeant on the Columbus Police, Knox County Deputy Sheriff, a retired captain with the Nebraska Patrol, and even a lieutenant with the Omaha Police Department says we don't need an amendment like this or a bill such as 642.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR HEFNER: So I would urge you to vote against it. Thank