

killers were unknown and at large in the community. We had no idea why it had been done. Law enforcement people said take measures to protect your families immediately, which we did. I don't think this is in the best interest of the public. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lindsay, please.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I have been kind of listening to the arguments that are being brought up about why we can't have this bill, and I would like to touch on them just a little bit. I think the first one we heard is that it is going to cut down on our police protection, that apparently that the gun business, the handgun business in western Nebraska is so booming that by requiring police departments to just do a background check would cripple them. I suggest that that maybe not be the case. If it is, then that is an area of our economy that we should be pushing a lot harder. Number two, I think we have heard that it is not going to stop all crime, and I suggest that nothing we push through in the Legislature is going to stop all crime. The Governor's ten-point package on drugs is not going to stop all drugs. It is a question whether it will make a dent in it, and there is a question that this may make a dent in it, but I think it is an attempt to do something, it is an attempt to control it, and because we think that something is not going to be a panacea and it is not going to cure all, it is not going to solve all problems that we have got should never be a reason not to pass something, should never be a reason for us to quit trying, should not be a reason for us to pass something that I think, as Senator Ashford has mentioned, probably will make a dent. We have heard that we should just keep the guns away from criminals and I keep wondering what is a criminal. A criminal is anybody in this room who, because in the heat of passion, their temper breaks and goes over the edge, grabs that handgun and blows somebody away then become a criminal. The criminals are not necessarily the people who have the records that extend from here to Omaha. Criminals are people who commit crimes. You don't become a criminal until you do. You have to keep, as Senator Ashford has mentioned, you have got to keep the guns away from those who are in a position that they may become criminals. I think that is what this is intended to attack. We are not going to solve it. We are not going to keep the guns away from drug runners and from people who have committed violent crimes in the past. There is always going to be a black market in guns. There is always going to be a black market in