

fact, I'm still vacillating to this moment as to how I will vote on the bill. But, as I looked at Senator Ashford's amendment that we just voted on, it seemed a logical...it seemed logical to me, at least, that we should support that amendment to put this bill in the shape that if it does pass, that at least it's a better bill than the original bill that was introduced. But I have had an experience in our family as well, as Senator Elmer has related his situation, where a father-in-law of mine was killed by a handgun and it makes it very difficult to be involved in a situation or debate where you dredge up those memories of a situation that has happened to your family personally. But I don't know if this bill or this bill in any shape would have saved his life, but it's one of those situations where you wonder what the worth of a handgun is in any case. I don't own any guns. I'm probably almost un-American coming from the rural area that I do that you don't own a shotgun or some kind of a gun, but I don't. I don't have any use for them but I respect the right for those folks that do have guns and want to use them for sporting or recreational use. Where I come down as concerned is when those guns are not used for the purposes of sport or hunting but rather hunting human beings and that's a concern that I have and whether or not this bill will correct that problem, as others have commented, I don't know. But, historically, I have opposed most big brother kinds of bills, such as seat belts and helmets, and I guess I would have to throw guns into this arena as well. But, as you can tell by my comments, I'm still vacillating over how I should vote on the bill. It is not well liked by many of the NRA members in my district, but, as it's written now, it seems to be at least a sensible approach to how we can keep these handguns out of the hands of folks who may misuse them and instead of using them for recreational use are attempting to use them for reasons to maim or kill other human beings, which I think no one wants to have happen. So I'm going to continue to listen to the debate here this morning, try and find out as much information as I can about the way the bill is written now and then make a decision. And it will be a decision made on a personal basis, not on a political basis.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, followed by Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, it's interesting because personal experience does have an impact on your decisions on the floor and Senator Johnson talked about his