

are reasonable and are all right after the passage of the constitutional amendment, number one. Number two, Attorney General Spire has testified at our December hearing to the effect that in his opinion, yes, it is constitutional. Dick Shugrue, a constitutional law professor at Creighton, testified that, yes, it is constitutional. In fact, both Dick Shugrue and Bob Spire went further to say that we had the duty to do these kinds of restrictions as long as they were reasonable. And so both the Supreme Court and the Attorney General have answered in the affirmative. The view of...

SENATOR HARTNETT: But you haven't got a...you haven't gotten a...you haven't asked an opinion on this?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well, not a...not...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Written opinion.

SENATOR ASHFORD: We got the Attorney General's testimony to the effect that it is constitutional. The attorney may be referring to some of the arguments in the North Platte, Lincoln County cases which were overruled by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Peterson, please, followed by Senator Schimek.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the advancement of this bill. It kind of looks like it's a rural-city issue here kind of, but I have received several letters from attorneys, one in particular from my district. One paragraph I would like to read into the record, "I am opposed to the registration as well as to the waiting period. Based upon my experience as a private practitioner, as well as my experience as a former prosecuting attorney, it is rather clear and apparent to me that the criminal element of our society will be able to obtain a handgun without the necessity of a waiting period or a registration even if they are required by law." Another letter from another attorney. He states, "Waiting periods to purchase guns has never stopped crime and never will." And goes on to relate in Washington, D.C., one of the toughest handgun laws yet some of the highest murder rates in the country. Criminals won't get jobs to earn money to buy guns so they can rob people or kill people, they steal the guns.