

Even the Omaha Police Department stated that fact on TV that the problem didn't lay with the legitimate gun owner but with the stolen gun that falls into the hands of the criminal. LB 642, I would think, would divert already scarce funds to a certain extent for law enforcement agencies fighting violent crime and drugs. I think we could...this is not going to help the matter in any way that I can see. I think it's going to take away from the drug enforcement and crime. There's going to be too much time spent on looking up a gun and probably going to cost the cities more to maybe...and with a city like Omaha to hire more people to check out these things. And if you think guns kill, what about knives, silk stockings? It's not going to stop. What about if you give someone a gun or borrow a gun? Nothing is addressed on that. I think one of the areas you ought to hit on and something ought to be done, I know a resolution a lot of times doesn't carry much weight, but I think we're zeroing in...should zero in on a TV. I think this is where lots and lots, and I hear it time and again and people talking about it, these TV programs that are constantly on, night after night, that show crime, show sex and all those areas, I think the people in the national networks ought to get the message to get a lot of this off. I think we should be concentrating more in those areas instead of this area. And we're always wanting to save lives and yet we allow the tobacco and alcohol industry to go ahead and sell, and who...what kills more people than those two and yet it doesn't seem like...we tax them a little bit more but we never put them...necessarily wound them too much. I think also this will open the door, if this passes, for future legislation. I'll bet you in two years or so there will be another idea come in here and dilute our control of our ability to have guns. I ask you to not support this bill and let's go on with other things.

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

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to speak on this bill because I want to dispel the rumors that were abounding a week or so ago that I had deliberately had gall bladder surgery so I could avoid a vote on LB 642, was not true. I have, like all of you, had many calls in my office on this bill and most of the calls have been against LB 642 and upon questioning, when I've had the opportunity to personally question those folks who are against it, they have not really given me, to my satisfaction at least,