

doesn't lend anything to the discussion, it does not advance your cause and it could give the impression that other statements you make are consisting of exaggerations, too. There have been some polls and I know the results of them will not make any difference, but just for the record and I'm sure they've been mentioned, a recent Omaha World-Herald poll had 78 percent of the people polled in support of a waiting period if we're going to make this a popularity type thing rather than a decision that the Legislature should make in formulating policy. The Lincoln Star had a poll which said not 78 percent but 87 percent support a seven-day waiting period. This bill only calls for two. If we go to another issue that has been plaguing this Legislature, a poll in Iowa indicated that 65 percent of the people do not want any additional restrictive abortion laws. So when the people in polls take a position that Senator Hefner does not like, he disregards the polls, they don't have any validity, they're not significant and should be disregarded. But if he could scrape up a poll somewhere that went along with one of his positions, then suddenly the people know more than anybody else and the polls ought to be adhered to. Frankly, I don't think the polls ought to determine what we do in the Legislature. I know they're often used, but what we need to do as a deliberative body is consider first of all whether there is a problem that is to be addressed. Then if there is, are we addressing it in an effective way or in as effective a way as is available for us in a legislative body? There is a problem with handguns. There are many homicides, many accidents, many suicides that would not occur if handguns were restricted. It is clear to all of us from our own experience that if somebody in the heat of anger is allowed to do what he or she feels like doing, either that person or somebody else can be seriously hurt or even killed. If there is the opportunity so to speak to step back, take a deep breath, simmer down, then a lot of times troubled waters can smooth and there will not be any harm to anybody. So rather than have these weapons of death, these instruments of death, so readily available, easily obtainable in a legal fashion, is a mistake. When a society would pride itself on being civilized...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and educated, concerned about the welfare of its citizens, a logical step in that direction would be to have some regulation of these instruments that cause so much death and destruction. LB 642, Senator Hefner, is a reasonable