

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes. I think a waiting period is a restriction on a person right, on a person's right.

SENATOR ASHFORD: And that that right then, what you would be saying is that that right under that analogy, just so I understand it, that right or that is...would be an unlimited right then, it would be a right...the right to bear arms is unlimited. Everybody should be able to bear arms when they want to at any time. Is that basically your feeling or?

SENATOR HEFNER: I believe...I believe you could say that, yes.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I think that, I appreciate Senator Hefner's candor. I would suggest that and if that's his belief and it obviously is, then I respect him for being straightforward with it. I don't believe that that is the view of 90 percent of Nebraskans who have said to us in many, many different ways that, yes, the right to bear arms, the right to be able to hunt and to have target practice and to have guns for the protection of home and body are rights that we have guaranteed under the Nebraska constitutional amendment. But every judicial interpretation of those kinds of provisions across the country have said, and Nebraska courts as well have said, the Supreme Court in three different opinions now that those constitutional rights can be restricted by reasonable exercise of police power. And as Senator Chambers rightly said, when we're considering legislation and the merits of legislation, the first thing that we should do or should be required to do is identify the problem. Is there a problem? And Senator Hefner suggested that in Omaha we have a lot of homicides and we do have homicides in Omaha and it's extremely regrettable that we do. And the reasons for those homicides are varied. And if we analyze each one of them I'm sure that each one of them is tragic and each one of them has reasons for them which are grounded in tragic circumstances. I believe in Nebraska last year there were 58 homicides. And of those homicides, twenty some were...27 or 28 and I don't have my file here so I can't give you the exact numbers, were crimes of passion that were not committed by criminals in the act of committing another crime like a robbery or a drug deal of some kind. Those are the deaths or the homicides in our society which I'm concerned about whether they happen in Omaha or Lincoln or North Platte or Coleridge or wherever they are, they're tragic. I think that we have sort of met our burden...