

sporting goods store. She drove to a house her husband was building and shot and killed him. She then killed herself. She had asked her three sons to come to the house after school but the children were late getting there. It is the belief of the investigating officer that if the children would have arrived on time, they too would have been shot by their mother. The Hastings police chief wrote to me of this account. He supports LB 355 and knows the positive aspects of this bill and the positive measures that it encompasses. In Grand Island, a 35-year-old woman purchased a .38 revolver from a local pawn shop at nine o'clock in the morning. She asked the clerk if she could buy just one bullet. But the clerk said he had to sell the bullets in a box of 50. She purchased the gun and the bullets and at ten o'clock a.m. she shot and killed herself. The police department still has the gun and the box of 49 bullets that are left. The Grand Island situation is certainly tragic. Chief Watson from Grand Island wrote to me and I quote. "I have been in law enforcement for almost 30 years and the incidents in which I feel a cooling off period would have prevented a tragedy have been many. You always hear the argument that if a person is determined to kill themselves, they will and this may be true in several instances. But I am also aware of instances where something or someone intervenes and prevents a person from committing suicide or shooting or killing someone else. I believe a cooling off period could be one of those ways of stopping these tragedies." Let me read to you from a letter from the Sidney police chief. I am unable...and this is a good example of those areas that said, we haven't had these problems in our area. The Sidney police chief says, I am unable to bring to mind any local incidents or cases...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...but I support this legislation. Members, it is an insult to law abiding citizens that a convicted felon or someone intent on doing harm to others can purchase a handgun with the same ease as a law abiding citizen. It is an insult to our community. Many senators who I have talked to have said to me that in my heart I support you. In my heart I support you, you are right, but I cannot vote against my constituents who have been incited by the National Rifle Association. I say to you, members, in this case vote your heart. Thank you.