

March 27, 1991

LB 355

SENATOR ASHFORD: All right, but if the NRA, Senator Hefner, had brought you this amendment which is in...now it just happens to be in LB 355, the Chizek amendment, but had this amendment been brought to you by the NRA would you have endorsed it?

SENATOR HEFNER: I doubt whether I would have.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay. All right, that's fine. I guess...

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Ashford, what's the fiscal note on this bill?

SENATOR ASHFORD: There is no fiscal impact on LB 355.

SENATOR HEFNER: Not to state government.

SENATOR ASHFORD: No, and if you talk to the Omaha people, Senator Hefner, there hasn't been a significant fiscal impact in Omaha either. Let me just...let me just make a couple of points. One is that this bill, LB 355, and the amendments thereto, is not designed to reduce all crime in Omaha or any other place in the State of Nebraska. And those states that have no gun control also have escalating crime rates and it's a terrible tragedy for our society and I wish and hope we could do more to stop it. But LB 355 is not intended to do that. As I said, in my opening, what LB 355 is intended to do very succinctly, other than provide a background check, is save one life, one, just one. If it saves one life, the inconvenience that is caused to members of the National Rifle Association, as far as I'm concerned, there is no trade-off there, Senator Hefner and others who oppose this bill. One life is worth more than a few minutes of wait to get one permit once a year, no registration. It's a bill that has been endorsed in Iowa by the NRA, partially endorsed by the NRA anyway. One permit, one year, go into any gun show you want to and buy a gun, no restrictions. What it does do is it takes that first-time gun buyer, the person in Lincoln whose letter that you've got in front of you, the mother whose son, on the day he purchased a gun, went out and shot himself after being released from the Regional Center, and that day. And his mother said if there had only been a bump in the road, if there had only been a bump in the road along the way of purchasing that gun, that boy's life might have been saved. And I would suggest to everyone here if they don't believe that, and if they don't believe that the life of one person is worth the inconvenience of a few minutes of