

examples, Senator Hefner, to you and others and I want to, you know, sort of cite a "Bushian" phrase on your example of felonies and nonfelonies. We'll take the example of a nonfelon who decides, in a heat of passion, as has happened in Nebraska in the last two years, to kill his wife; before he kills his wife, no felon; after he kills his wife, felon. Okay, that's what we're trying to address with the cooling-off period, Senator Hefner. Now on the issue of does this...does this bill stop felons? It does. One-sixth of all murders committed with handguns are committed by felons, convicted felons. I received a telephone call yesterday from a woman in Lincoln, Mrs. Ekstrum, who asked me to use her name. And she said that her father who was...her husband, I'm sorry, who had a history...who had been a convicted felon, who had been a convicted felon was able to purchase a handgun by, in fact, I'm going to read to you what she said. The police were able to...well, upon investigation, it was found that Mr. Ekstrum bought the handgun at a department store on "O" Street in Lincoln the previous day. On the federal application, he wrote somebody else's name, scratched it out and wrote his own name. He lied and said he had never been convicted of a felony because no one checked this information. Mr. Ekstrum walked out in minutes with a handgun intending to kill his wife and son. These examples go...and I...from Buffalo County in 1989, Cherry County, Colfax County, Dakota County, Dodge County, Douglas County, Hamilton County, Lancaster County, Madison County, Merrick County, Otoe County, Red Willow County, Saline County, Hastings, Lincoln, all over this state these events are happening. These events are happening. The cost is an interesting issue. The cost to this bill is minimal. No one has come in here and established that this bill has a substantial cost. Police officers and police chiefs across this state support this bill. It does not have a substantial cost. They say to me, Senator Ashford, we would much rather spend the time it takes to do a check and issue a permit than to clean up the carnage after the murder of a child and a wife than we would to have the little bit of time it takes to do a permit check. And let's just...also, Senator Schellpeper is very honest about his bill and I respect him for that. He knows the bill does not work. How can we, in good conscience, sit here and vote on a bill where the sponsor has said over and over again it does not work. The Attorney General of the United States, in a debate on Meet The Press last week, said it would be great to have an instant check but we don't have the computer records. In Nebraska, if you were born after 1956 and committed a felony