

capable of making good decisions to be free to go into...into a shop and to lay down 10 or \$20 and to walk out with something that can be as dangerous and as harmful as a cheap handgun can be. We've heard debate that handgun laws are not...are not effective, yet if you look at the facts, the facts tell you something different. If you look at other countries that have handgun registrations, you see 1983 statistics. Thirty-five people in Japan were killed with guns. Eight people in Great Britain were killed with guns. Twenty-seven people in Switzerland were killed by guns; six in Canada; seven in Sweden; ten in Australia. How many in the United States where we don't have effective handgun registration? Over 9,000 people were killed by handguns in this country in 1983. How many were killed last year? How many will be killed this year? It's going to be staggering because we don't have effective handgun legislation. Twenty-five states have handgun legislation, and if you look at the surrounding states, the bulk of the surrounding states around Nebraska have some form of handgun legislation. In Minnesota, you have a seven-day waiting period. In Iowa, you have to...you have a certificate, permit. In South Dakota, you have to wait 48 hours. In California, where President Reagan resides, you have to wait 15 days and he thinks it's a good idea because it works. The bill, as it currently stands, says you annually have to go in and get a certificate that says you're not a criminal, that you...that your background has been checked and that you appear to be a reasonable person who can reasonably go in and handle the responsibility of owning a handgun. It's reasonable.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HORGAN: It's responsible. We don't allow somebody to go in and drive a car unless we certify them. Why, in heaven's name, would we allow someone to walk in and buy a gun without certifying them? It doesn't make sense. This piece of legislation is not going to hurt the honest citizen. It's not going to be an impingement upon their rights. It's not going to affect their ability to buy, transfer or own handguns. This piece of legislation is going to say that, as a society, we're concerned about who has handguns and that we want people who can legitimately go in and buy handguns are certifiable. If we had something like this across the country, maybe we wouldn't have the John Hinckleys going in and buying guns. Maybe we wouldn't have the poor person up in the City of Columbus who went and destroyed his family and destroyed his wife because he was able