

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The next speaker is Senator Wesely. I don't see Senator Wesely. We will go to Senator Lindsay is the next speaker.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, LB 801, I heard the other day, I think Senator Schellpeper mentioned, if you want gun control vote for LB 801. I kind of got a kick out of that. Gun control from the people who opposed a ban on plastic guns and from the people who opposed the use of teflon bullets, and from the people who opposed the regulation of machine guns. I kind of get a kick out of that, that they are going to propose gun control. I find it a little bit incredible. The main reason I pressed my button though is because during Senator Hefner's closing on his IPP motion he talked about the crime rate and he gave us statistics about how Omaha's crime rate is skyrocketing even though it has got gun control and Washington's is skyrocketing even though it has got gun control. So I pulled out the Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime in Nebraska, Uniform Crime Reports from 1989, the most current one we have, and we find that the murder rate in Omaha, or excuse me, in Douglas County, one per 18,000 people and it's got gun control. Yet Cherry County, one murder per 3,600 people. It doesn't have gun control. Dakota County, one per 17,000; Merrick County, one per 8,000; Red Willow, one per 12,000; Otoe, one per 14,000. All these counties don't have gun control. Their murder rates are much higher than Douglas County's. Does that tell us that gun control works? Now is that...to use that analogy, it does. It is obvious, it is clear. I guess the point of this is, Harry Truman once said, lies, damn lies in statistics and I think that's what we'd do. If we go to those figures we talk about Washington, it has a high crime rate and it is directly attributable to because of its gun control and New York has gun control and has a high crime rate and that is why. It's nuts. We can make these statistics say whatever we want them to say including the fact that Cherry County is a very, very dangerous place to live because it does not have gun control and I suspect Howard is going to say something about that, but I'll hand him the crime reports, so...the point of that is, I don't think that the lack of gun control, excuse me, that we can use these statistics to say gun control doesn't work. I think it's pretty clear that the opposite is the case. It does work. We don't have an unreasonable restriction. LB 355 is actually a little weaker I guess than I'd like to see it. I guess I concur with Senator Chambers in that regard, but I think we do have to support