

check NRA bill. I oppose it, and...but I put my name on it to make certain that it could be considered by the body. It is my hope that we do consider LB 801 today. And it is certainly my fervent hope that LB 801 is defeated. Let me give you just a...set the scene a little bit on this issue. In the United States, and we've talked about some of these statistics in the last couple of years...couple of days, but handguns were used to murder 9,536 people in 1989; 12,701 Americans took their lives with handguns in 1987; 60 to 70 million of the firearms in circulation, in the United States of America, are handguns. Some...add...every day...every day 10 children, under the age of 18, are killed by handguns, and many more than that are injured. Every 90 minutes an American teenager commits suicide, and every 3 hours a teenager commits suicide with a handgun. In 1988, 62 of the 78 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty were killed with handguns. In 1988, handguns were used to murder 19 people in Sweden, 53 in Switzerland, 25 in Israel, 8 in Canada, 13 in Australia, and 8,915 in the United States. Handgun deaths in this country have reached epidemic proportions. Unlike other countries in the civilized world, Nebraska and the United States has no policy whatsoever to prevent death and to prevent serious injury as a result of handgun use. It is my intent, in LB 355, to put some basic crime prevention element or piece into the law of the State of Nebraska. The real issue, though, here today and the debate here today is going to focus, I think, on one issue, and that is whether or not the people of the State of Nebraska will be held hostage by the National Rifle Association. The National Rifle Association has been wracked by scandal, it has been wracked by allegations of sex discrimination, its Executive Director has resigned, 300,000 members have left the NRA since 1987. The NRA has no policy of crime prevention. In Oregon they supported a 15-day waiting period, in Iowa they supported a permit to purchase system with a 3-day waiting period, but in Nebraska they tell you the only thing that makes sense is an instant check, which we know we cannot do, we cannot perform, it's too expensive, and will not provide any cooling off period or chilling effect for the purchase of handguns in our state. The NRA is throwing on you, superimposing on you, from Rhode Island Avenue, a piece of legislation that it has concocted for your consideration. It is a fraud, it is a fraud on the people of the State of Nebraska. And I hope at some point this body will wake up to that fact, that no longer can we be held in a vise grip of tyranny by the National Rifle Association. Their day has come and gone in this country. LB 355 is the result of a