

April 4, 1991

LB 355, 801

SPEAKER BAACK: No, the call is not raised. Senator Ashford, you may close on your amendment.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford, you can close on your amendment.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you. Could I get a gavel, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'm going to give Senator Schellpeper, try to give him half of my closing. So there is no misunderstanding, I oppose this amendment, though it has my name on it. I wanted to make sure that the body had an opportunity to vote, up or down, on the instant check, and we have that opportunity now. And in fairness, I think Senator Schellpeper should have an opportunity to close on his bill, and I'm going to give him that. At the beginning of this debate I wanted...I made clear that I felt that the issue was one of reasonableness and rationality, and whether or not we are going to adopt a measure in Nebraska that makes sense, that is directed to the problems that have been raised to us, to the Judiciary Committee and to myself by people who are involved in this issue. LB 355, without this amendment, is such a measure. There is no gun registration, there is no problem with gun shows, there is no problem with checks each time a handgun is purchased, it is inexpensive. Local law enforcement, who are trained in doing identification of individuals or people who are emotionally disturbed, are the ones who issue the certificate. The instant check, on the other hand, is way too expensive, the cost, over \$180,000, the Colonel of the State Patrol has said it is impossible to administer. Virginia has certain records that they utilize in making their checks that we don't have in Nebraska. The simple facts are if we vote on the merits of the bill, if we vote on the merits of the bill there can't be any dispute that LB 801 cannot pass, it doesn't work, it doesn't solve the problems that are being addressed here, and it causes more bureaucracy and red tape. And I know in talking to gun dealers in the past week, I know what they say to me, I don't want that responsibility of doing the checks on individuals who come into my store to determine whether or not they should or should not have a handgun. LB 355 is a responsible, reasonable compromise without this amendment, without this amendment. And