

page 19, robberies by the month, strong arm, no weapon, 41 percent; knife, 14 percent; other, 8 percent; firearm, 37 percent. Thirty-seven percent of the robberies were with firearms. I would also like to ask you to look on page 21, felony assaults by type of weapon, other dangerous weapons, 41 percent; hands, fists, feet, et cetera, 21 percent; knife, 21 percent; firearms, 17 percent. Seventeen percent of the felony assaults were with firearms. Well I understand Senator Ashford's frustrations and concerns that they have in Omaha over the use of firearms. It seems like every time you pick up the paper they're either killing, stabbing, running down, shooting, hanging, or something somebody in Omaha. So I can understand his frustrations. But he's putting all of the blame on handguns, and the record, this was put out by the Nebraska Crime Commission, the Nebraska Crime Commission says felony assaults by type of weapon, firearms are only 17 percent, 17 percent. I would guess that 90 percent of those are in Omaha, 90 of the 17 percent. Then we go again to the robbery by the month, firearms, 37 percent. If they're all handguns, 90 percent of them are in Omaha. So this amendment takes care of Senator Ashford's frustrations, it takes care of Omaha's problem, they are the ones that want firearms, handguns controlled, let them have it, let them have the bill, let them have controls, if that's what they want. Evidently, their handgun control bill now, where you have to sign up to purchase a handgun, isn't working, so they want to have a new one. And Senator Ashford will stand up here and say the federal government is going to do it, if we don't do it. Well, that's fine, let the federal government do it. But all I'm saying is this, let's give Omaha their due, let's be nice to them, let's stroke them, and let's say, fine, you can have your handgun controls. If you want them, this body will not stand in your way. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Mr. President, members, it's my understanding that what this amendment does is limit the bill to population centers of over 100,000, is that correct? I think...I believe Senator Haberman introduced this amendment to the bill last year as well. Other than the fact that it's my opinion that the amendment, which I talked about a couple of weeks ago, is maybe the only alternative, is unconstitutional. But be that as it