

may, I certainly changed my mind on this issue as far as what the people outside of the urban areas want, as I've talked to people from greater Nebraska, certainly last night in Wayne, and tonight when I go to Hastings and Grand Island. I think that the problem that we have with handguns in our state is state wide. It is bad public policy to limit any sort of measure, such as this, only to urban areas. Senator Lindsay, during the last debate, made clear that certainly there are homicides with handguns as a result of emotional...people who are emotionally distraught, across the state. Seventy-five percent of all of the slayings or homicides in Nebraska are committed between family members, or friends. In 1989, 22 out of the 39 murders in the State of Nebraska were what the police or law enforcement categorize as spontaneous acts, not part of robberies or part of some sort of criminal activity, or gang activity, but spontaneous acts. And I'm not going to hand out today, because I've given you enough paper. As Senator Hall suggests, we've killed enough trees on this bill to probably not justify any passage of anything. But be that as it may, the statistics are fairly clear in Nebraska that the crime rate, at least the murder rate or the homicide rate is relatively low, however that the crime...the homicide rate, or the suicide rate, amongst family members and persons who know each other, is incredibly high, 75 percent. And of the murders or homicides in Nebraska, 41 percent are committed with handguns. Handguns are a problem across our state. My concern about the National Rifle Association is not about the members of the National Rifle Association. I've gotten lots of encouragement from members in my district, and certainly a couple people last night in Wayne who are members. My concern is about the organization in Washington which changes its position on legislation, depending upon which state they're in, whether they're in Oregon, whether they're in Washington, it changes depending upon what the political winds are. The concern of the national organization is membership. They've lost a substantial number of members in the last three years. I believe that LB 355, as now written, addresses the concerns of law abiding citizens in our state who wish, and want, and should own firearms, because they are the ones that know how to use them. It allows them to buy any handgun that they want, for a year, with a certificate. But it does provide that cooling off period, that cooling off effect for first-time gun buyers. That kind of policy should not be limited to Omaha and Lincoln and Bellevue. When I made that proposal, in the press a couple weeks ago, it was mostly tongue in cheek. It was frustrating not to be able to get the support,