

the hands of the criminal. He's going to buy them on the street. It's not going to solve anything. What they're saying is if they had a seven-day waiting period, maybe Mr. Brady wouldn't have been shot. Maybe he wouldn't have been. Well, maybe he would have been if they would have waited two weeks, bought the gun and waited another two weeks. So I think this is emotional. I think it's a bad bill. We don't need it, but if we're going to do it, I'm going to do Senator Chambers a favor, that's why I introduced the amendment, to let Omaha have this bill, to let Omaha have it. Senator Chambers, I'm trying to do you a favor. I'm trying to do Senator Ashford a favor. I'm willing to vote for the bill if the amendment is adopted and you can have your handgun control. Evidently the one you have now isn't working so I will help you with this one. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Haberman, for that offer but, for the record, I will have to turn you down. I would...I'm going to give Senator Chambers a few minutes of my time to respond. But I want to just mention a couple of examples that I may have mentioned earlier but are exactly the kinds of cases that I'm trying to address in LB 355. There are some glaring ones. One of the most glaring is the 1979 Blair case where a 26-year-old convicted felon, who had been convicted for using explosives to commit a felony, purchased a handgun and a 1,000 rounds of ammunition at a local discount store. He then held several hostages at gun point in a trailer house. Fortunately, police officers were able to talk the man into releasing his handgun and being taken into custody. The point of that and other examples is only to show that, this, and that is that LB 355 is not a panacea, it is not intended to stop all crime. What it is intended to do is to create at least some public policy in our state that deals with prevention of handgun-related violent crime. There are many, many examples. I have cited some of them, the Blair, the Hastings, the Grand Island examples. What we're trying to address in this bill is not the irradiation of crime, not the irradiation of crime in Nebraska or anywhere else, it's to try to put an ounce of prevention. And, as law enforcement officers across the state have told me, we would much rather prevent a crime like the Grand Island case or the Hastings case than to clean up the mess afterwards. An ounce of prevention does mean a pound of cure in this case because if we can prevent one Grand Island case, one