

any registration at all, whatsoever, and that is another misconception that keeps getting brought back to me time after time, as I go out and talk about LB 355. In essence, I think the difference in philosophy between what I am trying to do and what the NRA is trying to prevent is that I believe that there is in the area of handgun, handguns only, an issue of crime prevention. We deal with crime prevention every year in this body dealing with several bills that deal with trying to prevent crime, whether it be funding children and family issues, or whether it be dealing with drug enforcement, or drug education. What we try to do in this body is come up with reasonable policies to prevent crime. Clearly, LB 355, by keeping handguns away from felons, by hopefully providing some brief waiting period for individuals who are intent upon doing crime to themselves or to other people prevents crime. The NRA throughout the state talks in terms of greater penalties. We need to have mandatory penalties and we need to enforce the death penalty. I've heard that over and over again. I suggest to you that there are two prongs to this issue. Crime prevention is very, very important. We have no regulation in this state, whatsoever, dealing with crime prevention and guns. We have no crime prevention or measures which deal with the possession of handguns in our state, so convicted felons can easily acquire them over the counter. Mentally distraught individuals can acquire them over the counter. Again, in conclusion, I appreciate, though, Senator Schellpeper's agreement to bracket this bill and the Speaker's agreement to have this bill bracketed. Again, I invite the NRA to try to get the true facts out about the two bills, and, hopefully, by May 8, and I would say, also, that even if the Brady bill does not pass, LB 355 should pass. We should deal with handguns in our state. The fact that the federal government may get bogged down and the NRA may be effective in stopping that bill from passage, it doesn't mean that we, in this state, cannot deal reasonably with the crime prevention issue of handguns in our society. Handguns kill a lot of people in Nebraska every year, and I implore this body to continue to have an open mind on this, and I will, hopefully, bring back more information from the people of the State of Nebraska on how they want to deal with this problem when this bill comes up for debate again on May 8. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. We will now proceed to vote on the motion to bracket until May 8. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.