

a sponsor of this bill from the very beginning. And two years ago it sounded so simple to me to control handguns and keep them from the people who should not have them, because of all the things that happen when someone is angry, or has a mental problem, and so on, and runs to the gun store and buys a gun and goes out and shoots somebody or themselves. Initially, two years ago, all my calls were for handgun control. And then when the gun owners were alerted, that changed. Now, by and large, most of my calls and contacts come from people who are gun owners and who really don't want gun control. A week ago, and Brad, you forgot, you came to Lincoln, too, 40th and South we had a wonderful town hall, it was great, I really thoroughly enjoyed that evening. I met so many of these people that I had known some of them personally before, but I met a lot of men and women that I hadn't known and that I knew by telephone, perhaps, and not otherwise. And we had a really good, almost two hour meeting, and I learned a lot about what gun owners do, the people who like to go to the gun range with their pistols and do target practice, the people who are antique gun collectors, who are...the people who are trap shooters, and of course that's not a handgun, but there is a skill and a sport among gun...in this particular phase of our living. I don't like guns, I won't have one in the house. I simply do not like guns. But I'm trying very hard to understand those people who do use them in a responsible way and try to...and have fun with them. So for me a gun wouldn't be fun, but they do enjoy them, and it is a skill, and they go to competitions and so on and enjoy the camaraderie with other gun owners. What I'd like to ask is a couple of questions, because I want some of these things on the record, because those people who were there a week ago I still don't think, Brad, they don't want gun control. So I want them to understand, this morning, what is happening, and so I just want to ask you two, three questions to be sure we have this down on the record, so they understand why we're voting this way today. This will overcome anything that comes out of the federal, will it? So...and the Nebraska bill will...whatever Congress does, the Nebraska bill will be for Nebraskans. The other one, any guns that anybody has now, they don't have to run down and get a certificate for ownership. Anybody...I mean they have guns now, they don't have to run down and get a certificate for ownership. The other thing, if you go into the police department, like if I went down this morning and said I wanted a certificate to buy a gun, do they give it to me right away?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, after...