

violence to a person. But usually the term assault is viewed by most people as including the application of force or violence of some kind. Since there are several offenses in Nebraska that require people to spend time in the penitentiary, but have nothing whatsoever to do with violence or the threat of it, which should not keep from such an individual what is considered a legitimate means of self-defense, I don't think that merely having been convicted of a felony without differentiation among felonies should keep a person from owning a firearm. I've heard all of the discussion that has taken place on this bill. I've not had that much to say, because although my name is on 355 as a co-sponsor, I've watched that bill go through such changes that it looks, as people have said, nothing like what it originally began as. I'm not going to take my name off the bill. I'm not going to speak against the bill in terms of telling people not to vote for it. But it is in a form that is very tempting to somebody like me to make it a target for ridicule, derision, satire and jesting. I'm going to resist that temptation this morning, Senator Baack. Senator Labeledz, there is a song that says, yield not to temptation, I'm going to pay attention to that song, and I am not going to yield to that temptation. It has been said on this floor repeatedly that a firearm is a means of self-defense, a means of defending the home. If a person is convicted of the most heinous offense and is released from prison, or even while in prison that person does not lose the right to defend himself or herself, any legitimate lawful means of self-defense should be available to that person, in my opinion. I know that most on the floor would not share that belief or that view. The discussion of guns and their use will be tied to so many emotional, political, and economic considerations that very dogmatic positions usually have to be adopted. Keep guns out of the hands of felons without there being any discussion of what constitutes being a felon, without discussion of what constitutes a felony. So, if a person has written bad checks totalling a certain amount of money, that person is a felon, and that person would be deprived of a right to own or possess a firearm. If a person embezzles, that person can be a felon and deprived of the right to own a firearm, or commits fraud, or any of a number of other offenses that have nothing to do with violence. As a matter of fact, if it's possible, without being misunderstood, we should encourage people who are of a criminal turn of mind to study nonviolent ways to commit their crimes, and encourage them to commit only economic crimes, if they must violate the law. Tell them to use the methods of the con person, gain an individual's confidence,