

persuade them to give up voluntarily the property that you want to receive from them rather than resorting to the back alley method of a stick, a gun, or a knife, or the threat of some kind of physical force. But since we cannot recommend, most people on this floor cannot, that any crime be committed in any fashion, what I'm talking about might...may seem unreasonable. But I'm sure if a person were to be a victim of a crime, he or she would rather be persuaded to part with his or her valuables than have somebody go up side the head with a pistol or a blackjack or a stick. Now this amendment would say that if a person has committed an offense that we define as a felony, and that offense does not involve violence, or the threat of violence, that person should not be deprived of the right to own, possess, or purchase a firearm. There are other civil rights that I think ought not just across the board be denied every person convicted of a felony. When dealing with criminal law, which has to do with making conduct punishable by the state and talking about the consequences of that conduct, there is a tendency to operate with the meat ax approach. These people have been placed outside the pale by engaging in certain conduct, being caught, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced. The commission of the conduct is not bad. Getting caught, convicted and sentenced is what is bad. So I would like somebody to stand on the floor and tell me, in all seriousness, that they believe a person is deprived of the right to defend himself or herself as a result of being convicted of a felony, any felony. And if a person does have the right to self-defense, one of the strongest arguments given against gun control is that a gun is an instrumentality of self-defense. I don't see how you constitutionally could deprive a person of that legitimate means of self-defense. Senator Peterson read from a statement which said that regulating gun ownership infringes on the Constitution, or transgresses against the Constitution. Senator Peterson, are you anywhere in the Chamber? I guess he's not. Let me ask Senator Schellpeper a question. And, Senator Schellpeper, you did not make the statement exactly in the words that I attributed to Senator Peterson, which he did read this morning, but I'll ask you this question. Do you think...Would you answer a question?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Sure.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schellpeper, would you respond?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Sure.