

150 or 200 or 10 gun owners and gun dealers and there was an awful lot of antipathy, awful lot of anger, but as we discussed the issues and we discussed the need to do something in Nebraska in a reasonable way and as we traded ideas, I remember I suppose most specially in Grand Island when one of the gentlemen who had actually been at the Hastings meeting as well came up to me with an NRA cup, a coffee mug, and gave it to me and said, well, whenever you decide to get rid of your effort to...for gun control you can drink coffee out of this cup. Well, I went ahead and drank coffee out of the cup anyway and just to show you how independent I am. But it's a nice cup and I appreciate having it. And also in North Platte I had a very angry crowd and...but at the end of the session, I know Wild Bill was there. He didn't say much but he was there, but it was a very interesting crowd and they had a lot of angry things to say. But as the meeting got...got over, in the last five or 10 minutes people came up to me and said, first of all, how much they appreciated someone from Omaha actually coming to North Platte to talk to them. And then an awful...not all of them, certainly, and I didn't get a 100 percent and none of you members when you go back to your districts are going to get a 100 percent support on LB 355-801. You're just not going to get it because there are people out there that don't want any gun control. But the fact of the matter is that the federal government is not only...is, in effect, imposing on the states, I would say to some degree, the opportunity at least at this point to do something rational in their states. So that's why we're here today. But you're going to get people who are gun owners, who are licensed gun dealers...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...who are going to come up to you and say, this is a reasonable compromise, I'm no longer as frustrated. The frustration that people have out there is not so much over gun control, though there's some of that, but it's because we don't talk to them. We don't talk to them, we don't ask for their opinions and their views. And one thing I learned more than anything else, and it's been the greatest lesson that I've learned since I've been here, is to go to Scottsbluff and to go to Kearney and to go to those places in Wayne and ask their opinions. And once they give their opinions and have had an opportunity to talk to an urban senator who probably doesn't understand half of their concerns and issues certainly as well as I should, they start to understand that government is there