

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 1999 LB 476

person has a first time. Paranoia, for example, has a progression. Just because you say somebody who's been in a mental institution or has had an identified legal problem cannot carry a concealed weapon, that does not mean that people who are mentally unstable are being, in fact, prohibited from carrying concealed weapons. How do you know when a person is going to go off the deep end? Before they do, they are people who legally can carry concealed weapons. I think common sense would suggest that the immediate availability of deadly force will cause more deadly misunderstandings with police. Recent incidents in Nebraska suggest that, and I'll talk about that later. And, finally, I think common sense would suggest that the immediate availability of deadly force, when drunk or on drugs,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...will lead to more incidents and more crime and, on balance, these harms are not as great as any incremental additional protection to individuals. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. For discussion on this component of the divided committee amendments to LB 476, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, at last we are here with the worst bill which has ever been presented to this Legislature during my 29 years as a member. This is a terrible day. It is a terrible bill, and I shall do everything I can to hinder it, to cripple it, ultimately to kill it. To Senator Schellpeper and the others who are on this bill who have felt unrelenting pressure to join their name to this bill, I feel sorry for you in a way. Because you all are my colleagues, though I've had my differences with you, I do regret that you could be placed under such terrible pressure that you would bring legislation like this at a time when we're talking to young people about avoiding violence, talking about resort to the gun not being the way to solve problems. Now I have to tell you all something that astonishes, astounds, amazes, flabbergasts, and even surprises me. I had thought when this bill was first brought that if we didn't enact it right at that session all the people in rural Nebraska would be wiped off the face of the earth by criminals. You should have seen them