

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

March 24, 1999 LB 476

coming before the Judiciary Committee--great big strapping white men, the cream of the crop, terrified. They need to carry guns. They are so chicken-hearted, afraid to walk down the streets because somebody may jump out of a door frame, somebody may leap from behind a fence post and kill them. The gun is an extension of their weak egos, yet, all these people are not dead. They're still here. They were not shot down on the street. This bill has nothing to do with protection. This has to do with that notion of wanting to carry a gun to feel more important, to feel somehow manly in the sense that that word used to carry of one who is courageous, strong, forceful and so forth. But to acknowledge such overweening cowardice is surprising to me. I mean these are men from out in the western part of the state where men are men, I mean great big strong men who protect their women, and they come down here sniveling, crying and full of terror. And here I am in the city where guns are supposed to be available like raindrops that keep falling on your head. Not only do I not carry a weapon, I don't even wear clothing that would conceal a weapon. I couldn't conceal a toothpick. There are people who are threatening me every day by phone, by mail. They don't come to me face to face. (Laugh) Maybe if they could carry a concealed weapon, I'd confront them. And I'm not talking about give me the right to carry a pistol in my pocket or under my shirt, 'cause I'm not a coward and I don't need a gun to signify that I'm...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...a man. I made a misstatement. I said these guns would become an extension of the ego of these weak, sniveling, cowardly men. No, these weak, sniveling, cowardly men would become extensions of the gun. they walk around here terrified, as they told the Judiciary Committee. They walk around here terrified as they've indicated in their phone calls, because somebody, apparently in the neighborhood or their family, has them living in stark terror. So they need to be able to get that gun and then, when they walk down the street and see that person who has them in terror, they can whip the pistol out, or they can just flip their coat open. Or those who wear these long dusters that go down to their heels, they can unfurl that duster and...