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know for sure that I would apply for a permit, but I probably would. What irritates me is that the knee-jerking reaction of opponents of your bill, including the Omaha World-Herald, who makes assumptions without even, of course, a glance at the statistics. Criminals have guns on their persons now. The law will make no difference to them. It will, however, allow a citizen, given the proper training, to carry a concealed weapon when he or she feels its necessary. I encourage you to keep up the work and make this the year that Nebraska joins the other states who have adopted concealed carry laws. I encourage you to see this law through all the filibusters by your opponents. And as long as we're looking...I don't like to look at statistics, because I, as I've said before, I feel as though that they can...they can be manipulated, in some cases. Just a couple here. States with the right to carry laws have lower violent crime rates. On average they have a 24 percent lower total violent crime rate, a 19 percent lower homicide rate, a 39 percent lower robbery rate, and a 19 percent lower aggravated assault rate compared to other states and the District of Columbia. The nine states with the lowest violent crime rates are the right to carry states, and that came from the FBI. Restrictive carry laws...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...have been on the books for decades, and have never reduced crime. Washington, D.C. and Chicago have banned guns; Detroit, Baltimore are four of the five major cities with the highest homicide rates. Baltimore had more murders in 1998 than in 1997. Chicago reports that it has had murders in the first half of 1998...they had more of them in the first half of 1998 compared to 1997. Los Angeles remains among the ten major United States cities with the highest homicide rates. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Schmitt, followed by Senators Schimek and Kiel. Senator Schmitt.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. President, members. I just guess wanted to speak a little bit here and get back to the amendment that we have before us here. I was just visiting with Senator Tyson and Senator Chambers here a little bit. And I told