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Justice Taney pointed out that one of the things that a free man has as a right is the right to bear arms, and that that is what would happen if a black man could be a free citizen. In 1866, Congress passed the Freedmen's Bureau Act. And one of the things that was bitterly resented by the Southerners, who at that time were under the Reconstruction, was that it allowed black men to carry arms. And the reason that it upset them was because free men can bear arms; slaves can't, and they hadn't made that transition in their mind. And we'll talk about that later on too. For the reasons that I've given you, though, I think that this bill should go forward to Select, and then to Final. And I urge your support for it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. You've heard the opening on LB 265. (Visitors introduced.) Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Brashear, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments to LB 265, with AM0768. (Legislative Journal page 1022.)

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, thank you. Members of the body, since 1997, which is the year I began serving as Chairman of your Judiciary Committee, we've always had at least one bill each biennium pertaining to the adoption of a concealed handgun license act. Each was referenced to the Judiciary Committee. In 1995...pardon me, in 1997-98, the Ninety-Fifth Legislative Session, Senator Stan Schellpeper introduced the bill; in the Ninety-Sixth Session, Senator Ray Janssen; and in the Ninety-Seventh Session, Senator Tyson, who has done it again for this session. In addition to the work of your committee as represented by the committee amendment, the committee amendment incorporates work that has been done by prior committees with regard to over the past three bienniums, or biennia, if you will. Several provisions are added to the original form of LB 265 by the committee amendment. I'll try and summarize those. We think we make it a better bill, in the opinion of a majority of the committee, and this is supported by six members of the committee. First of all, in order to apply for a permit to carry a concealed handgun, the applicant must have completed a handgun training and safety course within three years of the application. The Nebraska State Patrol is charged with the responsibility of developing minimum safety and training