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FLOOR DEBATE

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come up with something that is a compromise that restores a little bit of freedom to the people of Nebraska. I think if you look at the...at any product that's available to society that could be used in a dangerous manner, there might be some policies that folks would want to look at, but when you look at the use of fertilizer that was used in a very destructive way in Oklahoma City, do we seek to ban fertilizer? No. There's a good use for it. And the fact that a firearm exists doesn't even mean that it's going to be fired. We're a civilized society and we have laws reflective of that, and we can come up with something that restores a little bit of freedom to the people of Nebraska. And I hope that we can keep the debate going here because I think it's important that we have this opportunity and hopefully we can have productive debate over the next few hours and hopefully advance the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator. Senator Mossey.

SENATOR MOSSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like Senator Smith, I was going to wait to engage in the debate but I felt compelled to after Senator Schimek opened up the arena of law enforcement. I have many friends in law enforcement and have talked to a lot of them. As a matter of fact, Senator Tyson can vouch for that. When we first started with this bill, I said do you want law enforcement's support on this bill? And he said, yes. I said, well, we need to put in training. We need to address officers' safety. Not everybody grew up carrying handguns. And that is the reason why if you look at the committee statement you'll see no law enforcement in opposition except for the Police Chief Association, which does not represent the officers working in the street. The Fraternal Order of Police was neutral because they are awaiting training and other requirements that we put in the bill which were met. In fact, the Chief of Police of Omaha and the mayor submitted a letter against the bill for two reasons only; because there was no training, and there was no way of law enforcement knowing if the people had concealed handguns on them. And we addressed both of those issues. As a matter of fact, when I talked to most of my friends and said, you'll know prior to making a traffic stop, before you approach