

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

March 31, 2003 LB 265

training, people with extensive and updated law enforcement training to be carrying those weapons, after he dropped the hostage, there were only five bullets in him. And there were over a dozen people firing. Now I'm not real confident that having a lot of people in the public running around with guns are going to be defending anyone, particularly appropriately, and even when people have a lot of training. It's tough, it's hard, and during that same time, the sheriff asked me to go to a session on risk problems for lawsuits in law enforcement departments. And I heard a speaker that they had brought in one morning tell story after story of the problems that happen when people start firing. And we want...and how they need to train people adequately on firing weapons so that their own people don't get hurt and others don't get hurt. And I was just looking through what we call the "Gun Book" which is all the articles that we've kept over the years on this, and as I was flipping through it, I just came across one on Britain and a big debate that happened because they wanted the police to start carrying weapons, and they didn't want to do it. And so I don't have a problem with people who legally need to carry weapons. I don't have a problem with people who want to hunt. But I do have a problem with the handgun issues because the guns are there for one purpose, to injure or kill someone else. They are meant for shooting at people. And that's all we hear about here. Do we want more people carrying these guns with limited training? Do we want them in our grocery stores? Do we want them wherever we go? Do we want to worry about...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...them? Now there are restrictions on some places they can take them, that's another amendment. But we should not be expanding the number of handguns that are going to be all over the place in Nebraska. It's not going to make a safer situation. It's going to be more dangerous. Nebraska used to have a child death review team, and I was just looking at one of their last reports. And one of the three things that they recommended was more household safety because of children being killed by firearms in their own homes. When we think about this bill, and think about not only the person who wants to carry the gun but by the children and grandchildren and