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LB 265

thought its chances were, and was it going to pass. And then he said, how do you feel about the issue? And I said, well, I'm opposed to it, both personally and politically. And I had already referenced the fact to him that I had sent out a newsletter to my constituents this past month and had asked a lot of questions, but hadn't asked about concealed carry, and I wished that I had. And at that point, one gentleman in the audience said, well, would you be interested to know how many people in this room would like to be able to carry concealed handguns? And I said yes. And so he asked everybody in the room who were in favor to raise their hands. And not one person in that group of forty-some men raised their hand. And then he asked...and this is probably not as important a question, but then he asked, do you think that...or would you like to have other people be able to conceal carry. And again, not one hand went up. Now, I'll grant you a little bit of an intimidation factor. Maybe there was one person in that room who really wanted to raise his hand but didn't because the others didn't. But I will tell you that there was a National Guardsman in that group. I think they were all, as much as I could tell, pretty much opposed to this kind of public policy. Were they representative of Nebraskans in general? I don't know. But I do know that they were united in how they felt about this bill. I do think that when you get into the urban areas, it causes a lot more consternation than it perhaps does in Senator Combs' district or some of the others. And we're making state policy here. And we want to do the best we can for our citizens. And just because you have some very vocal groups as proponents of this policy doesn't mean it's right. I found a great quote of Edmund Burke's the other day. And it's...as you all know, he was a famous English parliamentarian. And he said, it is a general popular error to imagine the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare. And I think that's oftentimes true. We have to be able to separate the wheat from the chaff. Is that what...is that the quote?

**SPEAKER BROMM:** One minute.

**SENATOR SCHIMEK:** Have to be able to understand when the voices that are loud are not necessarily the voices of the majority. And I would ask you to think about that. I know we're probably