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FLOOR DEBATE

March 31, 2003 LB 265

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I'd rise to oppose these amendments that go on LB 265. And I would support the bill as it is written. I think it's probably something that either doesn't have to be done or has to be done, either way. I think the sun will still come up tomorrow whether or not we pass this bill. As restrictive as the bill is written, there's only going to be dedicated people that want to carry a handgun, will apply for this permit. First of all, you have to have... pay the 60 bucks. And you got to have a different kind of driver's license. It's only good for four years. There's a lot of restrictions in here that not your average person is going to run down and do that. They might do it the first time, but I'll bet you in four years from now they're not going to do it. When they start carrying these .45s that Senator Mines said, I tell you what, I've probably carried a gun as far as anybody has, and I tell you, them things do have a tendency to chafe after it gets hot. So this is something that will be something... it will be new, and something people will do for a while. I really don't have any problems with guns. I have problems with people. And when you mentioned whether you have to check out people to see their mental capacity or anything like that, at the present time, they can strap a gun on and wear it downtown fully loaded, and they don't have to have a certificate that says they're sane. So that is something that I think the bill will help do, because you do have to go get your permit from the county sheriff, and you are supposed to be investigated. My problem with the bill in the early beginning, and I've told my constituents that, that you have to be very careful of this, because I think it's another way to get our handguns registered. So us dyed-in-the-wool folks that really like to have our guns and not have anybody know that we do have them, I myself would never put in for the permit. I think in the 49th District, where I live, I suppose three-fourths of the pickups out there have guns in them. They're under the seat, they're behind the seat. Some of them are in gun racks where you can see them. Whether the bill passes or not, I think there will still be three-quarters of the pickups with guns in them. So the way the thing stands, I would