

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

April 1, 2003

LB 265

discussion, he said it's about 50-50 among law enforcement officials. Now I've talked to urban policemen and generally their message has been to me if I see or detect a gun now, I know something is wrong and I take immediate steps to defend myself. If there's a gun, I presume it's illegal and I act accordingly and I draw my weapon and I get ready to protect myself because the shoe is on the foot that says the gun is wrong and you've got to make a case why the gun is right and I start instinctively from the notion, gun, danger, protect yourself. The cops have told me, look, if I wind up dealing with the public who has a right to carry the gun and that moment comes and I've just been berated because I was harsh on somebody else or I was reprimanded because I showed too much excessive zeal the last couple of times I pulled somebody over and I saw a gun, and I build into myself a two- or three-second delay where I start weighing in my head do I protect myself or not, do I draw a gun or not, do I tell them to spread them, do I order them out of the car or do I wait to see if they've got a good excuse and a permit to carry? If I build a two- or three-second delay in the carrying out of my job, my job is not as safe. And when you inject this, you inject what has been a working assumption for me that's worked well, which is if I think there's a gun or detect there's a gun I assume a wrongdoer rather than a permit carrier, and I protect myself immediately. That message hasn't changed since the debate has begun several years ago. That's the message I hear. Could be different for others, but I'm going to guess on the half that are against the idea that's probably their rationale. It's the one I've heard more often than others. A second thought I want to respond to was an exchange between Senator Tyson and Senator Thompson, and when Senator Thompson said...or when Senator Tyson said, what do my rights have to do with your beliefs, as I recall, something along those lines. I'll tell you where I think your rights start and end, and that's with either the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, or the Constitution of the state of Nebraska, neither of which require a concealed carry law be passed. At best, you have a right to carry a weapon consistent with the state laws. However, I'll tell you where the non-right of carrying a concealed weapon conflicts with my beliefs or the beliefs of others, and that is you're not asking to carry a gun; you're asking to conceal a gun. You're claiming that your right