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LB 265

hall to the lounge one April afternoon, and seeing on TV what happened in Littleton, Colorado. Guns were not the cause of that crime. The father of one of the victims testified to Congress that guns are not the cause or were not the cause of that crime. They later found propane bottles in Columbine, in the high school, in a very calculated effort to do more harm than they did to end the lives of the 15 teenagers that did lose their life. They used propane bottles. Are we going to blame the barbecue industry because propane bottles were very calculated...in a calculated manner placed around that building? Absolutely not. We need to support LB 265 so that we can restore just a little bit of freedom. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Combs. Mines, Senator Mines, excuse me. Senator Mines, and this is your third time, Senator Mines. I am sorry.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. I'll be much more interesting than Senator Combs. Thank you, with all due respect. Senator Smith just brought up a couple of points that I was, frankly was going to make argument on the other side. He suggests that we don't have a closed Capitol and that the reason we don't is we want this to be a free and open society. Although if you look in the bill, we're not going to allow handguns, concealed weapons in this State Capitol. We won't allow state wea...or state employees, where state employees are housed, to carry concealed weapons. In fact, where any government meets, there will be a prohibition against carrying concealed weapons into those places. Now why are we afraid of allowing people to carry concealed weapons into where government meets? Well, I think it makes sense. Now is it all right for individuals to carry concealed weapons into movie theaters? Well, we don't name them in here. Is it all right for people to carry concealed and loaded weapons into restaurants? Well, we don't name that here either. And I suggest that if it's all right to carry concealed weapons and it's our dutiful right to do so. perhaps we should allow concealed weapons in this very Capitol. Why are we special? Now I had my staff look at several of the weapons that could be carried in a concealed manner, and they came up with dozens and dozens, but there are two that caught my eye. First, Senator Smith mentioned the