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FLOOR DEBATE

April 25, 2003      LB 265

a person that I know very well in Omaha and she sends along some statistics that I think are very interesting. She says that the Nebraska Crime Commission's latest statistics show that in the year 2001, 6,396 cars were stolen in the state. Many more thousands of cars were vandalized and purses were stolen. With the passage of this bill, which allows concealed handguns to be left in cars, it is likely that thousands of legal handguns stolen from these cars and purses would, thus, enter the criminal world. Nebraska children have the right to be protected by this state. LB 265 would flagrantly endanger that right. Picture this: a purse with a loaded handgun or two is brought into a day-care center and left on the table or floor. Or this: a neighbor who is car-pooling your child for the week...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...has several loaded, unlocked, concealed handguns under the seat or in the glove compartment. Children and teens are curious, often irresponsible and impulsive, and get into our purses, our glove compartments and so forth. No doubt even more Nebraska children will die than already do from increased accidental shootings, or will take their own lives because of this deadly access. If safety locks had been in place on the rifles and handguns used in the shootings in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Springfield or Columbine, Colorado, scores of children may have been spared death or injury when their fellow students opened fire on them. And I would suggest that this could be an unintended consequence of such legislation and I am strongly opposed. If you will note in the World-Herald on-line poll...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...3,254 noes, 1,752 yeses. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President...I mean Mr. Speaker. And Senator Schimek, I'm sure Senator Tyson would tell you, so you have 3,254 who said no? And 1,752 who said