

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

April 28, 2003 IB 265

heavily armed. And as you read the journal accounts of people going across the trail, firearms played a large role in what they talked about or what they chose to write about. But, you know, I would say that four-fifths, 90 to 95 percent of the stories related to firearms did not have to do with persons injured by hostile forces with firearms, did not have to do with persons injured by criminal elements having firearms. Almost all of the injuries had to do with accidents to children and adults alike from having firearms so accessible. And it had to do also with crimes of passion committed because a firearm was readily accessible and handy. And to me, the possibility or the probability or the inevitability really of additional accidents and additional crimes of passion, whether it's road rage, somebody pulls concealed weapon because he has it at the moment when he is offended by what somebody did on the road, or he's offended by what somebody did in his bedroom, or maybe he's an unstable personality on the edge anyway mentally and all of a sudden he goes over and is offended by something that wouldn't offend you or I. But the weapon, if it's available and readily accessible, may be pulled and may be used. If you have concealed weapons, you're encouraging the purchase and expansion and the carrying of weapons. And I oppose this kind of bill because I think that the increased injuries that will result from having many more guns close at hand, the increased injuries that will occur from accidents and from crimes of passion, crimes of the moment, people losing control for a few seconds, good people sometimes, that those things will outweigh the injuries prevented by calculated criminal activity. I don't think that there is any evidence that suggests otherwise. So on that basis, I oppose the bill. And I think it's very interesting to reflect upon the fact that in 1876, or whenever it was that the concealed weapons...no concealed weapons law was passed or we passed into that phase, that the majority of the people in Nebraska were against...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...concealed weapons and these were the people who experienced the other side of the question. They actually experienced a society where weapons were carried openly and weapons were carried concealed and they didn't think it was a