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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 454

had mental illness problems in the past. The second change, again, has to do with one of these criterias of an applicant. Subsection (7) says, shall not have had violations of any law of this state relating to firearms, unuseful use of a...unlawful use of a weapon, or controlled substance or any similar laws of another jurisdiction in the five years preceding the date of application. Again, I changed this from five years to ten years. Again, the theory of the matter is the same, that if we're going to have a permit system and allow concealed weapons, then we ought to start from the very cautious position of being sure that those who have the permit are, indeed, our good citizens. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on AM1233. Open for discussion. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Flood and Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the Beutler amendment, and would like to take the opportunity to express some of my reservations about the overall underlying bill. I have been in this Legislature now for, I guess, well, 17 years, and this has been a frequent topic on the legislative floor. And what I think is going to happen here is that most of us will have come to this debate with preconceived notions, and all the amount of debate in the world is probably not going to change the outcome of a vote. But there may be a few on this floor who have not made up their minds yet about the bill, or if they have, they're not absolutely wed to it. So I think it's important to have the debate. I think it will probably last for eight hours. I have to tell you I will strongly oppose the bill. I believe that it encourages what is already prevalent in our society, and that is a more violent attitude. I don't think that it's healthy for our young people to grow up in an atmosphere where everybody feels like they have to have a gun in their pocket to protect themselves. And maybe I'm alone in this, but I don't think so. I'm not convinced that the people of Nebraska would support this bill, and I know that that may be more true in some parts of the state than others. But I want to share with you the results for, so far, of a survey that I've been doing in my own district. And the survey has multiple questions on it,