

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

May 6, 2005

LB 454

I fully expect that Senator Chambers is going to go a little crazy, by what I'm going to say, and maybe Senator Schimek. No, I don't think you, Senator Schimek. In the last few months we have had a spate of shootings. Some of them have taken place in states that have concealed carry legislation. One of the arguments for concealed carry is that by virtue of the fear that is engendered in a person who has a gun, that anybody out there could be carrying at any time, that's going to stop them from shooting. But that hasn't apparently worked. In the last few months there's been one shooting spree that has been stopped, and it was stopped, not with another gun, not with the fear of another gun. It was stopped by a woman who reached out in love to the person that was holding her at gunpoint, and started talking to him out of love and out of Christianity. And that is what eventually stopped the shooting. What...you know, if we believe and perpetuate this idea that we are going to stop violence by responding violently, it is in absolute contrast to everything that the New Testament talks about. Jesus said, you have heard that it was said, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but I say to you, do not resist one who is evil, but if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak, as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give it to him who begs for a meal, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy, but I say to you, love your enemies and pray for them...pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be the sons of your Father who is in heaven. And I just question whether, by participating...by all of us participating in the idea that we can make ourselves safer by the personal nuclear proliferation, whether we're not feeding into some sort of evil. (Laugh) And I'm not a person that thinks that you should walk away, but I just have to reflect on it, that the whole idea behind concealed carry is that we're going to somehow stop violence with the ability to retaliate violently. And at least, in this small snapshot, it hasn't worked, and what has worked...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...is the word of the Lord. And I fully expect