

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

May 6, 2005

LB 454

9:00-or-before night, Wednesday is uncertain, but it will be something less than...it will be in the, call it, 7:30 range, but I think we will not do a late night on Tuesday, that is. It has been brought to my attention, and I think appropriately so, that's municipal elections, Lincoln, Omaha, maybe other places. I haven't tracked it all down, but...so we will...it isn't? Oh. In any event, we will...we will be done by 6:00 or before. The reason I always say "before," if we get to a logical stopping point, we're going to stop before that. But we won't go beyond 6:00 on Tuesday night. Thank you. Have a good weekend.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Speaker Brashear. On with discussion. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm sorry Senator Friend isn't on the floor. I wanted to talk about one of the things he said about police not being fearful of people carrying concealed weapons, and this was the information that was conveyed to me by a law enforcement person from my district, a chief. And he said, no, the police are not afraid of a concealed carry law for themselves, because they are trained to assume everyone has a gun. They are trained to assume everyone has a gun, unlike the rest of us. They are afraid, however, for the public who will get tied up in situations where people with concealed weapons are. That's their fear. Their fear is for the public, not for themselves. And I think that chief and his conveyance of that information to me should be helpful to the debate here, because that's what that's about. I also don't...I know we're going to spend a long time on this issue, and I thought I would share some statistical information, polling information, that I thought might be helpful, and this kind of gets to Senator Combs quoting the World-Herald on-line survey that they did. But I want to give you information from a Gallup poll. This is from November of 2004 that asked about a lot of gun issues. The only question they had about concealed carry was this one: If you were in a public place, such as a restaurant or movie theater, would you feel more safe or less safe if you knew concealed firearms were allowed? And the response in the Gallup poll was 25 percent would feel safer, 65 percent would not feel safer, some have no opinion, and so forth. When the Crime Commission did their