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FLOOR DEBATE

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convert." I want to repeat: Mr. White said, All the horror stories that I thought would come to pass did not. The people of the great state of Nebraska deserve no less than the citizens of Texas or any of the other 46 states that offer permits to carry concealed. White's comments are echoed nationwide by law enforcement officials who have seen the benefits of allowing citizens to defend themselves. Number three: Individuals carrying handguns pursuant to a legally issued permit will assault other citizens with those weapons in a fit of rage. Once again, the facts of the matter simply do not bear this out. It does not happen in states which issue the permits, and no state which has passed a concealed carry law has ever rescinded that statute. I've just stated three things that won't happen when LB 454 is enacted. Now here are some things that will happen, based on the evidence from other states with concealed carry statutes. First of all, persons who choose to carry a concealed handgun will be properly instructed, not only in gun safety and proper handling, but also in the legal aspects and responsibilities which accompany this practice. Anyone who thinks that no Nebraskans are presently carrying guns is living in a dream world. We only have to read the newspapers to know the bad guys are already carrying concealed. That's the main reason behind LB 454. But we also know that any number of good and solid Nebraska citizens occasionally arm themselves, relying on the goodwill of our law enforcement, or a misunderstanding of our state's present concealed weapon statute to keep them on the right side of the law. Doesn't it make more sense for these individuals to take the prescribed safety course, which they're not doing now, and apply for and receive the proper permit? So currently, anyone that is carrying concealed under the current Nebraska law, thinking that they are protected, has no training at all, and they're already out among us. If they feel the need to carry a handgun for their own defense, this should be mandated. Secondly, violent crime will not increase and will most likely decrease. Studies done in states presently having concealed carry laws have shown violent crime to have decreased, and no study in any state has ever shown crime to increase. Believe me, if there were such a study, we would all have been told about it, or more than likely, over and over. The fact is that an armed citizenry is a great deterrent to criminals, whose proven practice is preying on people who are vulnerable. As one