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tell you, I have, unfortunately, many times been in the position to observe these tragedies. They will happen, they have happened,...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...and I'm not so sure this isn't going to...that there aren't going to be more of them that happens with this. So when you read of an accidental shooting of a child or whatever, be prepared to soothe your conscience. There's a lot of good people in this Legislature that I think it's going to bother. What I always ask is, why do we need this bill? What I would like to think is this Legislature is one that offers a helping hand, rather than a hand with a gun in it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Johnson. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Smith, followed by Senator Kopplin, Thompson, and Schimek.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. As I sit here and listen to remarks about this issue, I try to maintain calm and, I guess, point to the fact that if we fashion public policy around the behavior of inebriated individuals, just imagine what kind of public policy we would have, if it's assumed that everyone drives drunk. And I can remember the debate a few...a couple, three years ago, when a statement was made to urge the body to consider what it would be like being 21 years old, drunk, out with your friends, and that's when I responded that I rise in favor or in support or in defense of sober 21-year-olds. I learned a long time in this legislative body that when you take an issue that is a result of an isolated situation, you better be careful. I think it's basically ridiculous to assume that we should have policy that would ban how someone carries a gun, because someone might be drunk, someone might have a mental illness, when there are background checks involved with this bill, when there are various other precautions, safeguards, and otherwise. Senator Johnson talked about the humorous event in Kearney, and then he went in to talk about President Clinton's visit, and then there was something humorous, apparently, about guns in the back window of some