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FLOOR DEBATE

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"Permitholder City," a city with a population slightly smaller than Lincoln's, 250,000, as compared to Texas permitholders, 213,000. Now imagine that only 840 citizens of Texas "Permitholder City" are arrested for crimes of any kind, including traffic offenses, during any given year. That makes two per day. It would be the safest large city anywhere in the country, and probably anywhere in the world. This paints the picture of the law-abiding nature of the Texas permitholders. It is not the picture that many opponents want citizens and policymakers to see. These 2 arrests a day in Texas "Permitholder City" compare to 65 arrests a day in Lincoln, as reported by the Lincoln Police Department in 2003. If LB 454 opponents point to Lincoln for a model of safety already, they should be in awe of the law-abiding conduct of those 213,000 Texans with permits. So I just wanted to make sure that was read into the record. That was a good correlation. And with that, I would return the rest of my time to the Chair.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I listened to Senator Janssen, not that I haven't listened to others, and when he said that these people should be able to decide for themselves whether they're going to carry a gun, I disagree. The policy of the state should make that determination. And in my view, the policy should be against allowing concealed weapons to be carried, and that's why I'm going to continue to fight against this bill in every way that I can. I spoke on those Revisor's bills this morning for the following reason: to prove that I intend to use every opportunity to eat up time during this session. So if you give courtesy votes to cloture, you won't get to this bill again, and you won't get to other bills either. And I'm going to do it. So it's fortuitous that the very morning after I made that declaration, I'm up first thing on the first issue on the agenda with the opportunity to deliver on the promise that I made to my colleagues. And one thing I want my colleagues to be aware of, that if I oblige myself to do something, I'm going to do it. Senator Janssen said we're spinning our wheels. That's true. He said no minds are going to be changed. I said that when I started the discussion yesterday. I'm well aware of that. I