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LB 454

surprises me. I had an e-mail the other day from someone, not in my district--from Lincoln, as a matter of fact--that was ashamed of me and was going to do whatever they could to help get a Democrat elected.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR MINES: And I urged them to do just that. I don't support the bill. I also want to bring forth another letter that was written in 2003 when I was on the Judiciary Committee. This is from my county sheriff, Washington County, and he...I do not support the bill. I am strongly opposed to it. And he...his name is Sheriff Mike Robinson. He brought an interesting point. I'm not sure how officers identify, once they stop someone, they've got a weapon, and how does that officer determine if they have a permit to conceal a weapon? I assume they're going to have some kind of certificate on them, but the officers are afraid of being put in that position. They're concerned for the health of the citizens. I am too, and I am going to oppose LB 454.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR MINES: Thanks.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I had excused myself from the floor for a few minutes to go out and check my car for bullet holes. Being from Omaha, I feel I should do that periodically, just to be on the safe side. But I am very concerned about this bill. I'm concerned about increasing the availability of weapons, and even though my learned colleague, Senator Loudon, has tried to reassure me that that wouldn't be the case, I have serious, serious doubts. When guns are more available, more crimes will occur. I understand that Senator Loudon's area has different issues to consider. Certainly, being armed against critters such as a rattlesnake is a legitimate concern, and I've been out in his part of the country, and I've seen rattlesnakes. Fortunately, for those of us in the city, it's a rare, rare occurrence when we have to