

or extremist activities. This bill would make it a Class IV felony to either train an individual to make or use a firearm explosive, or assemble with others to train for the purpose of creating a civil disorder. This would, of course, not infringe on the activities of legitimate sporting or veterans groups. The bill is the result of several interim study hearings across the state. You might ask what an extremist group is and what is paramilitary training, and I think in discussing these issues, we must be careful in defining terms. For instance, what do we mean when we refer to an extremist group and paramilitary training? Our definition of extremist groups includes those groups across the country which share a common philosophy, and that philosophy includes preaching racism, an active hatred of certain religious and government groups and agencies, and a belief that America is headed for an Armageddon and a revolution, and that people should train in a militarylike fashion, arm themselves with sophisticated weapons, and these groups tend to hide behind a religious veneer, and most of them are affiliated with the movement called the Identity Church. I think the fact that hate groups exist is nothing new. They have existed throughout our history. What is new is that these groups have in the last few years armed themselves heavily and set up paramilitary training camps throughout the country, and we have particularly seen an increase in the Midwest and in Nebraska. We have discovered that nationwide there are hundreds of known groups who share our definition of radical extremist groups. As I mentioned earlier, many of these groups are actually training members in the art of warfare and the stockpiling of weapons. Just last month several extremists were convicted in Washington State for their violent activities. These people on trial were members of an extremist group called The Order and were convicted of federal racketeering statutes for crimes ranging from robbery of armored cars to the murder of a Denver talk show host last year. These individuals share memberships with other groups scattered throughout the country and have even set up a computer network for common extremist groups across the United States. Closer to Nebraska we know of the horrible situation that cropped up last spring in Missouri and Arkansas. Two Missouri state troopers were murdered by members of the extremist group called The Covenant, Sword and the Arm of the Lord. These murders led to a showdown with 300 state and federal law enforcement authorities who discovered a military compound. I am told by law