

would uphold a state statute, nor would the U.S. Supreme Court uphold a federal statute that said a person must submit to a violent attack without offering resistance, or attempting to defend himself or herself. Such being the case, the right to self-defense is one of those inalienable rights. Those are the kind that you have by virtue of being a human being. The Constitution of the United States does not bestow rights on citizens, it restrains the government from interfering with certain rights that you have. The constitutional rights that are often discussed are not rights bestowed by the Constitution, they are rights protected from governmental encroachment by the Constitution. And I know the distinction often doesn't make much difference in the minds of legislators, but I think it's very crucial. I'd like to ask Senator Schellpeper a question.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schellpeper, would you respond to a question, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schellpeper, since you and Senator Ashford and others have worked to bring the bill to the point that we find it this morning, I would not attempt an amendment like this today, but I'll ask you to think about it. If the federal law provides for a person making an appeal to the Secretary of the Treasury, or whichever official it is, to be allowed or restored the right to possess, own, or purchase a firearm, would you be opposed to a similar provision like that being placed in state law, not where we declare by statute that felons are allowed to bear, own, possess and purchase a firearm, but make it possible for them to appeal to a court to obtain that right?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I would have to, Senator Chambers, I guess, look at all of the circumstances of the amendment and how it's wrote and everything else. At the present time I can't give you how I would vote on an amendment like that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, but the point I'm trying to get to, you're not necessarily saying you're unwilling to consider anything.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: No, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, with that having been said, I sure