

opinion/editorial

Bullet bill deadly solution for high-speed chases

One of the most barbaric ideas ever aired in the Legislature is Sen. John DeCamp's suggestion to arm law enforcement officers with armor-piercing bullets.

That proposal, contained in a legislative bill sponsored by the Neligh senator to stop high-speed chases, portrays a dangerous and frightening element of American society. Hopefully this view of militaristic police authority is not popular with a large segment of the population.

People who adhere to this weapon lunacy must believe that giving police and state patrol

officers another trigger to pull can solve any law enforcement problem they may encounter.

According to DeCamp, the steel-plated bullets would pierce the engine block of a car, causing it to slow down.

The senator apparently thinks it would be safer for an officer wielding a gun while chasing a fleeing person at high speeds to aim higher than would be done with the previous method of shooting at one of the vehicle's tires. Since most squad cars are behind fleeing vehicles during high-speed chases, one of these bullets also

would have to follow a strange trajectory to pierce the engine block of a car.

DeCamp also maintains that the armor-piercing bullets wouldn't kill people because they don't spread out like lead-case ammunition.

Although there aren't many similarities between human flesh and engine blocks, it seems logical to assume that an errant bullet with enough force behind it to pierce armor could, and probably would, seriously injure or kill a person.

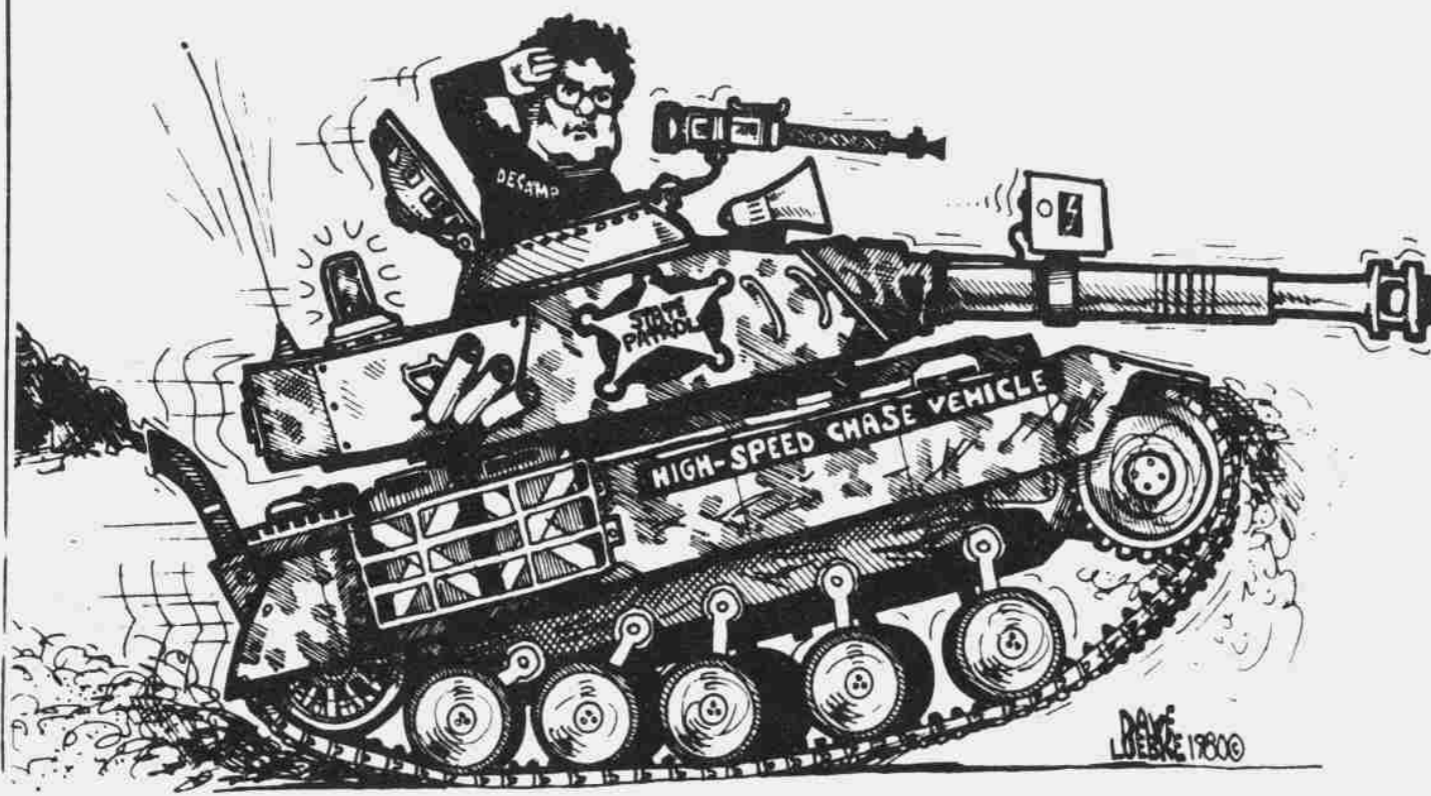
The senator says he learned of this way to slow down a car while he was in Vietnam, which further adds to the idiocy of the suggestion.

As if the atrocities of that war weren't bad enough, DeCamp now wants to bring these tactics to the streets and highways of Nebraska.

Some parts of the bill designed to stop high-speed chases are logical and workable proposals. It's too bad they are overshadowed by the armor-piercing bullet idea, which could make driving a car or walking down a street comparable to venturing through a mine field.

DeCamp already has been quoted as saying critics of the bill and the media are emphasizing an unimportant aspect of the bill in publicizing the bullet suggestion. Obviously he doesn't realize the potential danger which would result if this ammunition became standard equipment for law enforcement agencies.

Making the penalty for fleeing from an officer more severe and offering better training in ways for law enforcement officers to deal with high-speed chases should be encouraged. By doing this, the legislators would be serving the citizens of Nebraska by helping find a solution, rather than by going out of their way to compound the problem.



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Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available in the newspaper.

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Fashion aims sights on guns

The inside scoop on fashion this year can be summarized in one word: weapons.

Never mind what you may have heard about hemlines, or slacks, or preppie sweaters, collars, shoes, or hair styles, the whispered word is that anybody who is anybody will be sporting a handgun in 1981.

I first got wind of this turn of events in conversation with my tailor, Cosmo of Waverly.

"This is the most exciting thing that has happened to fashion in years," he said. "It all started with Nancy Reagan, God bless her, and the little handgun she carries in her purse. You just knew when that piece of news came out that everyone was going to be following her lead and buying handguns to carry around. But why should they be stuck with the same old steel pistols that one could pick up in any pawn shop, when so much more can be done to give a handgun that little flair, that personal message that literally says, 'I'm dressed to kill'."

clark

"What kind of fashion handguns should we expect to see this year?" I asked, though not completely sure I wanted to know.

"That's the beauty of the designer handguns," he said. "You are likely to see as many different ideas as there are designers. Nobody has any preconceived notions of what a designer handgun should look like, what materials and colors to use, so we should see some truly unique instruments of destruction."

"Could you be more specific?"

"I can tell you about my own creations. I see the designer handgun-look as an extension of the whole urban cowboy thing that was so chic last year. I'm taking some of those blue jeans out of here to make room for a couple of gun racks. Something very Texan, maybe made out of hand-carved longhorns or something. For the actual weapons, I'm thinking of leather; leather holsters, lots of fringe and scrollwork. I think it's a can't-miss proposition, because it feeds right into that kind of range-rider, vigilante image that Ronald Reagan has been projecting since the election. You know, with the trips out to the ranch to chop wood and mend fences. I'm staking my whole reputation on the Lethal Leather Look for 1981."

"Do you know what anybody else is doing?"

"Oh, I have a few ideas from some sources..."

"You mean spies?"

"A harsh word, but it might fit. Anyway, the word I get from New York is that some designers there will go

the punk route, with lots of rusty, metallic accents and rubber-tipped bullets. A dark horse to watch out for is Pierre of South Dakota. He's working on something completely new that he calls the MX Handbag System."

"Sounds pretty strange," I said, starting to look for an exit.

"It is," said Cosmo. "It's for women who travel in groups. The system is composed of nine handbags, all identical except for one very significant detail. One of the handbags contains a small but notoriously deadly nuclear warhead, while the others are empty. The potential purse-snatcher, of course, will not know which of the handbags contains the warhead. If he can get the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders outfitted with his system, he could rise right to the top of the industry."

"I'm telling you, Nancy Reagan came along and saved the fashion business single-handedly. There are only so many things you can do with fabrics and hemlines and collars, and she has given us whole new fields to explore. No more inseams for me; caliber is what everyone is talking now. The Annie Hall look is dead forever, the Annie Oakley look has just arrived."

Carter surrender is insulting offer

WASHINGTON—On election eve, Tehran issued its ransom terms for the hostages in a message as crude and insulting as any the United States government ever accepted. Had Carter responded as Theodore Roosevelt or Harry Truman would have, he would not have received the 44-state humiliation at the polls.

buchanan

(But no third-rate nation would have sent such a message to TR or Truman)

On Nov. 11 the Carter administration did respond—total capitulation to the Ayatollah's terms.

Carter agreed never again to interfere in Iran's affairs, to unfreeze Iran's assets, to ship off \$2.5 billion from the New York Federal Reserve Bank, to join Iran in battling claims against remaining assets, to lift economic sanctions and resume normal commercial transactions (would this

Continued on Page 5