

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, colleagues. A vote to kill this bill is a vote for the death penalty. I cannot vote for the death penalty because I personally could not take part in the execution and, therefore, I do not have the ability to cause anybody else, under orders of the state, to do what I cannot do. I would oppose the kill motion. I would support the doing away with the death penalty in the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body. I oppose the Rasmussen motion to indefinitely postpone LB 64. I think the members of this body ought to give Senator Chambers and Senator Simon the courtesy of extended debate on this subject. As Senator Simon pointed out, we can spend several hours on the naming of a field house, but I think this is a very important issue. Senator Simon & Senator Chambers have done an extraordinary amount of work on this. I think there are some people, because of the Simon amendment, who may be forced to give second thoughts to their feelings on LB 64. I think to kill the bill at this time would be premature. I think the issue is important enough that we deserve the chance for debate on the issue. The members of this body were elected to discuss the issues. This is a very important issue. I don't think we should dispose of it in the first hour of debate. I think the people of the state deserve more than a 30 minute discussion on the death penalty. I would oppose the Rasmussen amendment.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: I'll take this opportunity to introduce, from Senator Merz district, 24 eighth grade students from Humboldt in the North balcony. Mildred Bowers with them. In the North balcony. Would they please stand and be recognized. Senator Merz I didn't ask you to stand. That's alright, you can anyway. Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, because I felt Senator Rasmussen was going to try to do this, I tried to get as many things in the record as I possibly could. He has demonstrated what I told to you. This is a serious issue. I don't care what Senator Rasmussen thinks of me. I'm thinking of four lives that can be rescued. I told you before that the hangers and floggers don't have a case to present. They can't site a statistic, they can't site a case, they can't site precedent to back up what they say. So what does he say? Senator Simon said it, well therefore I move to kill it. Well there is nothing in the record to justify his position. There has been no rational basis stated by Senator Rasmussen for going for the death penalty. I'll tell you some reasons why we ought not have this kill motion. It has to relate to some of the issues that we haven't even touched on. When you have a punishment established for a crime, for that punishment to be morally defensible and legally justifiable, that punishment has to be imposed on the majority of the people who commit the crime. But when you have something like five to six percent of the offenders, or even less, suffering the penalty that indicates that the society does not accept the penalty as being valid. That it's going to be reserved and held in reserve just for certain people who, for one reason or another, are particularly objectionable. The thing that makes them ob-