

terent in my opinion. Do put this amendment on the ballot. Make them think that you're putting somebody in prison for a long time when, in fact, you're turning it over to the Legislature for a yearly revival of who should or shouldn't be released now. Instead of the death penalty it will be what conditions they should get out on. Read it. It's only a dozen words long. You don't have to be too bright to read what it says. It says the pardon board shall do what you say in these cases of murder. So 30 years is meaningless. Sixty years...two years is meaningless. It's a yearly rewrite of whatever standards we come up with that year. There are five people on death row. There isn't a Negro among them.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen. Do you have a motion, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Motion on the desk, Mr. President. Read Rasmussen amendment found on page 561 of the Journal.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. President, members of the body, if we're going to take something to the people let's take it to the people very simply, yes or no. Are you in favor of the death penalty or aren't you. Let them all vote on this if they so desire, if you so desire. I would ask for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I certainly would not criticize anyone for voting their convictions. That is their right, that is what they should do. I admire Senator Chambers for standing for what he thinks is right, and all the rest of you what you think you should do. In my opinion I think we should do what the people in our districts think we should do. I have tested the people in my district. I know what they think. As far as this amendment is concerned, of Senator Rasmussen, I would, 100 percent, accept this if the vote of the people, and this is simple, they know what you mean. If they say yes I'd be happy to abide by that. If they say no I'd be happy to abide by that. But I don't think we should put an amendment, or a situation before the people to vote on, such as Senator Barnett's, where they would have difficulty, I think, in believing, in knowing what actually they are voting on. If a resolution, or an amendment such as Senator Rasmussen's is put before them they know what they're voting for. They are voting for the death penalty or against the death penalty. They won't be confused by words, or phrases, or lengthy proposition put them. I strongly support Senator Rasmussen's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, one very brief question of Senator Rasmussen. Senator Rasmussen, would this put a one year...a seven month moratorium on those people convicted on death row right now?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: We have no moratorium. I haven't seen anything on my desk. No.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Okay. I think in light of that I would suspect that I would support Senator Rasmussen's amendment only with the idea in mind that there is no such moratorium