

May 9, 1979

LB 262

SENATOR MARSH: I have recognized Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Are there any lights on for anyone to speak for the motion?

SENATOR MARSH: The question has been called, Senator Labedz. Senator Pirsch will close.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I would just like to close, when you were talking about our penal and corrections institute, our new Director of Corrections, Jerry Bolin, says that he favors capital punishment. It has a place as a deterrent in prisons. Prison wardens are unlikely to prevent violence in prisons as long as they give humane treatment to inmates and have no threats of additional punishment available for the murderers among them who are already serving life sentences, and outside the prison context, an offender who expects a life sentence for his offense may murder his victim or witnesses or the arresting officers to improve his chances of escaping. He could not be threatened with an additional penalty for his additional crime. Only the death penalty could deter in such cases and this incident is illustrated by a recent incident to an innocent young Nebraska family. They were returning from California when an escaping murderer killed them in cold blood on a desert highway. I hope you bear this in mind when you vote.

SENATOR MARSH: We are now ready and will vote on the motion to indefinitely postpone. Senator Marsh voting no.

CLERK: Senator Marsh voting no.

SENATOR MARSH: Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 25 nays on the motion to indefinitely postpone, Madam President.

SENATOR MARSH: Motion lost. I recognize Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I will call for the question.

SENATOR MARSH: I see five hands. Will you please vote on the issue? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 10 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Chambers.