

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am opposed to Senator Higgins' motion. I don't want to see the bill bracketed. I don't want to see it dropped from its existing position and I would like to see it advanced this afternoon. There needs to be something said about this so-called negotiation and this working of things out. Apparently something was slipped under our door in our offices, which I neglected to read, if I got one, saying that there was a meeting and the other side wouldn't negotiate. Negotiation doesn't mean you do what they want you to do. See, the lobbyist who wrote that letter apparently misunderstands the meaning of that word. It means you tug back and forth and you tussle over an issue and if you can compromise, then you try to do that. But here is the way apparently she would like the negotiation to occur. Management sits down at the table with a hundred eggs, labor sits down at the table with a hundred eggs, you negotiate until management has two hundred eggs and labor has none. Then management says, I love this kind of negotiation, when you get some more eggs come back and we will negotiate again. They can't and they should not make anybody believe that they thought that this so-called negotiation that was to occur would result in their side being accepted which would be the killing of the bill. If you read the letter from Judge Gradwohl, everything else in the bill is current law and practice. There is no need for the bill without that last sentence. So if those people are telling you that they really believe that the labor representatives who want this bill agreed to sit down and let the bill be gutted and erased, then they would have you believe that the people representing labor are crazy. And I don't think they are crazy, but I think the ones who would have us believe that while not crazy are certainly trying to hoodwink the Legislature by making you think they believe something that nobody who is rational could have believed. Do you think I, who have spent so many years trying to abolish the death penalty, could say that these people really believe we are going to talk about it? They thought that I would agree to keep the death penalty in place and that was to be the result of our negotiation? No. Senator DeCamp is a good spear carrier for those people who want this bill killed because he succeeded in causing you to look at something differently than the facts warrant. If we are going to sit down and negotiate, you have something to put on the table and I do too and if a compromise results, neither of us takes away as much as we want and we leave