

inmates or prison guards in the prison setting, because you are not imposing any...there is no real additional sanction to impose. Someone who has killed someone in society, put in prison, and then kills again, would be free to kill again in the prison setting, and you would be jeopardizing the lives of those innocent third parties who are there and have to live with that particular person. In this limited circumstance, I think that the death penalty can well be a deterrent. I think to be merciful under those certain circumstances and not impose the death penalty in the case of prison murder would, in fact, be evil, and so I would urge you to adopt this amendment which would...which would specify a clear exception for the case of a person who has been convicted of first degree murder, placed in prison, and then he or she kills someone again, and I think the death penalty would be justified in those circumstances and I think it would be appropriate both as a deterrent and, if for nothing else, just to protect the other prisoners and the other prison guards in that prison if such a situation occurred. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the McFarland amendment. Senator Schmit, your light is on. Senator Schmit passes. Senator Hefner, your light is on.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I am going to rise to oppose this amendment, the McFarland amendment because I think we need to keep the death penalty just the way it is now, and I feel that in order for punishment to be effective, it must fit the crime. Anything less than the death penalty as a punishment for murder is ineffective. Thirty years in prison, as the bill now stands, with no parole is going against our Constitution because it says that we have got to give good time, and Senator McFarland's amendment says that we would just use it, we would just use it in the case if they murdered a guard. I feel that the death penalty is the fairest method of punishment. If a life is taken unmerciful, death is a fair consequence. A murderer must be held accountable and bear the responsibility for his or her actions. When a person takes another person's life in premeditated fashion, that person simply should be put to death. When considering the plight of the victim, the death penalty is the most just way of dealing with the murderer, and that murderer deserves, in my opinion, he deserves death. Murder is the most violent crime because of its lasting irreversible aspects. Death is the heaviest penalty available. I feel it is unfair to families of victims and to communities to support the life of a murderer, and this would be