

there for life. We talked about what do the people want. Well, I think we can see poll after poll show that the majority of Nebraskans want to keep the death penalty. In fact, a while back when I did a poll in my district it was...the majority certainly supported keeping the death penalty. And I think it said, well, the public probably doesn't understand. I think that the public does understand, and I think and I know that the public deserves to be heard. I've been frustrated, from time to time, that Nebraska has not been able to carry out the death penalty. But now with the recent Supreme Court decision, I think that we will see more executions in our state. But I just wanted to share some of these things with you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: If we pass...if we move this bill out of committee, and the bill passes, yes, it says 30 years...or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. But I still feel that the Governor of Nebraska would have the power to relinquish that, and that's the reason I'm against raising this bill from committee.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. I doubt, quite frankly, that any of us are going to change each other's minds on this floor today. But I do feel very strongly that the citizens of Nebraska do not want a repeal of the death penalty. And how this law is applied could apply to all laws. Do we throw out drunk driving laws, stiffer penalties for more serious offenses, because some are plea bargained, and it is administered inequitably? I also resent comparing or equating the life of a convicted cold-blooded murderer with the innocent new life of an unborn baby. I do not think that is a good comparison. The standards for a first degree murderer who receives the death penalty is great, and it's followed by intensive appeals. These people are the ilk of John Joubert, Walkin' Willy Otey, and Michael Ryan, and I don't ever want to have the possibility that they would be released by a pardon board in a different political climate, or when the victim's family, perhaps, have died or have moved away. We've talked a lot about deterrence, I'd like to read from Frank Herrington's article. By this definition, the proponents have already won the battle of the question of deterrence in the court of public opinion. The Legislatures of 35 states, and I want to add that