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LB 76

voted for LB 76 because it took courage and it's appreciated, and I think it was a vote you can be proud of, but I must say thank you also to those who did not but who were here, who listened, who cared and who cast your vote in accordance with your sense of duty and your conscience. I think it was a good exercise in what we're all about. I also want to just take just a moment to say thank you to a Judiciary Committee that I have been very pleased and privileged to serve with this session, and I am very grateful to each and every member for all of the help and support that they've provided and the good work they've done. I see that this LB 76 has continued to be controversial. Talk about not being able to please anybody any of the time, some of the inmates think that we're trying to increase the number of people on death row and opponents think it's the end of the...the end of the death penalty or that's what they thought we were up to. And I will continue to contend that's not so. I want to tell you three stories. There are good moments and human drama when you're trying to do what you believe is right here. One was I was touched when a State Patrolman, and not one who was trying to put me under arrest for a change, when a State Patrolman asked to shake my hand and say, thank you, this is the right thing to do. So you at least have that freedom of expression and thought. The second one was one morning, one Saturday morning recently, I was coming out of a doughnut shop, having purchased some doughnuts for a meeting, Saturday morning meeting, and I come walking by this construction pickup with two construction workers in it and wheelbarrows in the back, and so on, absolutely true story, blew me away, one of the workers hollers out the window, hey, Judiciary Committee. You know, didn't know my name. I didn't think he could care less about a Judiciary Committee, but that's what he said, hey, Judiciary Committee. And I, trying to be hip, said back, yeah, hey, or something like that. And you know how successful that was. And he said, thank you for the good work on the death penalty. And the third story I want to tell you comes from the mighty 49th District. There's a real tough cowboy out there who called me and he said, what the heck are you doing on the death penalty and this moratorium? And I thought, here we go. I've known him a long time, like him a lot. So I answered him back in about 15 minutes more than he wanted to hear. And when I was done there was a little pause, and he said, you're right, something is wrong. He said we have