

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2004

LB 999

trade. England had a death penalty for everything imaginable and they did hang children, as some of my colleagues would like to do. One of the most bizarre, macabre descriptions that I read was of this cart that takes little children to the place to be hanged. And these children were so young they didn't even understand what was going to happen to them. And they mentioned how the little girls were dressed in their pretty little blouses and the little flowery skirts and they'd be riding through the streets in this cart. Naturally, three sides had walls and the back was open. And they'd be laughing and doing like little children would do because they're going for a ride. Then the description of the little children hanging, and how some of these little girls were so light in weight that the wind would blow their bodies and they'd look like little flowers on the breeze, little girls being hanged. That's what this is about and that's what a society is about that does this. You all can see how the society you live in wants to lower the age more and more...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...so that children can be treated as adults for the purpose of punishment. That's what is being done. And the irony lies in the fact that if an adult commits a heinous crime and through psychological examination is found to have the mentality of a 12- or 13-year-old child, that adult is given some leeway. But the 12- or 13-year-old child who is 12 or 13 is to be treated like an adult, held accountable as though he or she were an adult. And this is the leading society, this is what Christianity is about? Two thousand years of Christianity has brought us to this where a nonbeliever can stand on the floor and chastise a Governor who boasts about being a follower of Christ? That is mind-boggling.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I do have...