

May 9, 1979

LB 262

nonite General Conference, the National Council of Churches, the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, the United Presbyterian Church, the Unitarian Universalist Church, the American Jewish Committee, the Synagogue Council of American and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. In the end, women and men looking at this issue conscientiously have concluded that it no longer has a place in society and it should be abolished. LB 262 should be supported by this body.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fitzgerald, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Speaker and members, I have heard this bill for four years. I have had quite a few discussions with Senator Chambers on this bill. I am not going to quote you from the Bible today. I am not going to tell you I don't believe in God because I am standing up here as a God fearing man. I want to quote a commandment that says I shall not kill. I want you Senators to take this under consideration, and before I start talking on this issue, I would like to let you know if Senator Chambers can convince me today, I am sitting back here listening, if he can prove to me he can put a mandatory sentence in there for thirty years, I will change my mind and I will go with Senator Chambers. But these sob sisters who come in here and they will say and tap them on the wrist and say we are going to do this and we are going to do that, and what gets me mad, who put these people over there in death row. I never put them over there. You never put them over there. They put themselves over there by the reason when they come out here, they put a bullet in that gun and they had the intent to kill and who do they kill? Some little old woman, some little old fellow running an oil station here that they could have went in and hit with their hand and it would have knocked them down and took away their dollar, measly dollar or two, but this makes me....the death penalty here in the State of Nebraska is a mockery to justice to the effect it is not being used. The last one was Stark-weather and I thought his girl friend should have been sitting on his lap when they pulled the switch. Now she is up here in Wisconsin. Where is justice at? I hate to disagree or agree with Senator Chambers because I never in four years I was down here too much but he is right. If you have money, you can get out of stuff. You can hire the best attorneys and this is the way justice is done. The poor men are the ones that will be over here in death row. I can name you, name you incidents after incidents where this happened on justice throughout this state and without