

even if not all are spared. The guilty do not become innocent or less deserving of punishment because others escaped it nor does any innocent deserve punishment because others suffered it. Senator Chambers has put out a book and I was a little disappointed because on the information that it was from 1967 which happened to be, if you will recall, the 60's were the most turbulent decade that we have witnessed in public turmoil and lawlessness and his support is from 1967 and he claims the death penalty is no deterrent. No executions are ever public. Think of the newspaper accounts of the last executed murderers. They precede the execution for months and the last week one will see daily articles descriptive to the last detail. The death of a convicted murderer is widely known and talked about. It is not that the death penalty is not a deterrent, it is the lack of carrying out that punishment. That is the very reason why it appears to be no deterrent. Law enforcement officers know from personal experience it is a deterrent. Law officials can quote prisoners they have known who are confident they will beat the rap or get a few years.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Gary Bowdach, killer, arsonist and loan shark, advised the Senate Subcommittee recently one of the ways to stop organized crime is to use the death penalty. We are approaching rising crime from the wrong balance side of the scale of justice. We keep lightening and lessening penalties on one side and wondering why the other side is dragging with more and more crimes and victims. Stop the plea bargaining if that is what weakens the deterrent. Insist on the courts carrying out the penalties of the law. Ensure that law officers who arrest a murderer are backed up by competent prosecuting attorneys. Who can prove that the death penalty is not a deterrent? What statistics are available to catalog how many murders are not committed for the fear of the death penalty, and what about Nebraskans? A statewide World Herald Nebraska poll statewide said 78% do approve of the death penalty and the people in my district in a recent poll 71% approved even when they were offered the choice of thirty years without parole, if that can be done. The death penalty is constitutional. The state has a right to take a violent cold-blooded murderers life. It is the ultimate penalty for the ultimate crime. And Senator Chambers asks a question in page 12 of his recent handout. Why are some arbitrarily selected for death while others are not? Only God knows that answer, Senator Chambers,