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to be able to retard the passage or at least the bill from going to Final Reading. You know and I know that our only hope is the Governor. I have heard several Senators talk within the last several hours, let the bill go, we think the Governor will veto the bill. Well, if we don't give the Governor something to stand on I don't think he is going to veto the bill. It is a very important decision we are making here this afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and I am not so sure that we should be making this decision. My amendment to this particular bill says that the people will make the final decision and I think it is only fair that we at least allow the people of this state that choice.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think there are two separate issues here and I would like to deal with the first one which has little or nothing to do with the death penalty and that is the policy of using our constitution to duck issues, duck responsibility, to simply be irresponsible. Now I don't know just how many of these various proposals on constitutional amendments Senator Venditte has offered us but I can remember several and any time the issue becomes difficult, any time you are forced as a legislator to be a legislator and make responsible decisions, Senator Venditte has an amendment to put it to a vote of the people. The people elected you, Senator Venditte. They elected me to come down here and do at least two things. One, represent them and, two, looking at all the information, looking at all the facts, looking at the issue in far more depth than the average citizen has an opportunity to, to make a judgement and then as a legislator, attempt to implement that judgement and that is where you are at today. You have got sitting on your shoulders, the responsibility to make your judgements and then attempt to implement them and I guess I find it kind of offensive that every time on the difficult things, no matter what side you are on, you use this back door, runaway, hide under the couch approach. It is not the responsible way. If you are opposed to repeal of the death penalty and you are and most sincerely you are, then voice it loud and clear here and say your reasons for it and work and fight to retain the death penalty. Don't duck the issue and that is what you are trying to do with the constitutional amendment. Now on the matter of the death penalty itself and some of the impressions that were attempted here, the Commutation Board has precisely the same power today.