

I believe that capital punishment is a necessity if we are to bring sanity back to our streets and to protect our citizens here in the great State of Nebraska. Here in our state we have a slogan, "Nebraska, The Good Life", but just talk to some of the victims' family members and they will tell you what good life do we have in Nebraska when we can't even walk the streets or be out in the open. And why? It is because we don't...we do not implement the penalty that we have now and that is the death penalty. About a month ago we heard our Chief Justice Krivosha speak to us, and if I remember correctly, he said we need justice and this justice needs to be fair and it also needs to be swift, and this is what I am talking about today. We have the death penalty. Let's implement it in a just and swift way. There has been no executions in Nebraska in the last twenty years and so I ask you here, is this justice, is this fair, and is this swift? In recent polls the pendulum is swinging back to sanity. An overwhelming, an overwhelming majority of Americans now favor the death penalty. South Dakota several years ago reinstated the death penalty. Why? Because they believe, their legislative body believed that it did serve as a deterrent. Senator Chambers talks about the death penalty as being inhumane. I submit to you...

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR HEFNER: ...isn't murder, isn't premeditated murder inhumane? I feel that we are at the crossroads here in Nebraska. Do we keep the death penalty or do we repeal it? I say that we should keep the death penalty. I think that we need to strike back at these vicious criminals. I say to you here today that enough innocent lives have been lost here in Nebraska. Let's keep the death penalty here in our state.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Lamb and colleagues, I support LB 202. I think this is a bill that each of us personally have had to look at very closely and look within ourselves because when we vote on this bill we are just as much pushing the button that discharges the current execution when we push this button in front of us, whether it be green or red, even more so than the Governor, because the Governor merely follows what this body dictates. He takes an oath to enforce and administer the law but we make the laws. So if and when there is an execution in the State of Nebraska, that act in itself is only secondary to the act each of us must perform when we adjudicate this issue on this floor as