

I, of course, do not agree that it is not a deterrent. I agree that we have had a lousy way of delivering the death penalty in Nebraska over the last number of years and I don't think anyone is really afraid of it anymore because we haven't used it but I do think it is a deterrent. I think it would be if it was swift and just. One of the things that I object to in the 30 year mandatory sentences is the cost. Now a lot of people will say, you know it costs more to go through the process of condemning a man to the electric chair than it does for a thirty year sentence. I don't believe that and I believe that they are going to fight almost as hard to stay out of that thirty year mandatory sentence as they are the electric chair. You are going to take the best productive years out of a person's life, thirty years. Let's say you are 25 when you go in, your best years of your life are gone. You are not only going to keep that person for thirty years, you are going to keep them the rest of their life. They are not going to be able to make a living and survive in their old age if they are let out at that stage of the game. So you are really not helping them any. You are condemning them to a life of prison and a life of support from the community. Just last week we talked about the DWI offenders and I am a little surprised at Senator Chambers. He said we should not throw them in jail because we didn't have room in there, and yet here we are going to put people in there for thirty years and not turn them out. I think this alone is a problem. I don't know how you are going to keep people under control when they are in the death row, or whatever you want to call it, the thirty year row if they have no hope of ever getting a shorter sentence or getting out of there before their thirty years are up or getting any privileges, as I understand it. I doubt that these death or these thirty year prisoners are going to have the rights that you have been talking about, the conjugal visits and that sort of thing. If they are, they really are not in prison. One of the things that I have had a little trouble with, and I woke up at four o'clock this morning and reassessed my views on this issue, and I have got quite a few letters from ministers and from different Christian denominations telling me that I should not vote for the death penalty, and I guess I have a little trouble with this because we are in the season of Lent right now and we know what man's law did to Jesus, and we also know that there were two thieves or murderers on the adjacent crosses to Jesus, and one asked I believe what Jesus had told him and asked if he could be saved. And Jesus said,...

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.