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outside of Lincoln and this was months after she was missing. Well, at that time I was very upset, extremely upset. There was no way I could be more angered by what had happened to a friend and I said at that time whoever did this should be put to death in the most horrible way possible for what they did to my friend. And I was concerned for weeks afterwards that they had to find this person and somehow this perpetrator of this crime had to be punished. Finally after weeks, they discovered the criminal and brought him to the jail, and what turned me around totally is the fact that this person, this person that had committed this heinous crime that I was so angry and wanted to personally do what I could do to eliminate that person happened to be another friend of mine. And it shocked me so, I didn't know how to react because here a good friend had been killed by another good friend and this second friend who had committed the crime I felt so strongly should be put to death I knew from my youth was not a person who I could not believe would do something like this and I sat there and I thought about how angry I had been and how I had wanted to see this person put to death and yet I knew that this was a person that something had snapped, that something had happened to them. They couldn't have done this without...and that something wrong, terribly wrong having occurred at that moment. And that is when I decided that because of the situation that can occur when the crimes that we are talking about are committed, and when you draw that line between those that are going to receive the death penalty and those those that are not, I just felt that sense of compassion that this person has to be punished, has to be put away, but to kill them, to kill them is a step beyond what needs to be done. And it changed my mind totally because I was totally in favor of the death penalty to that point, and because of this personal incident...

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. ...I decided that I could no longer support the death penalty and I haven't to this day. I do support a strong minimum mandatory sentence. I do support being tough with these individuals and perhaps for the rest of their lives not allowing them to be released and free. I have no problem with that but to put them to death is a question that I think we have to address today, and in discussing the question about the poor and the representation, at a neighborhood coffee I had Sunday, a supporter of the death penalty said, well, we have Legal Aid, and we have public defenders, and all the poor are now taken care of. Well, with the Reagan cutbacks, we are seeing Legal Aid being eliminated so some of those arguments

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