

be successfully defended that it was not premeditated so, therefore, I am speaking against your amendment for that reason. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator DeCamp closing on his amendment.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, when I was a soldier in Vietnam I remember one of the cruelest hoaxes that could be played upon us and was played was the promise that our outer perimeter was being defended by our allies. We relied for our very lives upon that promise or that protection and in fact so much of the time that protection didn't exist out there because they had taken a walk or done whatever. As legislators the cruelest hoax we are playing upon the people of Nebraska is the pretention that an efficient or even real death penalty exists because it does not. I have heard my good friend Senator Kahle, Senator Hefner and others saying we have got to make it sure and swift and efficient and then it would have deterrent value and they all concede that that deterrent value or whatever benefits we are to get from it do not exist now because of the way it is applied and I submit to you the cruel truth is, the cruel truth is you are not going to be able to change that because you have U. S. Supreme Court constitutional interpretations that have evolved over the years that have made it an unenforceable penalty. Now I can say I dislike that and I believe the death penalty would be a heck of a deterrent or should be the ultimate penalty but the facts of life are that for the State of Nebraska we are subject to those U. S. Supreme Court constitutional interpretations and so this penalty or deterrent that we believe exists does not exist. And so how does it function for us? What it functions for us as is as follows, because we have focused so much attention on this in the State of Nebraska and so obsessed are we to retain this alleged death penalty that we have allowed the following to develop; number one, the second highest most expensive penal system in the United States, in excess of \$15,000 per person to keep them out there, not too bad a deal if they were doing something; number two, 85 to 90% of all the prisoners out there don't do diddly-do, they read books, recreate...they have a far better life than you do in here; number three, those prisoners on death row, supposedly, those prisoners do not have to do anything ever as long as they are on death row, nothing, and they have specialized treatment at the pen. I believe a far fairer, more efficient system is to acknowledge that the thing that a lot of people would like, maybe including me, simply cannot be imposed effectively. Therefore, what is the alternative? Put them to work, put them to work for thirty years of the rest of their life, start making them really pay for the crime. As it is now, the