

March 15, 1982

LB 202

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Labeledz, regardless of what we do today, whether a person is convicted of robbery or rape or whatever, whether it is a First Class misdemeanor, a low class felony or the highest class felony, regardless of anything, the power of the Board of Pardons under the Constitution allows them to pardon each and every one of those criminals should they so choose.

SENATOR LABEDZ: It does today, right, but by giving it a mandatory thirty years sentence instead of the death penalty...

SENATOR LAMB: Your time is up, Senator.

SENATOR LABEDZ: ...then they can conceivably pardon that person, right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: On a mandatory thirty year death...under Senator Chambers' mandatory thirty years, they could have pardoned there, too, Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, I know that but now we have replaced the thirty year mandatory sentence with...we have replaced the death penalty with the thirty year mandatory sentence, right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, we have not. We have replaced the death penalty with a life sentence, true life sentence.

SENATOR LAMB: Your time is up.

SENATOR LABEDZ: But the Board of Pardons can...thank you very much.

SENATOR LAMB: Before we continue, I would like to introduce a guest of, a friend of Senator Dave Landis. It is Professor Aubrey Diamond, a British law professor, in Lincoln giving a guest lecture at the College of Law, under the North balcony. Professor Diamond, would you stand and be recognized. Thank you for attending our session. The next speaker on LB 202 is Senator Howard Peterson on the amended bill.

SENATOR HOWARD PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, those of you who voted for this amendment I believe you have been very carefully slicked to be honest about it. I think you ought to recognize that. I'd just like to review with this body some murders we have had in Grand Island, to tell you that I firmly believe that we have the death penalty in operation, and I am one who believes in the death penalty because I think it is a deterrent. We