

of a citizen. Senator Beutler and Senator DeCamp or Senator Beutler alone is offering an amendment to take care of concerns that were expressed by the members. Now if his offering this amendment, Senator Howard Peterson, is rejected, then it seems like other people are playing snooker, not Senator Beutler and Senator DeCamp and I certainly am not playing. I think what we are dealing with here is the idea that some people cannot face this issue head on and deal with it as we know it should be dealt with. So we are all temporizing. I am temporizing today. I am not opposing these amendments. I am backing off of a position that I have traditionally held on this issue and that is to say that I am in favor of abolishing the death penalty in all cases, period. There should be no vestige of it on the law books of the state but that during these times is unrealistic. A bite of the apple has to be taken when the entire apple cannot be swallowed. So Senator Beutler's amendment I think will just about have to be accepted. It is not to say that a law enforcement officer's life is...

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...worth more than anybody else. They are talking, Senator Pirsch, about this idea of control and maintenance of control in these situations where because of the operation of the law one person has been placed under the custody and direction of another.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Pirsch, did you wish to speak on the amendment? Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, I will speak on this amendment and the amendment we just adopted because I ran out of time in the last time I was up in speaking. I would like to agree and do wholeheartedly with Senator Pirsch. My husband was a policeman for forty years and his life, of course, was very, very valuable, very precious to me, to my family, and even to the community, but when we just adopted this amendment a short time ago and this amendment to the amendment, we are saying that his life, the officer in prison or any correctional facility or a penal institution is very important and, therefore, if anyone terminates that life while in prison, then they receive capital punishment. But I think the person on the street, my next door neighbor, or the child going to school in the morning, their lives are just as important to me as that of my husband when he was a policeman for forty years. I think we have covered in the amendment or they have covered, I did not vote for the amendment, while legally confined in a prison and convicted of a Class 1 or a Class 1A felony, but how about the law enforcement officer if we are going to