

March 24, 1982

LB 202

the amount of appeals and when we do this then I am sure it is a deterrent. If we repeal the death penalty, citizens, I feel, will sign a petition and put it up to the voters to reinstate it. If we repeal the death penalty, I feel that we deny ourselves a major weapon in the fight against this threat to society. Also, this legislative session is drawing to a close. I do not feel that we have time to discuss and debate this anymore. And I would like to yield a minute or two of my time to Senator Labedz who co-sponsored the kill motion the other day.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Chambers passed out a peach colored handout and on page 3 he says that capital punishment has an article there and a gruesome picture and I admit it is gruesome, from the Des Moines Register where they claim that capital punishment is cruel and unusual punishment. Yes it is cruel, but the legal execution is much more merciful than a death inflicted upon a victim and I think we should all remember that. Unusual is defined as uncommon and the truth is that society has executed capital offenders since the beginning of time. Those who commit horrendous crimes, in my opinion, as determined by the courts, of course, have earned a similar punishment. And I would like to say here that God gave to each and everyone of us his most precious gift which is life. He also laid down the following law to be carried out by all descendants of Noah. "He who sheds man's blood shall have his blood shed by man, for in the image of God was man made." I don't want to take up any more time because I am sure there are other speakers that would like to at least get in a few minutes of their version of why we should immediately again not allow Senator Chambers to bring back LB 202. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wiitala. There is about a minute left, Senator Wiitala, on this matter today.

SENATOR WIITALA: Well, in that case, Mr. Chairman, I am going to fail to say anything on the issue, outside of the fact that in rebuttal to Senator Hefner's remarks that the public is overwhelmingly against...or in favor of capital punishment. When I take a look at my bill folder on this issue, I find 28 letters against capital punishment, 3 for. The three that are written for capital punishment were short letters that probably represented about a paragraph or two. The 28 letters that