

presidential campaign when they asked Michael Dukakis what would you do if someone really murdered your wife. And I thought he really fell down on his answer. I forget what it was but I know what I would do. I would want to kill the bum. I would want to kill the bum. But we are hoping when people are addressing crimes and punishment, they aren't acting out of emotion. They are acting out of logical, reasonable thought. So when I thought about the death penalty, and then it is interesting, this morning's World-Herald had the article on the death penalty and discrimination. Here we are again with discrimination, the death penalty is very discriminatory. They found that out through their studies. More people are given the death penalty for killing white people than are given the death penalty for killing blacks. More blacks are given the death penalty no matter who they kill than whites are given the death penalty. And even though all this discrimination does exist, I am all for the death penalty. I can support the death penalty. The person does the right kind of crime they need to have the death penalty, but there is one clincher. I have to be the person that is deciding. I have to be the person that decides because I don't trust government to make those decisions and the system to make that kind of decision, again, without discrimination. It has been proven that it can't be done and it will take a lot of work before anything like that can come about. So it is a tough, tough issue to adopt the seamless garment concept, if you will, on all your issues. It is very, very tough, and I haven't achieved it, and I know of very few people on this floor that have, so I thought it is very interesting that the subject of the death penalty should come up, especially in light of this morning's article in the World-Herald, and I would relinquish any time left to Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER BARRETT: About a minute and a half, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, excuse me, it is difficult to take an issue such as this that is so intertwined with so many other aspects of the life in this society that you don't branch off into other things that are touched by it. Senator Morrissey was touching on some very crucial and sensitive matters, those that I have been concerned about ever since I have been in the Legislature, and I have had varying degrees of failure in trying to deal with them. There was one time in 1979 when the Legislature with 26 votes voted to abolish the death penalty. Governor Thone vetoed the bill. That was the first time in