

impossible to compensate in any way. The only penalty we have available to match the lasting effects of murder is death to the one responsible. It is unfair to the families of victims and to the communities where these victims are from to support the life of the murderer and we do this through the tax support of prisons. I feel that it's an insult to the grief of the family of the victims when a murderer gets the privilege to continue living and his or her victims do not. If the penalty for premeditated murder is less than death, there is no effective incentive in the law to ensure that the murderer does not commit the crime again while in prison. If the murderer keeps a prison guard...if the murderer kills a prison guard in order to escape, what difference will it make if we abolish the death penalty? The murderer may figure it's worth the risk if he or she is not...if he or she is successful, he or she will be free. If not, well, life goes on, no differently than before except for the victim and his or her family. This is realistic. If LB 327 is raised from the committee and passes this body, you can count on some murderer trying it. We see more and more attempts to kill wardens and prison guards and we want to keep from that. Persons who commit murder in what has been traditionally called crimes of passion or other unique circumstances will still have lighter penalties available. I feel that capital punishment is needed for premeditated murder committed during the violation of another violent crime such as rape or robbery. The death penalty not only has a deterrent effect on murder but on other violent crimes which may result in murder, such as robbery and rape. And we found out that we just have endless appeals...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time. I'm sorry, I forgot to give you one minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: Oh. Oh, I'm...okay, I'll push my button again. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. I will now recognize Senator Chizek, followed by Senators Warner, Dierks, Chambers, Rogers, Baack, Landis, Lindsay and Wesely. Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Sounds like a party almost. Madam President, I rise to oppose the motion to pull LB 327 from committee. This is an issue that the committee has dealt with on numerous occasions. It was an issue with the exception of once since I've been here it had not been moved to the floor. The committee, even though there was not a formal discussion the