

comport with the standards of society, the standards that are evolving, and we should demonstrate that in Nebraska those standards of decency, humanity and civilization have evolved to the point where this state will not have, on the books, a law that would authorize it to kill any of its citizens for any reason. Nobody, as we all know, has been executed in this state since 1959. There have been hundreds of homicides. There are hundreds...there are over a 100, maybe 200 murderers in the prison, right now, not facing the death penalty. There are people who have been convicted of murder walking among us now and we don't even know it. They don't carry a mark of Cain, there is no way to identify them. And Nebraska is not cursed with the number of homicides...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that occur in larger states. Senator Chizek spoke as the Chairman of the committee and opposed bringing this bill out and mentioned that he was not going into the merits. I emphasize again that when a motion to kill this bill was made in committee it died for lack of a second and Senator Chizek was not the one who made the motion. So this is a bill which, if any bill is to be brought from committee, should be placed before us so that we can discuss it. We're not dealing in the realm of theory or academics. We're talking about a real and imminent situation and I hope we will vote to bring this bill out.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. I will now recognize senators in the following order. Senators Rogers, Baack, Landis, Lindsay, Wesely, Ashford, Hefner, Pirsch and Warner. Senator Rogers. Senator Baack.

SPEAKER BAACK: Madam President and colleagues, I rise in support of Senator Chambers' motion to bring LB 327 to General File. This is an issue that I have struggled with in the...I'm starting my seventh year now so the six years that I've been here this is an issue that I struggled with and I must say that coming into this body I was a supporter of the death penalty and thought that we ought to keep the death penalty. But, over the years and listening to the debate, reading all the materials that Senator Chambers has handed out over the years, well, not all of them, couldn't read that much, but all of the information that I've gotten on this issue, convinces me that we ought to repeal the death penalty in this state. I have not been able to