

about the two or three moral issues that he must decide upon, based on his own introspection, and not necessarily based on public opinion in the district in which he lives. But I would suggest, as Senator Lindsay has said, that public opinion is not strongly in favor of the death penalty when the options...

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...such as the options provided for in this bill are presented to the general public, that it is a close call on that issue. And then lastly I have to agree with Senator Wesely, and that...being a lawyer and understanding, to some degree, the legal system, my brother is a judge, my...who...and he tried a lot of capital cases as a county attorney. There is no question that in...it happens that individuals are tried and convicted of first degree murder and are sentenced to death, and are later shown to be innocent. And as Senator Wesely has said, and I agree with him, that if there is one case where that happens, and the death penalty is imposed, that's one case too many. And if there is a scale where the preponderance of the evidence must be established to tip that scale, for me that scale is tipped on that issue. That if one person dies...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...and shouldn't die, especially if the state is involved in that death, that that is an inappropriate penalty to be applied. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Before we go to the next senator, do you have an announcement, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Madam President, Natural Resource Committee will meet in Executive Session underneath the south balcony at eleven o'clock. Natural Resources, south balcony at eleven o'clock.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I would now like to address your attention to the area under the south balcony. Special guests of Senator Rogers today are Mrs. Rogers, their daughter, Roxanne Rogers Meyer, and friend, Nancy Cormaci of Omaha. Would you rise and be recognized and welcomed to the Chamber. Also seated in the north balcony are special guests of