

be the act of a reasonable and responsible government. I can't see where, the last execution in the State of Nebraska was in 1959, that that is much of a deterrence to heinous crimes of murder and passion. And Senator Schmit, I recall, at one time, had said that death row in the State of Nebraska is the safest place to be in the State of Nebraska. Giving all that to be the case, I don't think we need to be paying attorney fees for countless appeals to help people avoid the death penalty, as we are now. And it seems to me that the right thing to do is to let this bill come out to the floor and to let all the members vote it up or down and to consider the merits of it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President and members, I'm going to vote to bring the bill to the floor. I just voted to send another bill to the floor because I do not believe, and I have never believed, contrary to some of the published reports, that a minority of this Legislature, as few as four people, for example, should deny this entire body the right to debate an important issue. It has happened in the past, and I think it's wrong. I've had bills bottled up in committee on a 4-4 vote that ought to be discussed on this floor. I think it's wrong. Many times issues that the body prefer not to discuss are buried in committee and are never given an adequate debate on the floor. I'm not going to argue about the merits or demerits, pros or cons of the abolishment of the death penalty at this time, except to say this, I have said it repeatedly on the floor, and I'm going to say it this morning again, when I came into the body I was adamantly in favor of the death penalty. And I would still say that I thought, if it were uniformly exercised and uniformly applied, it could be a deterrent to murder. My principal objection is this, there is no way that that kind of penalty will ever be applied uniformly. In most instances, most cases it isn't even ever placed in the position where it threatens the life of an affluent individual. They will always get off some way. I can tell you that I have heard testimony of an individual who witnessed a murder, and the individual who witnessed it was never ever charged with a crime, was charged with a couple of mediocre crimes, and it makes me sick. I think it's time that those things are said. When I see people with power and money who can influence the court, who can influence the prosecutors, who can influence juries all out of proportion to the crime that was committed, then I say it is