

January 14, 1992 LB 327, 816

have some of these jobs and the other activities that they have at the penitentiary. So I hope that you will vote in favor of this bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. We will now vote on the motion to advance LB 816. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 816.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 816 is advanced. LB 327.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 327 was a bill originally introduced by Senator Chambers and a number of members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced, Madam President, on January 16 of last year. On April 15, Senator Chambers filed a motion to place the bill on General File. That motion prevailed. I do have a series of amendments pending.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chambers, would you like to open on the bill?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, as was stated by the Clerk and we're nearing the end of the morning session so I'll keep my comments brief, this is a bill which would abolish the death penalty. It would replace it with life in prison without parole. Now some of you had a letter circulated to you and it was handed to you in the same way that somebody would declare the discovery of America by Columbus. I had written a letter to "Wili" Otey who is on death row because he had written to ask me questions about my death penalty bill, bill to abolish the death penalty. My method is to be forthright and direct with anybody I deal with. The answer I gave to him I would have given to anybody, that this contains a provision to not allow parole. However, the Pardons Board always has the power to mitigate any sentence. When our own legislative publication discussed the hearing of that bill, it pointed out that the Pardons Board has the power to commute any sentence. The bill itself calls attention to the fact that the Pardons Board can change any sentence. So it boggles my mind that people can run around here indicating that I'm trying to hide something which was discussed in the bill to call people's attention to it. But those same people never say,