

Beutler's amendment. A case came up in Omaha just two or three days ago where a man sentenced, convicted for murder and sentenced, fortunately, not to death and he was not executed, and they...new evidence came forth where people who don't know this man heard the individuals involved in the killing say that the shooter is not in prison, and they know who the shooter is. The evidence was presented to a judge, a district judge in Douglas County, and the judge felt there was sufficient evidence to order a new trial. You know what the county attorney said? Because they want to win at any cost and they hate to lose, even if it means that an innocent person should be punished; well, this is hearsay, there's not enough evidence here for a new trial. If justice were being sought, and we know what a terrible thing it is to deprive somebody of freedom even if they committed a crime, for there to be substantial evidence of innocence and substantial evidence pointing to the guilt of another person, the county attorney has two strong reasons for wanting a new trial. The first one is to make sure that an innocent person is not punished. The second is to acknowledge that as long as an innocent person is bearing the weight of that crime, the guilty killer is still walking the streets. But since the county attorney had won a conviction, the fact that a murderer is walking loose becomes irrelevant, yet the same county attorney's office will whoop and holler about the necessity of having a death penalty so that those who commit murder will not menace society. Such hypocrisy, inconsistency, but it is a good arguing point when campaign time comes. This is why I am convinced to a moral certitude that if with the present makeup of the Legislature, the present makeup of the Legislature that we have right now, if we could all be separated from the propagandizing, the political considerations and every extraneous influence and force that attempts to coerce our judgment, and we could look at the facts, the way this so-called punishment is administered, the way it skews the law, the way it forces ordinarily honest people to pretend and lie, the amount of time that is taken, we would get enough votes not only to abolish the death penalty but to override a veto. That's what we would be able easily to get and the reason I say it, even though there are some of you who say that you're for the death penalty and you'd continue to vote for it, I also have detected that the reasoning is not based strictly on an acceptance of and belief in the death penalty but these kind of considerations that I mentioned. When you can see a county attorney willing to let a murderer walk free rather than face the little bruise to the ego of having an innocent person released, something is