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Brashear. What we are going to present the body with, during this discussion, is the result of a lot of discussion, a lot of difficult moments for me to agree to what we are going to present. But as the discussion unfolds, Senator Brashear and I for sure, and I hope others, intend to lay out a case justifying the adoption of the committee amendments and then the advancement of the bill. And I now yield the remainder of my opening to Senator Brashear.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the ancient prophet, Malachi, spoke. He indicated that we have been shown that which is good. And what is it that's required of us? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. I wanted...I picked that selection because I wanted to suggest to you this is not a discussion about the death penalty, believe it or not. This is not a discussion about capital punishment. This is not a discussion about law and order, and it's not a discussion about politics. This is a discussion, I respectfully suggest, about justice. And it's about justice the way this Legislature, in prior sessions, has indicated that justice should be administered. And as the Supreme Court of this state has called to our attention issues related to justice, your Judiciary Committee is, in an approximate way, not getting into technicalities and exceptions, constituted by a majority of people who favor capital punishment. I am one of those. But when you deal closely with the facts as capital punishment is being applied in the state of Nebraska, I want to respectfully suggest to you that justice requires that we stop, we consider what we...what is being done, and that we respond appropriately. The committee amendment is a substitution in entirety for the senior member's original bill. It simply imposes a moratorium on the death penalty, on the affecting of death penalty, until September of 2002, until we can do an analysis, a study, to determine if this is being fairly and justly administered. I'll deal with technicalities of the amendment later. This is not here today about repealing the death penalty. This is not about being soft on crime. The fact of the matter is you have a chart...you have several charts before you, or will have several charts before you that give you some of the objective data that your committee would like to have you consider. There are 165