

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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immediate... State v. Roewert, a robbing and killing of the victim. They drove him out to a country road where they took his billfold. While the victim was passed out from being intoxicated, the defendant cut his throat and then decapitated him. The defendant then disemboweled the victim, rolled the body over and cut it about the back. The defendant was 23 years of age. Life in prison.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Brashear. Further discussion, Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I happen to be on LB 76, I went on it a couple months ago, for two reasons. And the first...I went on the original bill, LB 76, the original bill, the bill that has been run before, life imprisonment with no chance of or opportunity of parole. The first reason I go on it, of course, is because I am pro-life and I believe that life is a seamless garment, from conception to whatever death is ours to receive. There's no in-between. I don't know if I would ever have the courage as a judge or a court or a jury to levy the death penalty for anyone. My husband has always been against the death penalty way, way back. I've seen letters that he wrote when he was in college where he was searching for answers to his youthful questions, and one of them was about the death penalty. But one of the things that concern me even about the original bill, even though I went on it, Article IV, Section 13 of the constitution of our state says: The Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, sitting as a board, shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, to grant respites, reprieves, pardons, or commutations in all cases of conviction for offenses against the laws of the state, except treason and cases of impeachment, and of course that includes murder. That does concern me that the Pardons Board could overcome the life imprisonment, because I think the worst thing that could happen to any of these people, when it comes right down to it, is to sit wherever they are incarcerated and think about what they did for the rest of their natural lives. I also think they should be working and not figuring out how to appeal their case. But that brings me to the second part of what I want to say today, and I'm not trying to raise anybody's hackles. Don't misunderstand me, I'm not. But when it comes to life, I have to speak out for the unborn,