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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, thank you, Senator Federsen. I'd like to continue my review of some of the cases, the details of which are set forth in State v. Palmer, a 1986 decision of the Nebraska Supreme Court. All of the cases which I'm citing to you are cases in which the death penalty was not imposed. State v. Ditter, 1981. Defendant and his wife, the victim, were separated. Defendant went to his wife's apartment, where he broke in. He ordered a girlfriend of the victim to remove the party's two minor children and then ordered his wife to disrobe. While requiring his wife to beg for her life, he fired four shots into her body. Shots were fired at different intervals. When the police broke in, the victim was still alive, but died before the rescue squad arrived. Life in prison. State v. Thornton, it's no written opinion, but it's a 1980 sentence. Defendant entered the victim's apartment through a boarded up doorway in the basement. His intent was to break and enter for the purpose of burglarizing the home. He took money, drugs, and a radio while the victim was asleep on the sofa. She was awakened by the noise of the defendant. She screamed and the two struggled. The defendant strangled her with a gag. Life in prison. State v. McGee. This defendant, together with several others, was part of a social family. Defendant was told that if he wanted to get in good with the family he would have to kill the victim, another member of the family, or else he himself would be killed. On the night of the murder, a party was held at the home of one of the family members. Victim was given drink which was drugged. Later, while the defendant and two others went upstairs to load a gun, the victim was downstairs with another. The others came down, handed the defendant the gun and told him to kill the victim, which he did, shooting him 15 or 16 times. The body was thrown in a creek bed in Iowa. That was life in prison. And I'm doing this, please understand from the record, as a part of the record, to illustrate the need for the body in my judgment to engage the moratorium to permit the study to find out if we are doing justice fairly in all parts of the state. The question's been asked of me, why did we circulate the information with regard to second degree murder. Well, one of the facts we have to deal with here is that prosecutors do, in