

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 20, 1999 LB 76

myself why these people, in state that has capital punishment as a matter of our corporate public policy for first degree murder, why all of these people, given these factual circumstances, are serving life and were not under threat of death. And if it's because, in some "if", I say if it's because in some instances prosecutors do not want to engage in the extremely hard work of litigating to conclusion and conviction a capital case, that may not be justice. And if they simply use the threat of death in order to achieve life and get a conviction to talk about the rate of prosecution, that may not be justice. And if a county board anywhere...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...in the great state of Nebraska tells a county attorney, we don't want to litigate a capital case because we don't want to spend the taxpayer's money to do it, when we hear people say that everyone supports capital punishment, then that may, one, be an illogical disconnect; two, it may be disingenuous; and, three, it may not be justice. I feel a sense of responsibility. The Legislature, in 1978, when it adopted the statutes that I read to you, and I'll share again at some point, when it talked about its concern about justice being done proportionately and when it acknowledged that it was not being done fairly and equitably, I feel...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...a sense of responsibility. We will be judged for how we administer our offices and this is not about...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...abolishing the death penalty. For the people who just can't be satisfied...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator, time.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...with anything...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.