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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, when a presentation is given of the kind that Senator Bruning offered on an issue as serious as this, from my position, because of how serious I view this matter, it's not even worthy of a direct response from me. I have a few things I want to share with you all this morning. Here's a comment that was made about the situation in England during the seventeen and eighteen hundreds. Foreign visitors were impressed by the exemplary fairness of British courts and horrified by the savage penalties they inflicted, and they were talking about hanging. In 17...in 1767, Catherine the Great of Russia, in what is known as her instruction, abolished corporal punishment, capital punishment and made this comment: It is moderation which rules a people and not excess of severity. Becceria, Voltaire, Jeremy Bentham, Montesquieu are some of the people recognized throughout the world as thinkers and they were opposed to the death penalty. Those who are opposed to this penalty take the time to study underlying problems that generate killers. They're concerned about what it is that goes wrong with a person that leads him or her to take another life. It is not that visceral thing of saying this person did that, so you do the other. I'm going to deviate this time, and then I'll turn on my light again, from what I was going to say because that incident yesterday in Littleton, Colorado is instructive. It is acknowledged in the paper this morning, which is something that some of the newscasters and commentators with CNN wanted to skirt around if they could, these two white boys targeted black people and Hispanics, targeted them, were making the racial comments, and yet there are people who want to suggest that there is not racism in this country. We die because of racism. A black man was dragged in Jasper, Texas, behind a truck, attached to the truck with a logging chain. His arm, his shoulder, his head, all those parts were severed. In the case of these two boys in Littleton, Colorado, they killed themselves from what we gather. In the case of the man in Jasper, Texas, who got the death penalty, were the decision mine to make, the two in Colorado would live, the man in Jasper would live. The state would not kill any of them. No matter what the offense, no matter who the victim, no matter how I feel about the perpetrator, the state