

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

April 21, 1999 LB 76

suggest that, respectfully that these are difficult issues and the public doesn't always understand, and I want to suggest to you that the fault lies here when the public doesn't understand. Sometimes we don't engage in the kind and type of debate that gets reported to the people so that they can understand. I'm willing to discuss proportionality. I am willing to discuss the morality of the death penalty. I'm willing to discuss the legality of the death penalty with anybody anywhere, and I am willing to discuss the only thing this debate here today is legitimately about, which is justice, and the administration of justice, and the proportionality of that which we're doing, and our complying with the laws we have adopted. Are we a government of laws, or are we a government of people? Are we here to nurse our revenge, our darker, our weaker instincts? Are we here to appeal to the masses, or are we here to respond to our duty and to the law and to justice? The public, if the public doesn't understand, it's because they have people standing up and cheering about the death penalty as it applies to a particular person in a particular case. And, if the public doesn't understand, it's because I'm not certain anybody ever sits around and spreads on the public record all the...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute. One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...information that the public ought to have in order to understand. And when next I rise, we'll go back to trying to promote public under...one of the things that I think is a thrill and a privilege about serving in this great body is that it is our duty to inform ourselves and to share that which we learn with the people. We are here to serve them, and when next I rise, I'm going to continue informing the public about the cases they don't know about, they didn't hear about, they don't understand, and how it relates to our tainting, our tarnishing the fairness of our justice.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Chambers, on the Bruning amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'm against Senator Bruning's amendment. The measured, reasoned words of Senator Don Pederson are typical of those comments of people who study the issue, recognize its gravity, will not be