

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

April 21, 1999 LB 76

be imposed fairly, yet he's in favor of having this state continue to kill people through a system which he says is not fair now and will never be fair. He does not want to pause, in the way that Senator Don Pederson suggested we ought to, since it's the very system that we're studying. For Senator Bruning's information, two of the last three people executed were black. If Randolph Reeves is executed, three out of the four will be black. Black people and Native Americans, together, do not make up 4 percent of the population of this state, but they will constitute 75 percent of those executed. That tells me something. For people to stand on the floor and acknowledge they don't understand this issue is one thing, but to say even though I don't understand it, I want it to stay just like it is, is what I find difficult to understand. We have passed bills to bring equity to farmers, the area where Senator Schrock lives, and they think that's all right. Farmers are treated unfairly, so they say change the law to help the farmers, and I've fought to help do that, and I've supported bills in the committee and on the floor to do that. I've withstood those powerful forces that Senator Schrock doesn't have the legal expertise to deal with but he understands the nature of the problem that they create, but I have yet to have him tell me, Senator Chambers, don't you speak on that issue. In fact, that's the only issue in which...on which he yielded time to me..

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because I was speaking on an issue dear to his heart and his constituents' hearts. But when we come to the matter of life, it's not important. There is a young lady, a beautiful young lady, named Kenyatta Bush, who was murdered by a white guy, at least he's been convicted of the crime. Her family knows that I'm against the death penalty for anybody. They knew that if the white guy was convicted, I would be against his getting the death penalty, but they asked me to accompany them when they had consultations with the county attorney in Douglas County, which is what I did on at least two occasions. I attended the preliminary hearing. I gave my views to the county attorney on how I thought testimony on a tape from a codefendant, who had committed suicide, could nevertheless be entered into evidence and accepted as admissible. But having done that, it was only for the purpose of seeing that the