

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

May 27, 1999

LB 76A

upset about the "out-of-jointness" of the criminal justice system. I believe this study is a step in the right direction. I believe that the veto will be overridden and I assure Senator Bruning, who raised legitimate issues, legitimate concerns about the objectivity of the study and whether or not there will be outside influence brought to bear, I want to assure him that I will have nothing to do, even remotely, with this study. The only way I would have anything to do with it is if whoever was conducting it would ask me questions. I would never inject myself into that process. Senator Bruning and others who have talked about my opposition to the death penalty have been absolutely correct. Somebody described my attitude toward the death penalty as one of abhorrence. That is absolutely correct. Murder has touched my family, but it does not change my abhorrence of the death penalty. I remain unshakable in my conviction that the state should never kill a person regardless of who the victim is, who the perpetrator is, or how heinous the crime itself may be. The state must be better than that. We must be better than that. And, as Jesus said, if you do good to those who do good to you, you're not worthy of thanks; even the worst people...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...do that. We show our civilization, our maturity and our being exemplars when we, during the worst of circumstances, can behave like a responsible, deliberative body and not be carried away by emotion, but rather by sound principles of justice. And I am going to express my appreciation in advance for the vote that I know you're going to receive. I do deeply appreciate it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The question is, shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objection of the Governor? Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Have you voted? Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 2447-2448.)
43 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The bill is passed, notwithstanding the