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a study of the death penalty. And there are people who argued on both sides about whether that was something that would stop the death penalty, if it was something that would result in the death penalty being applied in more cases. But I wonder why we are taking up an issue that deals ultimately with the application of the death penalty at a time when we are waiting for the results of that study.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Senator Brown, there are two answers. There's the simple answer, and that is, as you well know and all of our colleagues well know, you tend to deal with what is before you on the day it's before you. We are engaged here in a great process and this bill has come from the committee, the amendments substantially change the bill, it's before us now and it's time to decide. We'll decide favorable to the amendments in the bill or we will not. But you're also, with all due respect, mixing apples and oranges because when we deal with the proportionality of the death penalty in the state of Nebraska, which is what the debate was essentially about last time, we were talking about first degree murder. We were talking about whether people similarly situated are treated similarly or whether they are disproportionately and, therefore, unjustly treated. At this point in time...and we were talking about how they're prosecuted. In this particular situation, we're talking about one classification of murder. We're talking about the opportunity to expand the scope of this crime, and we're talking about the possibility of changing our life imprisonment statute so that it provides for no parole. So there are other issues at play here. I admit that the death penalty is there now for felony murder, but if we wanted the expansion of felony murder, if we wanted life in prison without the possibility of parole, this is an opportunity and that doesn't relate to the study of the death penalty any more than anything else, in my opinion. I hope that's responsive.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Senator. It is responsive and yet it, to me...we talked yest...you talked on Friday about proportionality in relation to this bill that is before us. And I believe that this bill that is before us ultimately gets down to whether in those felony murder situations that are particularly heinous and I...in some of the examples that have been cited, I do not believe are examples that would result...