

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

January 24, 2000 LB 509

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...remit or forgive any punishment?

SENATOR BRUNING: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then what punishment can the Legislature impose that the Pardon Board cannot wipe out?

SENATOR BRUNING: None.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and that's...that is the point that I'm making. They want to say it on this one punishment but they never bring it up on others when they sometimes try to enhance a punishment. But I will tell my fellow colleagues this. There can be an attempt to make this amendment that Senator Brashear is offering and that I strongly support something other than what it is, but if you read the language of it, you see that it will bring within the reach of the felony murder rule crimes that are being committed with greater frequency and they are the types of crimes which I'm not opposed to seeing very harshly punished.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Those wishing to speak to AM2074, Senator Matzke and Senator Brashear. Senator Matzke, you're recognized.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers was limited on time and didn't want to let me answer a question which I think is rather permanent...pertinent, and that is if we're dealing with crimes against children, they may not currently come under the classifications that involve felony murder but most often involve a kidnapping, which would bring them under the felony murder rule. So I don't believe that this amendment is particularly necessary or helpful. Again, I think it is just an attempt to make this bill more palatable and we need to keep our eye on the ball, and that is that this bill, in the end, is really a test of whether we abolish the death penalty in about two-thirds of the murder cases that come to our courts.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Brashear, your light is next. You waived off, Senator Brashear? There