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So the state of Illinois, as other states have done, was willing to kill innocent people to respond and satisfy...respond to and satisfy the pandering of politicians. But, to continue: Some of the 13 inmates were taken off death row after DNA evidence exonerated them; the cases of others collapsed after new trials were ordered by appellate courts. Ryan's decision would make Illinois the first of the 38 states with capital punishment to halt all executions while it reviews its death penalty procedures. The Nebraska Legislature passed such a moratorium last year, but it was vetoed by Governor Mike Johanns, and I know it made his little heart proud. Cullotsin...Culloton, C-u-l-l-o-t-o-n, said the Governor "still believes capital punishment is a proper societal response," but was deeply troubled by the number of condemned prisoners who have been exonerated in Illinois in recent years and by a recent series by the Chicago Tribune examining nearly 300 death penalty cases since 1977. The Chicago Tribune examined cases in Illinois. The newspaper reported that 33 death row inmates have been represented by attorneys who had been disbarred or suspended and about half of the state's capital cases had been reversed for a new trial or sentencing hearing. There have been numerous rehearings and resentencings and even some people removed from death row in Nebraska also, but to Governor Johanns that has no significance. Culloton said Ryan will appoint a special commission to study the state's system in general and the 13 specific cases in which defendants were found to have been wrongly convicted. "The Governor bears the burden of having the last say," said the aide, "and there's no margin for error." That is not how the Governor of Nebraska feels. And on that point, I see where the Attorney General, "General" Stenberg, is distressed because he does not like the person selected to participate in the study. Senators, you should remember that "General" Stenberg is the one who, as Chair of the Crime Commission, appointed the subcommittee that conducted the search. The one who chaired the subcommittee is Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey, one who believes in the death penalty and I believe has sought it and probably procured it. I had said, when this study was first undertaken, I would do nothing to interfere with or try to influence their direction. As a result of that, I received more overtures from them and they received none from me, so my only contact with them was by way of their invitation. Whoever they would have selected would