

would not have had any actual effect. And once the amendments have been added, hopefully one that I'm going to offer will be accepted too, then we can begin to think about the amount of money that would be needed to make it effective in its operation. But I'm going to talk about the subject again that I had mentioned earlier because the bill does mention capital litigation. Do you know that the last time before Harold Otey was executed, a man...nobody had been executed since 1959, 35 years. As old as I often talk about being, that means that half, over half of my lifetime in this state nobody was killed by the state. Tim...Senator Hall said he was three years old. Now the state has shed that blood and it was the blood of a black man. The next one who is within the shadow of the electric chair, they had almost got the switch thrown and the hum going, running a practice run, when fate intervened and robbed the executioner of his prey. But it's very significant that that also was a black man. Black people make up a tiny proportion of Nebraska's population, yet the first two men to be executed would have been black. The first one executed in 35 years was a black man, and contrary to what was noised abroad by the Attorney General's Office and others, there were white men who had been on death row longer than Willie Otey, and, in fact, one of them has been removed from death row. The federal courts have found a way to order resentencings. They overturned the sentence of John Joubert for all these white men, and white people want to tell me race plays no part in it. But when a black man raises the identical issue to that of the white man, the courts say, that cannot be heard, and this black man must die. So the racism is present in Nebraska. Nebraska is not like some of the southern states where they say we have a lot of black men on death row because we have a lot of black men in the population. The number and the percentage is very low in Nebraska. White men, not only cannot jump, they will not be executed in Nebraska. No women will be executed. My argument is not in favor of executing more, my argument is against executing any. Then you have this macabre spectacle. I see Ed Howard out of my peripheral vision of reporters having to be there to observe this ceremonial, high-tech burning at the stake. One reporter talked about the large swelling that developed on Willie Otey's leg, the smoke that came from his body. And for those who really wanted vengeance, for those...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...outside the Penitentiary with the racist