

President. It's in the south balcony. Will you folks raise your hands so we can see where you are and say hello to you? The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I don't think it's any secret that our Honorable Governor has stated publicly that he would veto the death penalty bill should it be stricken in this bill. I know it only takes 25 votes to bring it out on the floor, but it would take 30 to override the veto. I think in view of all the bills that we have not heard yet, and all the issues that we need to be talking about that it would be foolish to bring this to the floor this year. End of speech. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, it was about a week ago that this body considered the issue of a laetrile measure, and saw fit to take from committee that measure and make it part of the agenda of this body. Based on some compelling arguments, based on human need and the impression that this issue should be considered because of its human potential and value, and I guess I would call upon those same senators who felt so compelled on that issue, which was such a strong majority at that time to look to this issue and say that if human need and the policy making role in society that the Legislature plays is of any significance, this is the kind of measure we should be talking about, even in our remaining seventeen days. Consider if you will the reason for leaving a bill in committee this long. The substantial...the reasons that hold merit include such things as the need for additional information, the need for amendments, and the need to consider compromise and consensus and negotiation. Those are the kinds of things that justify a committee holding a bill as long as this bill has been held by the Judiciary Committee. Those reasons are not present on LB 262. In fact, all there is is a deadlock, a deadlock of two policy positions on one of the most fundamental questions that this Legislature and our society can address. The question is whether eight senators will decide for the state of Nebraska the fate of LB 262. I believe they should not. If for no other reason, this Legislature needs to be on record as to its position on this fundamental human question. We do not need additional information before the Judiciary Committee. We are not looking forward to the prospect of amendments nor compromise. All we are looking at is a deadlock that means the end of a substantial important human question that really faces this Legislature