

steps on the Capitol, don't they? And so we did. We held one of the most orderly hearings you ever heard, and five thousand people came and assembled around the steps of this Capitol and for the first time in orderly protest on a political matter, a war, was held and men like Bob Kerry, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, who now has your Grandmother's Skillet, or whatever it is, and hundreds of other veterans came and they explained why they were opposed to it, what was going on, and in my district where they told me I'd be killed for doing this, we started educating the people and they started having other hearings and we all learned more about the war, and finally I think enough Americans learned that even if the war was legitimate, the way we were handling it it wasn't. We educated. We were leaders. I took the risk then, and I guess I'm taking a risk now. Why a risk? Because for eight years in a row I have stood up and killed Senator Chambers' proposals to repeal the death penalty, systematically, efficiently, cleverly at times, and so I decided the other day to really start some analysis. What are we? We're to represent our constituents, but we're also to lead and guide and educate them. Now what's the whole purpose when you come down here? What do you do? We make laws. We tell people how they should live, and then we have the enforcement system for these laws. The enforcement system is simply the penal system. So the key part of everything is the enforcement system for everything we do, whether it's passing a law... you can't hunt a coyote, you can hunt a coyote, you can have multibanks, you can't. The enforcement system is what it's all about ultimately. And the center piece, the ultimate center piece of our enforcement system ends up being the death penalty. So if this is the center piece, if this is the key part for the ultimate enforcement, let's see how well it works, because if our enforcement system isn't working, maybe that's part of our problem with the rest of it. Senator Wesely, I said Senator Wesely...he's old enough to be a senator, was in diapers when the last execution was held in this state. There have been thousands of murders within the borders of Nebraska, thousands of murders since he was in diapers, and since we've used supposedly the ultimate deterrent, and we have spent millions of dollars of your money up there paying legal aid attorneys and all kinds of people to run the cases up to the Supreme Court, down to the lower courts, up through those courts, and in circles and so on and so forth so that we could ultimately do nothing. I would submit to you that the center piece of a system that cannot be used is not an effective tool, but maybe the threat of it is a deterrent. Maybe it is working that way, except that there are more