

May 9, 1979

LB 262

the nation on who had money and who is in jail and who is not. So I am sitting here very, very attentive, and if Senator Chambers can change my mind, I will change my vote after four years of listening to Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we go to the next speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to you in the North balcony 18 seniors from the Government Class of Roseland, Nebraska High School, two teachers, Mary Lou Haggart, the sponsor, and they come from one of the better districts in the State of Nebraska. Will you raise your hands and show us where you are so we can say good morning to you? There you go. From Senator Lewis' District in the North balcony, 24 eighth graders, two teachers, one parent from St. Mary's Elementary School, Bellevue, Nebraska. Mary Moore is the Eighth Grade teacher and where are you located? Are you just coming in? Okay. The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of LB 262. This has been one of the toughest decisions that I have had to look at, not only this year but in other years. I want to say at the outset that I support the death penalty and I have for a long time. The reason I take this position today is that the death penalty is not working. What do we have today in our court system? We have plea bargaining. We have a lessening of the charges. We have insanity pleas and, believe me, that is gaining in popularity. As a result of all these things and the reluctance of the courts to use the death penalty when it is necessary and can be proved that it ought to be used, I feel we must in order to stop this crime wave that is sweeping our country do something else and see if it will work. It may and it may not. I talked to Senator Chambers about this and he said, if we can get this bill passed, I will put forth every effort to see that the thirty year lockup in our institutions is going to work. Crime has to be stopped. Other countries are concerned about this. I just read in an Associated Press release written by Mr. Hilmer Toros that in some of the Islamic countries they are going to stop crime, and in at least one of these countries, they are introducing the canon law that provides that anyone committing a crime of this nature shall suffer the death penalty. They go on to say in this canon law and stipulate that in the case of stealing and thievery the canon law provides that they cut off their hands. For drunkenness there will there will be a flogging. For adultery there will be a stoning. Now we know that is far too drastic but this shows the concern all over our world because of the increase in crime. We have it in our

4983