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LB 262

murderers from killing their victims. Senator DeCamp said the other day when we was bringing this to the floor that Senator Wesely was still in his diapers when Charlie Starkweather was executed. This is true, and if Charlie Starkweather wasn't executed, maybe Senator Wesely wouldn't be here today because I am sure that Charlie Starkweather would have been let free. Also he said we spent millions of dollars on the Starkweather murder or the Starkweather execution but I can tell you folks here today that we spend thousands of dollars on those on death row today and the other criminals in our penitentiary. I'd like to relate to you the figures that the Gallup poll released last year, in 1978. This was a nationwide poll. They interviewed 1,560 people. These people were eighteen years and older. They came from 300 scientifically selected localities and this was taken in March of 1978. 62 favored the death penalty, 27 opposed and there were no answers from 11 percent but here is what these people said. The death penalty does act as a deterrent. Jail sentences are an economic burden on society. Number three, criminals today get off too easily and jail rehabilitation is not working in our jails. I have kept tract of the letters that I have received and also the phone calls that I have received from the constituents in my district and they favor the death penalty by 80%. I think it was also mentioned that the World Herald in their survey said that the people in Nebraska supported the death penalty by about 78%. I believe that execution is a penalty that society must assess in certain crimes and I would like to say this that the victims certainly didn't have a choice before they were killed nor did they have their day in court. Most of them were murdered in coldblood after they had been tortured. We need to think of the victims instead of the criminal. I'd like to ask you here today, what about their victims' families? Think of all the suffering and frustration that they have gone through and especially the disappointments when that criminal that killed their loved one is set free. Last summer a convicted murderer in Delaware, and this prisoner was imprisoned for life...

SENATOR MARSH PRESIDING

SENATOR MARSH: One minute left, Senator.

SENATOR HEFNER: ...filed suit demanding that the state execute him because waiting to die naturally is not humane. I am thoroughly convinced that people who commit these brutal murders should be made to pay with their most precious possession and that is their life. Colleagues, I urge you