

May 9, 1979

LB 262

Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I won't take up too much time. I know there is many other speakers but I would be remiss in my duty as a State Senator if I did not stand in opposition to LB 262. Last night was a very interesting newscast on the TV. It mentioned the fact that Omaha has a 100% increase in murders in 1979 over 1978. Mrs. Ashton who was a personal friend of mine, 70 years old, was found murdered in her basement. Before the day was out, before the twenty-four hours was up, a young man was found in a closet murdered. Now a 100% increase in murders in Omaha is no small thing for the State of Nebraska. I also want to stand here and mention the fact that the proponents of abortion last year accused me of trying to impose my religion, which is a Catholic, onto the members of the body. This year Senator Johnson mentioned the fact that the U. S. Catholic Conference is definitely opposed to capital punishment, yet I stand here and tell you that I am going against my church when I tell you that I do not support LB 262. Senator Beutler mentioned in one study that has been, I don't know if it was conducted this year or last year, eight lives were saved per execution. You multiply that by the thirty-one that Senator Johnson said in 1960 were executed, we saved 248 lives. On the abortion bills last year we said we can kill millions of babies each year and yet when we go to the other end of life we protect the criminal. I think capital punishment is a deterrent to murder regardless what anyone says and I think the study that Senator Beutler gave us at the beginning proved that, and Senator Johnson, the fact that he listed several years at random where the executions were performed and I think he started with 1935 all the way to 1960 and had hundreds of them in early years of 1935 and 1950, and if the study that Senator Beutler mentioned is correct and even if it saves one life, he said eight lives per execution, think of the hundreds of victims that we have saved. If it saved one victim, one life, it may have been one of your loved ones. I definitely urge each and every one of you to do what we have done for the last several years and oppose LB 262.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Warner, and while he is coming to the microphone, I will introduce 20 fourth grade students from Southeast Consolidated School at Stella, Nebraska, Judy Anderson is their teacher, in the South balcony. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Warner.