

May 15, 1979

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can be, even if it is only a symbolic thing or a very limited thing, it can be a useful deterrent. Now I personally believe that the death penalty is not a deterrent in very many instances. I do not think it deters people to a great extent and if the whole issue was to lay purely on its deterrent factor, then I would have to support the elimination of the death penalty. However, I do think there are some places in where the death penalty is, in fact, a deterrent and since I did not offer, did not have these amendments printed since they were the third draft, I had the first two drafts that I withdrew printed, I would like to explain briefly what they do and kind of outline what they do. Basically we say the death penalty will only apply with these amendments when one kills another person who is serving national, state or local office or is a judge, a firefighter, a policeman or a public employee charged with the duty of protecting public safety, at the time the crime is engaged in. In other words what we are saying here is that if a police officer or a firefighter is killed while he is trying or actively trying to stop one from committing a felony or commission of some other criminal act or if a firefighter is killed while he is trying to save a public building or if he is killed by a sniper or someone like that, that the death penalty would apply in those cases. Or to the death of the President of the United States or some other high elected official or any other public employee who is charged with protecting the public safety such as in the case of the National Guard, if they are out protecting individuals while there is looting going on. The second part, part (b) talks about crimes that are committed while serving as an inmate in a jail or a prison. There has to be, in my opinion, a deterrent for those individuals who have nothing else to lose. There has to be, in fact, some deterrent and for that reason I think this is a very reasonable sort of compromise and a reasonable addition to those crimes that can cause the ultimate loss and that loss being the death penalty. (c) says, kills another person for profit or compensation. I think that assassinations or as Senator Venditte talked about earlier, someone who is plotting premeditated or cold-blooded murder, that it is important that we also have the death penalty for these kinds of crimes. For that reason I offer this amendment. I would hope that the members of this body whether they are for the death penalty or opposed to the elimination of the...or I mean, for the elimination of the death penalty or opposed to the elimination of the death penalty, would support the compromise proposal. Like I said earlier I have no great expectations about

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