

May 15, 1979

LB 262

determine by that when a person is eligible for parole. That does not mean they have to be paroled but they are eligible to be considered. If the Parole Board feels that a person's institutional record and the crime committed and all factors considered entitles that person to be released prior to the expiration of the entire sentence, that person will be released but under this bill the Parole Board would be stripped of that discretion and could not consider paroling a person in less than thirty years.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Does that answer your question, Senator Fitzgerald? Now the Chair recognizes Senator Chambers. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, last night half a dozen Senators sat in on a hearing of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee and we listened to one witness after another explain how insurance agents were going out and they were selling old people insurance in which the old people thought they were getting the rights to have their expenses in a rest home paid for if and when they should happen to go there and then when the time came for them to have to go there, they found the insurance that they had paid money for, that they had spent their life savings on was a complete fraud and was unworkable and did not pay a thing. Now I would like to treat about five myths that have been raised here in the last twenty minutes on the death penalty. Myth number one is that we have a death penalty. We do not have a death penalty in the State of Nebraska. You, right now, by all the laws on the books have the right to take rocket ships to the moon but as a practical matter because the cost is so high, because there aren't that many rocket ships, so on and so forth, you are not going to take a rocket ship to the moon. Now we have on the books the death penalty but statistically by all the evidence it does not exist and is not used and therefore, you can't say we have it. So you are being defrauded and the people of the state are being defrauded to thinking they have a deterrent that doesn't exist. The second myth was the impression that there is a big change in this legislation with respect to the Board of Pardons that somehow these people that are put in there for thirty years are all going to be out the next morning because of some major huge new change in the Board of Pardons and Senator Kremer is concerned about this. Truth, there is not one comma of change with respect to that board's powers contrary to what you have just been led to believe. That board which