

May 21, 1979

LB 262

reiterate what efforts I had made the other day on LB 262, and I think it is an effort, it is an honest effort, a sincere attempt at least to bring this very important issue to the people of the State of Nebraska. I have had, believe it or not, several people come to my home within the last forty-eight hours to discuss LB 262...people that don't live in my district, and they have asked me to come back to inform the Legislature that what we're attempting to do is out of step with what the people of the State of Nebraska want. I'm not sure if much more need be said. You know the issue as well as I. Many of you...many of you don't want to get involved in this issue, and I can understand that. I can truly understand that, but the people of the State of Nebraska want to be involved in this issue. That's what the amendment is all about. Let the people of the state get involved in this issue, and this very amendment will do just that. It will ask the people of the State of Nebraska whether they want the death penalty or not. I have talked to a number of people and including the Deputy Chief of the City of Omaha, Jack Swanson, and I can only reiterate what the World Herald had said, and it is unfortunate that more law enforcement officials across this state have not come forward. I think it would have made the decision for those of you who are not really quite sure about this particular issue to make it easier...to make the going easier. Unfortunately, we have not heard from law enforcement. But I have. I have talked to at least one and several others indirectly, and they all feel that there is a place for the death penalty here in the State of Nebraska. Ladies and gentlemen, it is very simple. The people of this state want the death penalty. I would like to just briefly explain a poll that was taken by Channel 6 in Omaha, and they had interviewed people living in south, north, west and east Omaha. John Giovanni, you'll get your time, okay? Now the poll came back and told me that sixty-five percent of the people living in those sections of the city want the death penalty. But what the question that was given to the people failed to say was that there was not going to be a mandatory thirty years. Now if the people would have been told that, ladies and gentlemen, that figure would have rose from sixty-five percent, in my opinion, to as high as ninety and ninety-five percent. Let's let the people of the State of Nebraska have a choice. I can tell you what is going to happen right now if we do, in fact, pass this, and there will be a referendum drive upon the completion of the

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