

here within the next five minutes. And I look around the room and I see, yes, indeed, I see four of the top ranking Senators in this Legislature who have been converts to this bill and in the past several years, ladies and gentlemen, these have been the strongest people in support of the death penalty and why? Why all of a sudden the big change in these four top ranking members of the Legislature? I am curious to know why. The other day it was brought to my attention that I was going to spearhead a petition drive across this state. Not I, ladies and gentlemen, but now there are seven. Let me repeat, now there are seven state Senators who are now willing to head this petition drive clear across this state and I hope that leadership continues to grow from this body. Now placing this particular matter in the constitution will do and that is what our effort is going to be. Our effort is to see that this particular matter is placed in the constitution. Why in the constitution? Simply because we will not waste the time year after year after year coming back here and debating this issue. You know, on the other hand, I was thinking this morning, that maybe this particular bill should pass. Maybe it should pass. I think this would certainly infuriate the people of this state and I think make even our effort less on the part of those who want to spearhead this drive. Yes, indeed, ladies and gentlemen, I know our court systems have been very, very, very, very lenient in wanting to use the death penalty and why? Because of the insecurity of our state legislator. I believe that but you have to keep in mind this, ladies and gentlemen. The people of this state are not insecure about the death penalty. That, I am convinced. I hope that at least what I have attempted to say here this morning is somewhat convincing. I realize that there is going to be a motion...I am sure the motion has been made already to call the question but remember. It is not thirty years that we are mandating at this point. It is fifteen years and some months, not, and I repeat, ladies and gentlemen, not, not thirty years.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, when I was an infantry captain in Vietnam one of the cruellest things that happened to the American soldiers over there was to be told that their outer perimeter was being guarded by the Vietnamese soldiers, when, in fact, on too many occasions those soldiers weren't there or they weren't doing their job and we would be overrun relying on a protection that we had been told and promised was there for