

our lives and it really wasn't. That was the cruelest thing that I could think of over there happening to us and that is what Patrick and that is what Bernice and that is what the proponents of retaining the present death penalty are doing to the public. They are saying we have this guard for you. We have this protection and it is not there. It is not enforced. It is not workable. If Patrick or Bernice can stand on this floor and tell me one single act that this Legislature can pass that will make the death penalty enforceable, that will make the court system quit doing what they are doing, then I will take a second look, Patrick, but you cannot and when the people out there say, well, by golly, all we need to do is make those courts try them. Say what you want, Patrick. You are a state legislator. This is the State of Nebraska. We are subject to the U.S. constitution, the U. S. Supreme Court. They have created this system. Now you can say it is right. You can say it is wrong. You can say whatever you want but the way it has evolved in recent years makes the death penalty impossibly costly and not administerable. You are coddling the criminal, Patrick, not me by offering this. How are you doing it? You stood up and said the very proof that I have been trying to get across on this floor as my reason for switching. You said the average is about fifteen years. Didn't you? And you offered the proof. You offered the proof. That is what the penalty is for first degree murder. It isn't life in prison. It is about twelve to fifteen years and then, Patrick, you committed a little error. You took the same rules that now apply, that are letting them out at fifteen years or twelve and you said that is what the new law is when, in fact, it is precisely the opposite and you have an Attorney General's opinion telling you that that the thirty years is a thirty year. Now I am willing to call your bluff on this. I am willing to bet you that the penalty imposed here is twice as severe as the average for the last hundred years in this state, twice as severe and enforceable. At least if you sentence somebody and lock them up for thirty years, and we have a system we can make them work and start paying their way one way or another, you are punishing them more than you are now. So I get back to where I started. The cruelest hoax upon the people of Nebraska is telling them out there we have a death penalty and we are punishing them when that is not the truth. Now I went up to a graduation speech in a town called Spencer, Nebraska, Boyd County and I would say probably in terms of conservative people they are as conservative as anybody in this state and I explained to them what and why I had changed my position on the death