

May 23, 1979

LB 262

penalty because I want a more severe sentence that is enforceable, that does not coddle the criminal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR DeCAMP: When they understood it and had it explained as to what the system really is and how it functions, I had many, many of them, violent opponents of any repeal of the death penalty, come up and say, understanding this situation we now understand your position and we commend you for it. It is an education process, Patrick, telling them really what we have which is a complicated system and what this really does which is an absolute and certain enforceable punishment and when they understand that, Patrick, your 90% or 70% with education, information and proof are going to ultimately support this concept, a concept of swift, absolute, guaranteed punishment that isn't subject to throwing darts which is what we have now. That is what I want this...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Time is up. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The motion before the house is to cease debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate is ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte to close on his motion.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Johnny, I will have to agree. Our criminal justice system is a very complex system and rationed only to but a few, only to but a few that really understand it and I think that is most unfortunate, John. But I want you to know, John, I am speaking only for what I consider to be the majority of the people of this state who want to retain the death penalty. It is that simple. I am surprised that Senator Chambers hasn't been involved in this matter more than I would have expected in the past three times of debate on this issue. I think Senator Chambers has played his cards very, very, very well and has let Senator John take the leading role. I can say this. The petition has been drafted. It is ready for the Secretary of State and if the Legislature so decides here today to send this bill to the Governor, the seven state senators and myself will gear up and start a statewide campaign. I would hope that you would be wise in your decision here this morning, ladies and gentlemen, and just simply remember the voice