

carry it out. The number four state where they carry out executions is Louisiana. So the states that, in fact, have been carrying out executions have the highest murder rates in the country. That doesn't establish anything except that the presence of a death penalty does not influence the homicide rate. There are other factors involved. When the economy goes bad, when there is a high rate of unemployment not only will you see spouse abuse and child abuse, but more homicides. That is what is going to happen in Nebraska. It's happening in other farm area states and what you'll see developing is a disinclination of people in the rural areas to send their people to death row as is happening right now in Nebraska. The people on death row come from Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island, the most populous counties, the ones that have money. The poorer counties will not seek an execution because the county must pay the cost of prosecution and the cost of the defense. The one conducting a trial now that is occurring in Omaha has had to acknowledge that there is a possibility their county may be bankrupted by this trial. To kill somebody at the hands of the state is a very expensive and difficult proposition. If the state is supposed to educate its citizens and lead by its conduct to a higher respect for law, it should not be in the business of killing its own citizens. And I think for those reasons and a lot of others that could be given, but there won't be time during this opening, this bill ought to be advanced. There were a number of people who testified in favor of abolishing the death penalty and among those testifiers were families of victims who had been murdered, children in their families had been murdered, but there they were testifying in public against the death penalty because they thought the killing should stop. Abolishing the death penalty will not stop killing. Carrying out the death penalty will not stop killing, but it will take the State of Nebraska out of the killing business. So as you consider this bill I hope you will look at the practical difficulty involved and the expense in killing somebody. Nebraska has not executed anybody since 1959.

SENATOR CARSTEN PRESIDING

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you cannot find a steady increase in the number of homicides. As a matter of fact, shortly after the death penalty was reinstated after having been wiped out