

for trial there before a jury of individuals selected from Douglas County, far away from the scene of these crimes, and the judge has indicated to us, and I know Senator Vard Johnson visited with him this morning in the courthouse. He told me over the phone that this is simply not an appropriate time for the Legislature to be debating this issue and he asked that, for a variety of reasons, the investment we have in the case already, the highly sensitive nature of the case, that we simply postpone our debates here until that case has gone to the jury at which time the jury will then remain sequestered until it reaches its verdict. Now, Senator Landis's and my sequestration, I'm sorry, bracketing motion, Senator Landis and my bracketing motion asks that we postpone debate on the bill for...until two weeks from this Thursday and we think that there is at least a 50-50 chance, probably substantially better that the case will have gone to the jury at that time. I know that there are a number of people around the state who will be disappointed if the issue is not debated and acted on today, if the bill is not advanced today. I have a number of close friends and I know all of you do who are strongly in favor of abolishing the death penalty, but let me just say to them that I think it's the judgment of a number of us here in the Legislature that this is simply not an appropriate time in light of a number of circumstances around the state, including the Rulo case, to consider that issue now. And in the end it is probably in the best interests of the abolitionists of the death penalty that this issue be postponed at this time. So for these reasons, Mr. President and colleagues, I would ask that we bracket this bill for April 3, two weeks from this Thursday and postpone the debate on this highly sensitive issue until then.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Hoagland. Senator Hefner, did you want to speak on the bracket motion? Before you do, Senator Hefner, if you will permit me, Senator Sieck has a guest today in the Chamber, Carolyn Peterson from Stromsburg who is with the Federated Womans Club. She is under the north balcony. If she would rise, we would be happy to welcome her to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Hefner, please, on the bracketing motion.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I understand that we're now on the bracketing motion introduced by Senator Hoagland and Senator Landis, and what I want to do right now is alert the body that I do have a