

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRSThe meeting was called to order by Representative Robert H. Miller at
Chairperson1:30 a.m./p.m. on February 5, 1985 in room 526S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Lynda Hutfles, Secretary
Mary Torrence, Revisor's Office
Russ Mills, Research
Raney Gilliland, Research

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Clyde Graeber
Fred Allenbrand, Kansas Sheriffs Association
John Blythe, Kansas Farm Bureau
Dennis Stevens, Fraternal Order of Police
Representative Bert DeBaun
Herb Mashner, Kansas State Penitentiary
Terry Cambell, Leavenworth County

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller.

Representative Long made a motion, seconded by Representative Barr, to approve the minutes of the February 4 meeting. The motion carried.HB2135- Death Penalty

Representative Clyde Graeber gave testimony in support of the death penalty. He told the committee that approximately 70% of Kansans want to reinstate the death penalty in Kansas; senior citizen groups are concerned for their safety and schools are teaching students how to handle and carry weapons for their own protection. This legislation will not eliminate crime, but might be a deterrent. Violent crimes are increasing in our nation because there is no respect for human life.

Sheriff Fred Allenbrand, Speaking for the Kansas Sheriff's Association, the Kansas Peace Officers Association and the Kansas Association of Police Officers, gave testimony in support of the death penalty. He told the committee that the killing of a law enforcement officer should clearly be included in the bill. Sheriff Allenbrand said he had been in law enforcement for 29 years; the last 18 years as Sheriff of Johnson County.

John Blythe, Kansas Farm Bureau, gave testimony in support of the death penalty.

Dennis Stevens, Fraternal Order of Police, gave testimony in support of the death penalty.

Representative Bert DeBaun gave testimony in support of the bill and referred to a survey in his district which was overwhelmingly in favor of the death penalty.

Herb Mashner, Director of the Kansas State Penitentiary, gave testimony in support of the death penalty in certain situations. Mr. Mashner told the committee he had worked in corrections institutions for the last 25 years. There are 182 persons in his institution right now with life sentences for Murder I and this is only their primary crime.

Sheriff Terry Cambell, Leavenworth County, gave testimony in support of the bill.

Representative Graeber told the committee of a poll in Sedgwick County which

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS,
room 526S, Statehouse, at 1:30 a.m./p.m. on February 5, 1985

showed of 500 people - 76% in support; 19% against; 5% undecided on the issue of the death penalty.

Opponents of the death penalty will be heard on Wednesday.

The meeting was adjourned.

