

PREJEAN: You know, I've wrestled with the death penalty a lot.

EDWARDS: I know. You've wrestled with me a lot.

PREJEAN: Patrick Sonnier was the first person I had ever known who was executed. His execution was also the first you faced as governor in your second term. I knew then, and you said this to us during our meeting before the execution, that you personally did not want to execute this man.

EDWARDS: I have a hard time relating to anybody who gleefully participates in executions. I can understand a person who does it reluctantly out of duty or responsibility, but I never was able to get any kind of joy or satisfaction out of participating in an execution.

PREJEAN: Turning our attention to the politics of the death penalty. With the small percentage of offenders selected for execution out of the huge number of offenders - two per cent out of 21,000 homicides a year - some say the death penalty is more about politics than it is about criminal justice, and we are presently watching politician after politician climbing on the pro death penalty bandwagon. What about the politics of the death penalty? Do you believe that the death penalty addresses the problems of crime?

EDWARDS: Does it deter crime? That's the question. That's the question that penologists, criminologists, sociologists, all that group of experts, are arguing about on a daily basis. I don't know. I'm inclined to believe that the kind of mind that will